

# Miss Wallace State Pageant

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## 2009 Contestant Information



**DATE: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2009**

**3:00 P.M.**

**WALLACE STATE**

**STUDENT CENTER THEATER**

**HANCEVILLE, ALABAMA**



*An Official Preliminary to the Miss Alabama/America Pageants*

## **Who is Miss Wallace State?**

Being **Miss Wallace State** is a great honor, a great responsibility, and a great experience. We are happy to extend to you this information that will answer any questions regarding the Miss Wallace State Preliminary. The **Miss Wallace State Preliminary** is more than a "beauty pageant." It is a part of the Miss America Organization that provides millions of dollars in scholarship money to contestants throughout the United States. In addition to the scholarships, The **Miss Wallace State Preliminary** offers you the opportunity to sharpen qualities of character and talent that you can use for the rest of your life.

She is a role model who cares about her role and other women's roles in society. She is an attractive and poised woman with a confident and commanding presence. She is talented and intelligent, and she is an independent and eloquent communicator. **Miss Wallace State** is a leader by virtue of her experiences and takes pride in her health and physical fitness. As **Miss Wallace State**, you will represent the Wallace State and the Cullman area as an official ambassador. You will gain rich personal experience and association with many exciting people from the local area and across Alabama making appearances and speaking. Because the **Miss Wallace State Scholarship Preliminary** is part of the Miss Alabama and Miss America Program, you will represent the Wallace State at the Miss Alabama Pageant held in Birmingham in June. The winner of the Miss Alabama Pageant travels to Atlantic City to compete in the Miss America Pageant. At each level, winners and alternates receive scholarship money that will help further your education.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

To enter the Miss Wallace State Scholarship Preliminary, or any other Miss America local preliminary, contestants must meet certain basic requirements and agree to abide by all the rules of the local, state, and national Miss America Pageant now in effect or as announced hereafter. To be a contestant in the Miss Wallace State Preliminary, you must:

- Be born a female;
- Be a high school graduate, at least seventeen (17) years of age by November 4th and no older than twenty-four (24) years of age on December 31, 2010;
- Be a high school graduate by June 30, 2010;
- Be a citizen of the United States of America;
- Not be married, never been married, never had a marriage annulled, never cohabited or have a child;
- Be available for public appearances as Miss Wallace State;
- Be enrolled as a Full-time student at Wallace State; and
- Secure \$100 in donations for the Children's Miracle Network.

## **Contestant Deadlines and Checklist:**

After reading the contents of this manual, this checklist will help you organize yourself in the weeks leading to **November 22, 2009** – when we will crown a new Miss Wallace State.

**All forms and cards must be TYPED** and turned in to my office no later than the date specified. Failure to comply could lead to your disqualification from the pageant.

### **Wednesday, September 22, 2009 – 3:00 p.m.:**

Miss Wallace State Contestant Orientation  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor of Bailey Building

### **October 16, 2009 ~ Deadline to Enter:**

- Original Birth Certificate
- Copy of Wallace State Fall Registration Form

### **November 2, 2009 ~ Deadline:**

- Miss Wallace State Contestant Contract
- Copy of Driver's License
- Contestant Resume
- Platform Essay
- Contestant Ads
- Pictures
- Talent Card
- Talent CD
- Rising Star Form

**The Miss Wallace State Scholarship Preliminary will be held Sunday, November 22, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.**

Just as the Miss America Pageant, Miss Wallace State is divided into four phases of competition, including interview, swimsuit, talent, and evening wear. Each contestant is scored individually from one to ten in each category with the high and low score disregarded. The contestant receiving the highest number of points is crowned Miss Wallace State.

**How You Are Scored:**

25% - Presentation & Community Achievement in Interview

35% - Artistic Expression in Talent

15% - Lifestyle and Fitness in Swimsuit

20% - Presence and Poise in Evening Wear

5% - On-Stage Questions

100% - Total

**INTERVIEW COMPETITION:**

The interview competition is your first opportunity to meet the five judges who will choose the new Miss Wallace State. The interview will be conducted standing at a podium. You will have a nine and half minute question and answer period with the judges. At the close of the interview, you will have thirty seconds to close. You may be asked questions regarding your application, your speech, your career goals, your platform, and current events. Judges will observe your personality, validated opinions, speech, and personal appearance. **Interview is 25% of a contestant's total score.**

Criteria for Scoring:

- \* Overall First Impression
- \* Attributes and qualities to be Miss America
- \* Knowledge and understanding of platform issue
- \* Sense of accomplishment
- \* Confident and commanding presence
- \* Validated opinions and responses
- \* Communication competencies (Speech, grammar, Vocabulary)

The selection panel will consider the contestants' overall first impression; qualities and attributes of Miss America; knowledge and understanding of her platform issue; ability to fulfill the job responsibilities of Miss Alabama; sense of accomplishments; confident and commanding presence; personality, personal appearance and attractiveness; validated opinions and responses; and communication competencies.

