

NE^WPORT WINTER CARNIVAL *Pageant*

Information for Future Contestants

The Winter Carnival Pageant is an opportunity for young, local women to grow, learn life skills, meet new people, and take part in carrying on an important tradition in the community. Participation fosters the development of public speaking skills, overall confidence, fundraising skills, interviewing skills, town pride and more. Participants are role models, representing their town, their generation, their families and themselves. It can be lots of fun and many great memories will be made!



While the Pageant is technically a competition, the overall process and experience is collaborative. We are working together for a positive growing experience for each participant and to give the community an entertaining production on Pageant Night.

Qualification Criteria

- Females in 11th or 12th grade (or equivalent through alternative schooling) on the Pageant date.
- The participant/contestant must live and/or go to school in Newport, New Hampshire's school district (Newport, Lempster, Goshen, Croydon, Unity).
- Contestants are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous, professional manner. To participate, all contestants need to read and agree to abide by the Pageant Program's rules and code of conduct.

Contestant Commitments

- Two practices per week, from the beginning of January through the Pageant date (mid-February).
- Fundraise a minimum of \$250 in sponsorships; also, sell 50/50 raffle tickets and buttons.
- Develop and practice Talent routine, mostly outside of scheduled practices.
- Serve as a role model for your Princesses & Princes by engaging in planned activities with them and cheering them on.
- Procure appropriate clothing for the interview, talent and formal wear portions of the program. Contestants are also responsible for their own hair and makeup.
- Pageant Day – Interviews begin with judges in the morning, and other activities may take place during the day in addition to time contestants need to get ready; as such, contestants do not attend school on Pageant day. A Pageant official will notify NMHS and the school has always been a great supporter of this.
- Attend (and have a blast at) numerous Winter Carnival Events.



Contestant Areas of Competition

- Private interview with judges (approximately 10 minutes); 25% of overall score

- Talent (approximately 3 minutes); 35% of overall score
- Formal Wear (age-appropriate, formal wear); 20% of overall score
- On Stage Question (answered live onstage); 20% of overall score

Talent – What if I'm Not a Performer?

Creativity is welcomed when it comes to the Talent portion of the program!

The Pageant has a long-standing history of promoting traditional performing arts (singing, dancing, etc.) along with non-traditional performances – both have been well-received by audiences and judges. Let's hear your ideas!

How to Choose a Talent:

- 1) **Pick a skill.** What are some things that you're good at? What do you enjoy doing? Don't limit your list to skills that are traditionally performed on a stage. What's most important is that you pick a focus that represents YOU!
- 2) **Be creative.** How could we demonstrate your skills on stage? Come up with crazy ideas and ask your friends, family, **and us** for ideas too!
- 3) **Develop a plan.** Hash out the logistics and get to work writing, creating, picking music, building, etc.
- 4) **Practice.** Not because you need to be perfect, but because practice will make you feel confident and comfortable.



Awards

Awards for Queen and Runners Up are granted based on the judges' overall weighted scores. In addition, awards may also be presented at the discretion of the Winter Carnival Pageant Committee, including, but not limited to, top talent (highest overall Talent score), top fundraising (most money raised), the Lisa Gauvin Award (selected by WC Pageant Committee) and Miss Congeniality (selected by contestants). All awards include scholarships; the value of those scholarships is directly impacted by fundraising and ticket sales.

Next Steps

- Sign-up forms will be posted just after Thanksgiving and due back in mid-December.
- Orientation Meeting will be held mid-December.
- Fundraising efforts begin in mid-December.
- Practices begin early January.

We're looking forward to a fabulous Winter Carnival season!



For questions, please contact:

Kristie Howe (Pageant Director) – (603) 477-2170 (text or call) or KristieAnneHowe@gmail.com or

Newport Opera House – (603) 863-2412 or info@NewportOperaHouse.com