



Guidelines for Contestants

This guideline has been put together for the contestants to help them prepare for the pageant and convention.

Typical Expenses:

There are some typical expenses that you, the contestant, will be responsible. If you have a sponsor who can help you cover the expenses, they may do so. Sponsor can be your parents, business, organization, church or school. (See *the sample sponsor letter attached*).

- ◆ **Entry Fee – \$200.00.** The entry fee covers the registration, lodging, and combo ticket for GAD Convention.
- ◆ **GAD Membership Application – \$15.00.** Each contestant must become a member of Georgia Association of the Deaf (GAD) in order to participate in the pageant. If the contestant is still high school student during the pageant, she is FREE (Teacher's signature required).
- ◆ **Meals** – You will be responsible for your own meals. However, snacks and lunches during rehearsals will be provided. Also, some meals are included in the combo ticket such as the President's Reception, Banquet Dinner, etc.
- ◆ **Photo**
- ◆ **Audiogram**
- ◆ **Wardrobes –**
 - ◆ Business suits – For Private Interview and Platform Presentation
 - ◆ Costume – For Talent Competition
 - ◆ Evening Gown – For Evening Gown Competition
 - ◆ Cocktail Dress – For Dinner Banquet
 - ◆ Sundress – For President's Reception
 - ◆ Exercise clothes or comfortable clothes – For Rehearsals
 - ◆ Casual shorts, capri pants or long pants with nice shirts – For Field Trip
 - ◆ Bathing suit - For the beach/pool (not for the pageant)
- ◆ **Props and Music** – For your Talent Competition
- ◆ **Accessories and Shoes** – To go with the outfits
- ◆ **Make-up and Hair Care Supplies**
- ◆ **Spending Money** – You are encouraged to bring some spending money for shopping, your snacks, etc.

Lodging:

You will stay at the Crowne Plaza Atlanta-Ravinia on 4355 Ashford Dunwoody Road during the GAD Convention week from July 29 to August 1, 2009. It is located directly off I-285 and, is adjacent to Perimeter Mall, one of the largest malls in the Southeast. A block of rooms has been reserved for contestants. You do not need to call the hotel for reservations or to make payment. The payment for the hotel room is in the entry form, which is also enclosed.

Transportation:

You are encouraged to find transportation TO and FROM the Hotel (Crown Plaza Atlanta-Ravinia). You must fill out a Travel Liability Waiver Form prior to the trip. This form will waive the driver from any liability during the trip and it will also require information such as who you are riding with or driving on your own TO and FROM hotel.

Opening Parade during the Pageant:

You are required to do an opening dance in the beginning of Miss Deaf Georgia Pageant, which introduces the theme and the contestants. The choreographer will assist and direct you in this performance. Thus, the Costume Designer will request you to have a particular outfit for the performance. You must provide the same outfit as other contestants. The Costume Designer will inform you of the theme of the pageant and the outfit soon.

Pageant Competition:

There are five (5) categories to be judged in the Miss Deaf Georgia Pageant Competition:

1) Private Interview	30%
2) Platform Presentation	35%
3) Talent Competition	15%
4) Evening Gown	10%
5) OnStage Interview	<u>10%</u>
	100%

Private Interview Competition:

- Each contestant will be interviewed individually by the entire Panel of Judges in a closed room before the pageant.
- Each contestant should wear business attire, which would be a suit or a dress to reflect a career woman. It can be the same one used for platform presentation. Solid color is encouraged in order to see your sign language clearly.
- Each contestant is counted 30 percent and judged on:
 - ◆ Attire
 - ◆ Presentation (delivery)
 - ◆ Content
 - ◆ Clarity

Attire: The appearance of the outfit that the contestant wears, and accompanying accessories (if any).

Presentation (delivery): Does she give her responses smoothly and appropriately?

Content: Does the quality of her responses match the interview questions?

Clarity: Does her responses make sense to you, and does she sign clearly?

Platform Presentation:

- Each contestant is to wear a business suit of her choice. Solid color is encouraged to see your sign language clearly.
- Each contestant must be able to present her platform presentation by herself, live and in person within **two (2)** minutes. Please pay close attention to this two-minute limit; exceeding it can result in disqualification.
- No props or music allowed.
- Each contestant should provide a copy of typed words of her platform presentation to enable the interpreter to be well prepared to voice for her.
- Each contestant's platform presentation is counted 35 percent and judged on:
 - ◆ Overall First Impression
 - ◆ Presentation (physical "carriage")
 - ◆ Quality (content, clarity, & completeness)
 - ◆ Presentation (delivery)

Overall First Impression: Your first impression when you first see her onstage.

Presentation (physical "carriage"): Shows how well she presents herself and the way she carries herself.

Quality (content, clarity, & completeness): The quality of her platform presentation – the content of her platform, how well she explains her platform, and whether the information within the presentation is complete.