Wardrobe for interview should be business attire. (Suit or dress) Be careful of the color you select. You will be very close to the judges. Your make-up should be natural and attractive. Keep in mind the "All American Woman Look". No pants suits or cocktail suits will be allowed. Remember you are applying for a job!

During the interview you will have an opportunity to talk about your interests, future plans, goals, and your platform. The judges will have a copy of your platform questionnaire to review. They will also be noting your vocabulary, voice, general knowledge, and how you handle yourself on a one-to-one basis. The time starts at the time you enter the room.

Note your feet, hands, and posture. They are looking closely at your hair, teeth, make-up and overall appearance. If you are asked something you do not know, say so. Be yourself. Do not try to fake an answer. Avoid rambling. Smile and articulate. Show your personality and have fun. You are free to move about as you see fit. Remember, Miss Wallace State must carry on conversations with people in every walk of life. She must be able to speak intelligently on many subjects - national, foreign, and personal beliefs. She is constantly speaking before the public.

Develop a well-modulated voice using all the rules of good diction and grammar. Use a tape recorder as you practice with your friends and family so you can hear how you sound to others. Remember to answer your questions to the point, do not ramble and waste valuable time.

To have a meaningful interview, you will find it necessary to convey your feelings to the judges. Be cautious in the use of "opinion" words. Know state government information as well as national and international affairs. Newspaper and news magazines are most helpful in this part. Remember this is an opportunity for the judges to learn as much as possible about you and your qualities and attributes to be Miss America; your commitment to advance your issue/platform as a representative of our college and your ability to express yourself and to distinguish your beliefs.

### **Choosing a Platform and the National Platform**

Kaye Lani Rae Rafko, whose chosen issue introduced the "platform" program in 1989, was Education. Other platforms of Miss Americas include: AIDS, Homelessness/Habitat for Humanity and Motivation, Breast Cancer Awareness, Veteran's Rights, and Education Reform. In 2007, with Miss America 2007, Jennifer Berry, the Miss America Organization adopted the national platform, the Children's Miracle Network. More information is provided to you in the guidance from Miss America.

### **The Focus:**

1. An initial test for a contestant's community service platform should be: Can this contestant, considering her age, life-experience, and education - - be a credible and productive volunteer and spokesperson on this issue? The contestant must be personally comfortable with the issue and energetically committed to the task she has set. Enthusiasm and personal involvement have proven to be the hallmarks of successful platforms and projects.
2. If possible, the project should be one that the contestant has been involved with before she entered the competition. To avoid a time-consuming and often confusing search for a focus, selecting a prior area of interest gives the contestant much more credibility. Obviously, it is not always possible to develop a platform or project on the basis of a contestant's prior activities, but an attempt to explore one's personal experience and family background may yield a topic that may be more suitable than simply selecting one that is currently popular or "politically correct".

3. For the most part, a well-focused community service platform is one that can be described clearly and specifically in a sentence or two. If that proves difficult, a contestant may find that her topic is too general, and that both judges and those she seeks to motivate may not grasp what she is trying to achieve.
4. It is important that a contestant bear in mind at the outset that she may be called upon to carry her community service platform around the country. Although community service starts at the local level, the project should have the capability to expand from the school, town, or city to the state and ultimately, the national level.
5. The project should be more extensive than one event. Past projects that have focused on a single fund-raiser for a specific charity or on simply supporting an already organized movement does not tend to develop well into a national platform that can sustain a yearlong program. Successful community service projects generally include a broad range of activities.
6. There is no such thing as a list of preferred topics. Smaller, creative approaches to addressing particular needs may be more effective. Most importantly, whatever the topic, it should be something a contestant genuinely cares about and is willing to commit real time and energy to; ultimately she must be able to internalize it and make it her own.

