



# Miss Tuscaloosa

Dear Interested Contestant –

We are delighted you are interested in becoming a part of the Miss Tuscaloosa family!

The 2026 Miss Tuscaloosa competition will be held on October 19, 2025, at Hillcrest High School located at 300 Patriot Parkway, Tuscaloosa, AL. The start time of the competition will be announced later since it will depend on the number of contestants. We will be limiting the number of contestants, so be sure to get your paperwork turned in quickly. To be eligible to compete in Miss Tuscaloosa, you must be no older than 28 on September 30, 2026 and no younger than 18 on September 1, 2026.

Attire for the opening number will be solid black with appropriate shoes. You may wear pants or a cocktail dress. Just keep in mind that you will be moving during the opening number, and this will be the same attire you will continue to wear for your first phase of competition, the on-stage question.

**A \$100 nonrefundable contestant fee is required for registration.**

**If you have not already, you must register / enter with Miss America for ALL local preliminaries. Click [HERE](#) to complete that process.**

A detailed itinerary of competition day will be sent a week prior to the competition.

If you have any questions about any portion of the competition, please do not hesitate to reach out. We look forward to seeing you and getting to know you as we move toward crowning the next Miss Alabama!

We will be accepting a limited number of contestants so be sure and get your paperwork in early!  
**THE DEADLINE FOR ALL PAPERWORK IS OCTOBER 13, 2025.**

Thanks!

*Russell C. Howard*

Executive Director, Miss Tuscaloosa Competition

205.454.2180

[MissTusc@gmail.com](mailto:MissTusc@gmail.com)



# \*\*\*PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE PACKET\*\*\*

Important! Please refer to the checklist below to ensure everything is turned in on time.

**EMAIL TO: MissTusc@gmail.com**

*Be sure to include your name in the subject line of each email.*

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Miss Tuscaloosa Contract</b><br><i>Signed by Contestant</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>\$100 Contestant Fee**</b><br><i>This is nonrefundable</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Competition Info Sheet</b><br><i>Signed by Contestant</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Interview Fact Sheet</b><br><i>Word or PDF only</i>         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Community Service Essay</b><br><i>Word or PDF only</i>      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Headshot Photo</b><br><i>High Resolution</i>                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Talent Music*</b><br><i>MP3 or MP4 Format only</i>          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Copy of Birth Certificate</b>                               |

*\* Be sure to also bring your music on a flash drive as backup!*

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## **\$100 Registration Fee**

Your registration fee may be paid in one of two ways.

- 1) Send \$100 via Venmo to @MissTuscaloosa – be sure to put your name and “registration fee” in the description.
- 2) Mail a \$100 check made out to Miss Tuscaloosa to:  
Russell C. Howard  
3646 Springhill Drive  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405  
Be sure to put your name and “registration fee” in the memo line.



# Miss Tuscaloosa

## Competition Items to Bring & Opening Number Attire

### Opening Number Attire

- Attire for the opening number will be solid black with appropriate shoes. You may wear pants or a cocktail dress. Just keep in mind that you will be moving during the opening number, and this will be the same attire you will continue to wear for your first phase of competition, the on-stage question.
- If the top is strapless, wig tape OR double-sided tape must be used to secure the bodice to ensure no wardrobe malfunctions happen.
- **NO Boots & NO Wedges**

### Items You MUST Have with You on Competition Day

- Talent attire, props, and a **backup copy of your talent music on a flash drive**
- Competition wardrobe including all jewelry, shoes, and undergarments
- List of current obligations and Class Schedule – include information and dates for all extracurricular activities (including sorority, sports, church, etc.) and any family obligations – the winner will be asked for this the night of the competition
- All clothes, makeup, and other competition necessities

### Other Important Things to Remember

- Please wear comfortable clothes when you arrive & remember that parents and friends must leave after helping unload
- No Contestants may leave the competition venue during competition day
- No outside hair or makeup artists are allowed – be prepared to do your own hair and makeup
- Dressing Room moms will be available to assist you & keep everyone on track for the next event – *please be sure to thank them during the day*
- Lunch, water & snacks will be provided by the Miss Tuscaloosa Organization
- If you have specific food allergies, you may bring your own food/snack items; you **MUST** inform the Dressing Room Moms upon your arrival
- Please label anything that you wish to keep – any items left without a label cannot be returned. If you realize an item has been left after the competition, please e-mail the director promptly
- Please bring an electrical power strip, a lighted mirror and/or a full-length mirror – **be sure ALL of your items are labeled**