Presentation (delivery): The platform should be clearly, smoothly, and gracefully presented in an interesting way.

You will notice that the highest category is Platform Presentation. The purpose of this presentation is the Miss Deaf Georgia will demonstrate intelligence, charm, and be able to give good speeches to different audiences.

Talent Competition:

- Each Contestant must be able to present her talent routine or performance by herself, live and in person within **four (4)** minutes. Please pay close attention to this four-minute limit; exceeding it can result in disqualification.
- Each Contestant must furnish her own props and costume needed for her performance. (PowerPoint is not allowed).
- If each Contestant plans to use CD for music background, she must bring it to the Stage Manager/Choreographer.
- If each Contestant plans to use an interpreter to voice for her during this competition, she should provide a copy of typed words to enable the interpreter to be well prepared.
- Each contestant's talent performance is counted 15 percent and judged on:
 - ◆ Appropriateness (props & costume)
 - ◆ Presentation (delivery)
 - ◆ Creativity/Artistic Expression

Appropriateness (props & costume): Is her choice of talent appropriate? Does her props and costume go well with her talent?

Presentation (delivery): Does she present her talent with skill and grace? Is her delivery smooth?

Creativity/Artistic Expression: The quality of her creativity/artistic expression within her talent. Does her talent seem interesting, unique and new?

Evening Gown:

- Each contestant is to wear an evening gown of her choice. The evening gown should be ankle length. Sequins are fine.
- Each contestant's evening gown competition is counted 10 percent and judged on:
 - ◆ Overall First Impression
 - ◆ Presentation (physical "carriage")

Overall First Impression: Your first impression when you first see her onstage.

Presentation (physical "carriage"): Shows how well she presents herself and the way she carries herself.

Onstage Interview Competition:

- Each contestant will reply to a question asked by the Master or Mistress of Ceremonies during the pageant. The Panel of Judges will devise questions prior to the program in front of the audience.
- The contestant's onstage interview is counted 10 percent and judged on:
 - ◆ Quality of Response

Quality of Response: The quality of her response to the onstage interview question(s) – the content and the ease in which she makes her responses.

Order of Scoring:

Judges will be given separate official ballot sheets for each contestant during each competitive event. Each judge will circle a score in each category (*see example below*). This is how the scoring procedure has been set up:

For Example - Official Ballot Sheet for Private Interview:

Attire	0	7.5	15	22.5	30
Presentation (delivery)	0	7.5	15	22.5	30
Content	0	7.5	15	22.5	30
Clarity	0	7.5	15	22.5	30

The number system on the above example rates as follows:

0	– Poor
7.5	– Below Average
15	– Average
22.5	– Above Average
30	– Outstanding

After the judges have completed scoring the ballots, they hand the sheets over to the point counter. The point counter totals the numbers circled on the ballot sheet. After totaling the scores, the point counter hands it over to the head point counter for double-check. The head point counter will list the contestant with the highest score, followed by the contestant with the next highest score and so on in that order, then place the list in an envelope and hand it over to the emcee who will announce in this order:

Third runner-up
Second runner-up
First runner-up
And finally, Miss Deaf Georgia

By knowing all of this, you can be assured that each contestant will be equally considered for the title “Miss Deaf Georgia”.

Miss Congeniality Award:

At a time near the end of a pageant, all of the participating contestants cast a vote for the contestant they think is most deserving of the “Miss Congeniality Award”. The contestants vote on this by secret ballot.

Before the contestants vote, be sure that each of them understands what the Miss Congeniality Award is all about. The winner of this award should identify with the following qualities:

SERVICE:

- ◆ She thinks of others before herself.
- ◆ She gives her support to the other contestants.
- ◆ She is helpful to them whenever she sees the need.
- ◆ She participates in all of the pageant/convention activities and rehearsals.

PERSONALITY:

- ◆ She gets on well with her fellow contestants.
- ◆ She makes the other contestants feel comfortable around her.
- ◆ She shows herself as being independent.
- ◆ She has a sincere and friendly disposition at the same time.

The winner of the “Miss Congeniality Award” is announced during the pageant.

Additional Hints:

- It is always a good idea to have plenty of things like extra pantyhose, aspirin, Band-Aids, buttons, and so on. Anything can happen – those things will help you handle any surprises or accidents.
- Each contestant should also come equipped with her own make-up. Remember, the on-stage lights are very strong, so use a stronger make-up. Experiment with make-up before you come, so you have an idea of what you look like on-stage.
- A small hand mirror is also helpful for the dressing room.
- It is strongly recommended that you bring your own iron or steamer.
- If you plan to have props as part of your talent routine, please bring them.
- And most important of all, bring cash and/or traveler’s checks!

Contestants should remember that during the GAD Convention, they would be “in the limelight”. All sorts of people especially media people will be around taking pictures and interviewing various people from the conference and pageant. Neatness and good grooming are essential. You are representing yourself to the Deaf community.