**A Final Note:**

As a young woman approaches her first competition and considers the question of what should be the focus of her community service platform, she should turn first and foremost to her local director for advice. State and local directors will be able to provide the best perspective on how her ideas can be articulated and developed, so that she, too, can make a real difference as she moves up through the Miss America System.

**Swimsuit Competition:**

***Lifestyle and Fitness in Swimsuit (15%)***

The selection panel will consider the contestants' overall first impression; beauty of face and figure, statement of physical fitness and health; walk posture, appearance of being physically conscientious; sense of confidence and comfort in her ability to compete in this phase of competition; display of energy, charisma and expression. NO pantyhose are to be worn during this competition.

**Swimsuit Style:**

Swimsuits must be one-piece (no cut-outs) or two-piece swimsuit of your choice -- no particular brand or designer. They may be piped/outlined in another color. Extreme French cut suits will not be permitted.

**Swimsuit Shoes:**

Shoes will be worn for swimsuit competition this year. Sandals of your choice may be worn. No dyed pumps should be worn.

**Swimsuit Competition Walk:**

Swimsuit competition is limited to a 20 second walking turn and pause. Physical fitness in swimsuit competition counts as 15% of the overall total points. Remember your walk - confident and graceful.

**Evening Wear Competition:**

**Presence and Poise in Evening Wear (20%)**

The selection panel will consider the contestants' overall first impression; sense of confidence; personality and stage presence; walk, posture, carriage and grace; sense of style and appropriateness of the evening wear; beauty, sense of attractiveness and charm.

**Evening Wear Choices:**

1. After-five apparel of any length (Maximum 4 inches above the knee)
2. Long Gowns
3. Evening Pants, Dresses, or Cocktail Clothes (No Suits)

**Shoes:**

Strapless shoes and wedges are not permitted. Please be careful with white shoes. They are very unbecoming to your legs.

**Evening Wear Walk:**

Remember to glide across the stage. Even though you have Evening Wear on, bad walks are still visible. Stand tall mentally. Do not shift your weight from one foot to another. Always keep your weight on the back foot while in a standing position. Step off with your front foot and you will not shift your weight, because your weight is already on the back foot. Take small steps. Do not take long strides. This only makes you look clumsy. Small steps are more graceful. Therefore, you should not lead with your head. Think tall- this makes your stomach flat and you are in control of your walk. Be graceful if you know how to walk.

**Turns:**

Take your time. Individual judging is your time - take it! Be graceful and let the upper torso follow your leg movement. If possible, keep your head at a three-quarter position when your back is facing the judges. A good profile of your face is attractive to the judges.

**Sparkle:**

You must show your personality and be energetic. Smile and enjoy yourself. Project and be natural.

**On-Stage Question: (5%)**

During the On-Stage Question competition you will be asked an on-stage question. The question will be a general type question. You will have 30 seconds to answer the question. If you exceed this time, you will be cut off by the emcee with a "Thank You".

## **Talent Competition:**

### **Artistic Expression in Talent (35%)**

The qualities and attributes of Miss America as well as the job responsibilities of Miss Alabama will be considered as part of the scoring. Artistic Expression in Talent also distinguishes both the personality and skills; interpretive ability; technical skill level (execution, technique, synchronization, control); stage presence; totality of all elements including costume, props, music, voice, use of body and choreography.

You must perform your talent within a ninety second time limit. There will be absolutely no exceptions to this ruling. The production staff will make all final decisions regarding talent presentations. Your talent presentation must be live. There will be no duplication of talent presentations during the entire pageant.

Examples:

Two contestants singing the same song

Two contestants dancing to the same music

Two contestants performing any part or parts of the same piece on piano or music, which is being used for the production during the pageant.

### **Piano**

A grand piano is furnished for you. For a piano solo we do position the piano in a classical position. We do want the judges to see both you and your hands. Piano solos will be miked.

### **Vocal**

There will be no live accompaniment for vocal talents. We will furnish you with the microphone that is necessary for your talent performance.

### **Drama**

If you have background music, this must comply with the two-minute limit, as all talent presentations. If there is no background music, you will be timed at rehearsal as all other talent. Make sure you can perform your drama act in the appropriate time limit.

### **Baton**

It is difficult to twirl under lights on stage. Make sure you are prepared for bright lights and get used to this prior to pageant week. Overhead lights will limit your upward throws. No spotlights will be used during the baton performances.

### **Gymnastics**

Mats will not be permitted. (This takes too much time to set up before your talent presentation.) Choreograph your routine. Please do not take chances with unpracticed or dangerous floor routines.

