

Miss Cinderella Pageant Northwestern Oklahoma State University TALENT GUIDELINES

The talent presentations on Thursday night are an entertaining and important feature of the Miss Cinderella Pageant. Each contestant must participate in the talent contest. A special prize of a scholarship to Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva is awarded to the talent winner.

What is a talent act? Primary emphasis should be on entertaining the audience; examples may be a vocal, dance, instrumental, reading, pantomime, painting/drawing demonstration, science experiment, baton twirling, etc. The key word is "solo". The contestant must be the "entertainer" on stage. Pre-recorded music featuring musical accompaniment or a very minimal amount of background vocal accompaniment is allowed; however, it must be clear to the judges that the performance is the contestant's ability. Microphones and special lighting effects will be furnished when possible. Contestants should bring their own props. Those contestants with a talent requiring music using pre-recorded accompaniment should be sure the flash drive format is the highest audio quality.

A contestant's talent is important. Try to select a talent presentation that will best showcase her own abilities while also being entertaining from the standpoint of the judges and audience. Contestants are advised to select material that would be appropriate for an all-age audience. Subjects such as death/dying, abortion, drugs/alcohol and other controversial issues are not suited for this type of pageant. Also, the contestant's talent outfit must be age-appropriate; pageant personnel will determine if the outfit does not meet this criterion.

Talent acts/routines cannot be changed after Orientation unless two talent acts are identical. Pageant officials will communicate with the two contestants regarding this situation at Orientation. If the two contestants choose to change their talent acts due to this situation, the pageant director must be notified by the following Wednesday after Orientation. Talent time limit is 1½ minutes or 90 seconds.

Each contestant is required to participate in the talent portion of the pageant. Top 5 Talent Finalists will perform during the final evening of the pageant and have their talent judged again to determine the Talent Winner. Not being selected as a Top 5 Talent Finalist, does not eliminate the contestant from being selected for the Miss Cinderella title. Miss Cinderella is selected on the basis of many factors; only one of the factors is talent.

TIME LIMIT: Ninety (90) seconds is the maximum time allowed for each talent presentation. Please time the talent presentation with a stop-watch prior to arriving for talent rehearsal. If the act exceeds the time limit, the contestant will have to make revisions. We do not have the facilities or equipment to re-record music; that responsibility lies with the contestant.

PROPS: Props should be kept to a minimum. All props must be removed from the backstage area after the talent show (except for selected talent acts that will perform again on Friday night). We are not responsible for lost or damaged props.

SOUND EQUIPMENT: Contestants are not required to bring their own sound equipment. We have hand-held, lavalier, and floor microphones. If the contestant requires special equipment, she must contact Lisa Cline prior to talent rehearsals. We will not provide special equipment, but we may be able to accommodate certain requests.

STAGE AND PRODUCTION: NWOSU provides trained stage and production personnel. Please be courteous to all pageant personnel. They are here to assist and will do so to the best of their ability. **No one is allowed back stage on Thursday and Friday nights, except contestants and pageant personnel.**

MUSIC: If the contestant uses pre-recorded accompaniment or background music, she must use NWOSU equipment. The Flash Drive should be clearly marked with the school and contestant name. No other music should be on the Flash Drive. **If applicable, contestants will be required to provide a Flash Drive with two (2) high definition audio copies of your accompaniment or background music. Please do not get music from Spotify as that format often is not compatible.** For piano accompaniment, NWOSU has a Baldwin concert grand piano (ebony finish).

REHEARSAL: The on-stage rehearsal time is an opportunity for the contestant to get accustomed to the layout of the stage, lighting, sound, etc. Similarly, it is the first opportunity pageant personnel have to rehearse the talent show--it is a rehearsal for them as much as for the contestant. Please do not use the rehearsal time as "learning time". Talent routines should be polished before pageant rehearsal.

PIANISTS: NWOSU has a Baldwin concert grand piano (ebony finish) for piano talent presentations; stage placement will be determined by the production directors. The contestant's "entrance" and "exit" to and from the piano is part of the performance. She may choose to walk to/from the instrument, bow before and/or after the performance, remain seated following the performance, or end with a blackout or gradual dimming of lights.

If you have any talent questions, please direct them to Lisa Cline, Pageant Director, at 719-469-8993 or lifranz@nwosu.edu.