### Dressing Room space is LIMITED – BRING ONLY NECESSARY ITEMS



# Miss Tuscaloosa

## Competition Events & Information

Each Contestant is judged by the selection panel immediately after each event. The score will range between 1 and 10. The high and low scores for each Contestant are discarded in each area of competition. The Contestant with the highest overall score at the end of the competition will be named Miss Tuscaloosa

**The Phases of Competition are listed below in order:**

### **Private Interview with Judges - 30%**

Each Contestant is introduced by the Judges Chair, will take her position, and immediately present a brief 30-second introduction/Community Service Initiative (CSI) overview. Questions may range from current events to personal goals and interests and may be taken from the contestant's resume and CSI essay. At the 10-minute mark the head judge will end the interview.

**Wardrobe:** Fashionable attire suitable for a professional job interview.

### **On-Stage Question/Conversation (OSQ) - 10%**

A single question from the Delegate's Community Service Project (CSI) will be asked and the response should be no longer than 30 seconds.

**Wardrobe:** OSQ is completed immediately following the Opening Number in the same attire worn during the Opening Number.

### **Health & Fitness - 20%**

This phase of competition is where the Contestant showcases her commitment to health and fitness initiatives. A contestant's discipline and commitment to being physically healthy is a key to success in all other areas of life, and the rigors of representing the Miss America program is a national titleholder.

**Wardrobe:** Miss America mandates that competition attire be purchased from the Rebel Athletic product line, from the Miss America Go-Red line of fitness wear. Shorts, skorts, leggings and any style top may be worn. **Note:** All fitness wear choices must fit/cover intimate parts of the body fully to avoid any wardrobe malfunctions.

### **Performing Arts Talent or HERStory - 20%**

Each Delegate will perform a talent presentation **not to exceed 90 seconds (1 minute 30 second)**. Talents may include but are not limited to – vocals in every medium, dance in all forms, gymnastics, baton, circus arts, instrumentals, and drama. The talent competition distinguishes each delegate's skills and personality, interpretive ability, technical skill level, stage presence, the ability to capture the audience's attention, and totality of all elements. *There will be no repeated talents in the competition. If two delegates wish to perform the same song, the first Delegate returning all completed paperwork will reserve that song.*

**Wardrobe:** Costume of the delegate's choice that is appropriate and in good taste for the chosen talent.

### **Evening Gown – 20%**

Allows judges to have a look into how the Delegate exhibits her own personal style, attitude, personality, grace presence and confidence. Scoring is based on how the delegate carries herself, not on the actual gown she is wearing or the perceived cost of that gown.

**Wardrobe:** Evening wear of the Delegate's choice, with complementary shoes and accessories.



# Miss Tuscaloosa

## Competition Day Rules

- 1. RESPECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS:** Treat everyone involved with the competition the way you want to be treated. Our volunteers have put in a lot of work to get everything ready for today. Make sure you thank them!
- 2. HAVE FUN, MAKE FRIENDS AND SMILE!**
- 3. NO VIDEOS OR PHOTOS IN THE DRESSING ROOMS – NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- 4. CELL PHONES:** Cell phones are strictly prohibited in the dressing rooms. Phones may be used outside the dressing room during breaks. At all times, cell phones must be on silent/vibrate during competition day.
- 5. NO FRIENDS OR FAMILY ALLOWED BACKSTAGE, IN THE DRESSING ROOM, OR OUTSIDE EITHER DOOR OF THE DRESSING ROOM.**
- 6. NO OUTSIDE HAIR OR MAKEUP ARTISTS ALLOWED:** You should come to the competition prepared to do your own hair and makeup.
- 7. NO FOOD OR DRINK ALLOWED IN THE AUDITORIUM OR DRESSING ROOMS:** We want to avoid spilling anything and respect the facility guidelines. All food & drinks will be provided for you by the competition in a designated area.
- 8. PAY ATTENTION DURING REHEARSALS:** We have a tight schedule and much to cover in a short period of time.
- 9. TALENT MAY BE REHEARSED TWICE ONLY:** Each Contestant will receive a scheduled time allotment to rehearse her talent selection through twice. If any Contestant chooses to forfeit one or both rehearsals, the next Contestant will be called and the missed rehearsal may be completed at the end of all rehearsals only with the express consent of the Director, and only if time permits.
- 10. BE PREPARED:** Know your resume/fact sheet & community service essay – copies of these items are provided to each judge for use during the interview. Be familiar with current events & social issues.