### **Musical Instruments**

You must furnish your instrument and you must tune your own instrument. Hand-held instruments must be your responsibility at all times.

**Dance**

The WSC Theater stage has a wooden floor. Choreograph your dance for approximately a 40'x 40' area. There will absolutely be no resin scattered on the stage.

**Props**

All props will be furnished by the contestant and must be delivered to the WSC student Center. Your name should appear on the prop, clearly visible for the stage crew. We are not responsible for lost or damaged props. YOU are responsible for taking your prop after the pageant is over.

**Talent Tapes/CDs:**

Talent accompaniment tapes or CDs should be brought to the first rehearsal. Plan to leave a copy with us until after the pageant, at which time these will be returned to you. Please use a cassette tape or CD and have a back-up tape or CD just incase. **Only One song on One Side!!!** If you utilize Express Trax, Sound Choice, etc., we request you tape your selection on to another tape so as there is no mistake about which side/which song.

**Talent Introduction Cards:**

Below is an example of the talent introduction card. Include your name, composer, title, etc. Double-spaced, typed, Capital letters on the 5 x 7 index card provided for you.

#, \_\_\_\_\_ will sing \_\_\_\_\_ (Selection)  
\_\_\_\_\_, by \_\_\_\_\_ (composer/performer).

**Pageant Production and Guidelines:**

Production clothes needed: Black dress for Opening Number

Mistress of Ceremonies: Miss Alabama 2009, Liz Cochran

**Guidelines for Pageant week/day:**

1. The Cullman Scholarship Organization has complete control of all activities, interviews, pictures, recordings, etc. of the contestants during rehearsals and pageant day. We gave full authority to make decisions governing contacts with the contestants.
2. No one is permitted back stage at any time except police, stage personnel, and pageant officials.
3. No one may enter the contestant's dressing room at any time.
4. All problems complaints should be reported immediately. Regardless of how small or large a complaint, please report it. A problem cannot be solved if no one knows about it except the contestant.
5. **Video taping** of the pageant is **NOT ALLOWED**. A videographer will be present the day of the pageant. Videos may be purchased on pageant day.
6. Parents will be allowed to watch rehearsals, but will not be allowed in rehearsals on pageant day.
7. Please come prepared to stay all day at Wallace State. We will provide you with lunch and snacks during the day.

**Mock Interviews:**

Tentative Date: Friday, November 6, 2009  
Bailey Center – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor

As a part of our pre-pageant activities, we give each contestant an opportunity to participate in a "mock interview". This is NOT a required part of your participation in the Miss Wallace State College pageant. However, it is to your advantage to take part in this unique opportunity. We will video each contestant, but you must provide your own videotape. The interviews are recorded so that you may take them home and review your interview.

The judges for mock interviews are typically Wallace State instructors and other local volunteers. All of these have had extensive experience in judging pageants. The mock interview will be conducted exactly the way your Miss Wallace State interview will be. You will give your 30 seconds opening statement, and then answer the judges' questions the remaining eight minutes. You will re-enter the room for a short critique by the mock interview judges' panel.

**Photographs:**

The deadline for submission of photographs is **Monday, November 2, 2009**.

You will need the following photographs for competition in the Miss Wallace State Pageant:

- 1 – 5 x 7 head shot

**Contestant Ads:**

Ads are not required of any contestant. If you wish to have an ad in the program book, it is due no later than **Monday, November 2, 2009**. You will need an additional photograph for your ad; color or black and white will be fine. Ads are \$50.00 per page. Ads are whole page only. Businesses may provide a logo with the ad, and/or families may provide a message.

**Cullman Scholarship Organization**  
**Sponsor of the Miss Alabama Preliminary:**  
**Miss Wallace State**  
**Suzanne Harbin & Rob Metcalf - Directors**  
2232 Deer Run Dr. SW  
Cullman, AL 35057  
256.338.1741(C) or 256.352.8144(W)

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**Scholarship Request Form**

Please activate my scholarship award received in the 2009 Miss Wallace State Scholarship Programs for the \_\_\_\_\_20\_\_\_ semester/quarter. I request \$\_\_\_\_\_ for tuition and/or \$\_\_\_\_\_ for books.

I wish to have this scholarship applied at the following technical school, community college, university and/or bookstore:\_\_\_\_\_.

I understand that this money will used by the above named institution for tuition and books only, unless otherwise approved by the Cullman Scholarship Organization. I also understand that no cash money will be distributed to me by the above institution or by the scholarship committee.

I certify that I currently have a 2.75 overall cumulative grade point average. I understand that if it falls below this I will relinquish my scholarship and may be asked to repay it in full. A current transcript must be attached to this request.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contestant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

**Statement of Understanding Between:  
Miss Wallace State 2009 & the Cullman Scholarship Organization**

**Relationship:**

The Cullman Scholarship Organization is organized as a nonprofit organization whose express purposes include:

1. The provision of scholarship funds.
2. The representation of Cullman and Wallace State Community College in the Miss Alabama Pageant.
3. The representation of the sponsors of the Miss Wallace State Pageant.
4. The promotion of the Miss Wallace State Pageant.

As a result, there are several important premises, which are basic to Miss Wallace State's Year of Service. Miss Wallace State must recognize that for her year of service she will represent Wallace State, Cullman County, the Cullman Scholarship Organization, and its sponsors. It is important that she maintain immaculate personal grooming whether on campus, going shopping, or any public appearances.

**Miss Wallace State will:**

To ensure efficient management of Miss Wallace State and her appearances --

- Refer all appearance requests to the Directors
- Refer all press, radio, or television requests to the Directors
- Honor and fulfill all scheduled appearances for Miss Wallace State
- Prepare herself to successfully meet the requirements of the approved appearances
- Prepare herself in conjunction with the Directors to adequately and successfully compete in the Miss Alabama Pageant

**The Cullman Scholarship Organization will:**

- Confirm all appearances and requirements pertaining thereto
- Forward to Miss Wallace State an itinerary of each contracted appearance
- Arrange for press coverage at appearances
- Screen all appearance requests and protect against undesirable appearances
- Provide time for study, rest, and vacations in regard to the interest of Miss Wallace State's good health and mental well-being
- Provide for adequate coaching, rehearsal, etc. for the role of Miss Wallace State and her participation in the Miss Alabama Pageant
- Assist in the selection of an ample wardrobe
- Provide all official photography for the Miss Alabama competition, the official Miss Wallace State brochure and all public events.

In addition Miss Wallace State is required to appear at the following events during her year of service:

- Miss Wallace State Contestant Orientation
- Wallace State Events, Future Foundation Luncheon and other events as requested by the WSCC Office of Student Recruiting, Marketing, and the President's Office
- Miss Alabama Contestant Orientation
- Miss Alabama Contestant Workshop
- Miss Alabama's Homecoming
- Miss Alabama Fashion Show (if in Top 10)

**Miss Wallace State will:**

1. Meet on a bi-weekly basis with Directors.
2. Maintain communications with Directors on a weekly basis.
3. Provide her own wardrobe requirement over those provided by the CSO sponsors.
4. Maintain her wardrobe in a cleaned and pressed condition
5. Miss Wallace State may select her own wardrobe for Miss Alabama competition, but the Directors must approve it.
6. Maintain personal grooming at all times, which reflects positively, i.e. a conservative wardrobe, no tattoos, no body piercing, do drastic changes in hair style (without Director's approval).
7. Miss Wallace State will maintain a weight, which is appropriate for her height, and body frame, which will be agreed upon by her and the Directors.
8. Show appreciation and write thank you notes to contracting party for all appearances and to all sponsors.
9. Miss Wallace State's behavior must be beyond reproach at all times.
10. Provide her own transportation to and from scheduled appearances, unless the CSO has made other arrangements
11. BE PROMPT. There is never an excuse for being late to any engagement - - this will not be permitted at any time.
12. Never take advantage of the hosts' hospitality. She must never give the impression that she is sick, tired, or bored. She must maintain interest, enthusiasm and sparkle during the entire appearance.

**Miss Wallace State Scholarship Agreement:**

Miss Wallace State will maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.75. The Miss Wallace State Pageant is a scholarship program, recognizing young women for scholastic and educational achievement. Therefore to receive the awarded scholarship from the Cullman Scholarship Organization, a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 must be maintained. If Miss Wallace State fails to meet this requirement, the Cullman Scholarship Organization will ask her to resign from her duties as Miss Wallace State, and the first runner-up will assume the crown.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a Miss Wallace State Contestant, have read the agreement, and understand all conditions, rules, and regulations set forth by the Miss Wallace State Pageant, and if selected Miss Wallace State will be able to follow and fulfill all rules and regulations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contestant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed