



At National American Miss, we passionately believe that excellent judging is the backbone of an outstanding pageant. For 24 years now, in keeping with that passion, we have brought in the very best selection of judges to be found anywhere in pageantry - bar none. We spend over \$100,000 annually on judges' flights and accommodations throughout NAM Nationals Week. Our judges are selected, vetted, and trained in the months leading up to Nationals. They come from across the globe, are highly qualified, and are thrilled to be a part of one of pageantry's most iconic competitions. To help protect against any bias, we do not allow judges who have judged at the NAM State Pageants to judge NAM/AA Nationals in the same calendar year.

Our AA/NAM Nationals Selection Panels will be comprised of 7 to 9 judges who will follow contestants through all phases of the competition: Formal Wear, Personal Introduction, Interview, and Finale.

Each division will also have a separate panel of 5 to 7 judges who will see them during Optional Contests. These judges have no bearing on the overall pageant results. Similarly, the overall judges will not be involved or aware of a contestant's performance in the Optional Contests.

PRELIMINARY SCORING

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - 15%

Your Community Involvement hours count for 15% of your Required Competition score. A complete 15% of your pageant score will be automatically awarded to you when you show a record of having completed at least 4 hours of community service at a service organization of your choice. You will submit proof of service for your Community Involvement via the Pageant Portal at www.pageantportal.com. The submission form is in the main menu on the left-hand side under the 'NAM Nationals' header.

RESUME - 10%

Your resume counts for 10% of your required competition score. Like the Community Involvement portion, you will receive full credit for following some simple guidelines in preparing your resume. We expect that every competitor will achieve full points in this area. You can access your division's resume template at www.namnationals.com/forms-select-pageant. Please pay special attention to the word count limit in the final section.

POISE AND PRESENTATION IN FORMAL WEAR - 25%

Formal Wear counts for 25% of your Required Competition score. Contestants are scored on their poise and presentation on stage in formal wear. Scores are based on the judges' overall impressions and the contestant's ability to command both the judges' and the audience's attention in a poised, graceful, and captivating manner.

ON-STAGE PERSONAL INTRODUCTION - 25%

Personal Introduction counts for 25% of your Required Competition score. Contestants will introduce themselves on stage, saying their name, hometown/state, and their future aspirations and/or something interesting about themselves.

Contestants are scored on their ability to clearly, confidently, and effectively deliver a message on stage to the audience. The judges are looking for a representative who naturally conveys her unique personality through her effective and engaging public speaking skills and natural stage presence. **Contestants must adhere to the 60-second time limit. An executive deduction will be applied to a contestant's overall average in this event if she goes over time.**

ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEW - 25%

Interview counts for 25% of your Required Competition score. Contestants should display essential interviewing skills, such as making good eye contact, communicating confidently, and sitting correctly as they talk one-on-one with each interview judge. This is when you can let your personality shine through. Remember, you are interviewing for the "job" of representing your state and country. The judges are looking for the new national representatives who are friendly, naturally enthusiastic, and effective communicators. Each judge aims to learn more about you, your ambitions, and your personality. They seek a representative to engage in fun, intelligent conversation with an adult. They will not trick you or ask questions with a right or wrong answer (for example, they will not ask you to "Name the governor of your state"). The interview is done 'round robin' style, which means a sit-down meeting with each judge on the panel. The timing of interviews will be as follows:

- Princess, Jr. Pre-Teen & Pre-Teen will have **60 seconds** with each judge.
- Jr. Teen will have **75 seconds** with each judge.
- Teen, Miss & Elite will have **90 seconds** with each judge.





FINALE SCORING

At the final show, each finalist will be introduced on stage in her formal wear, giving her a moment alone in the spotlight. Contestants are not being scored during this final walk, but judges know who is in the Top 12. Escorts are not used during the pageant finale for any division. After each contestant has been presented on stage in her formal dress, the Emcee will announce whom the judges have selected as the top semi-finalists.

Twelve top semi-finalists will be announced. The Top 12 includes one contestant who was voted the Fan Favorite winner by friends and family. The names of the Top 12 will be announced in random order, including the Fan Favorite winner. The judges and the audience will NOT know who the Fan Favorite winner is until all scoring and tabulation have been completed at the end of the pageant finale. The Fan Favorite winner will be announced immediately before the crowning of the new queen and her court.

Every contestant in the Top 12 will be eligible to move to the Top 5. Her preliminary average will account for 80% of her final score. The judges will be able to hear each of the Top 12 delegates introduce themselves in their Personal Introduction. Each contestant in the Top 12 will receive a "Final Show Personal Introduction Score" from 1 to 9. An average of all the judges' Final Show Personal Introduction Score will become 10% of each Top 12 Finalist's final score. This will produce the Top 5 finalists. The Top 5 will be announced in random order.

The Top 5 will have one more opportunity to impress the judges with their ability to answer a question on stage. All contestants will receive the same question. To ensure the remaining contestants cannot hear the question ahead of their turn, they will wear sound-canceling headphones as they wait in an adjacent room. The Emcee will read the question to the contestant, who will have up to 30 seconds to answer the question. The 30 seconds starts when the Emcee finishes reading the question. At 30 seconds, a bell will ring, and judging of that question will end. Each contestant in the Top 5 will receive an "On-Stage Question Score" from 1 to 9. An average of all the judge's On-Stage Question Scores will become the final 10% of each Top 5 Finalist's final score. This final score (80% Prelim Average + 10% Finale Intro Average + 10% On-Stage Question Average) will determine final placements. There will be no re-ranking.

The Princess and Jr. Pre-Teen age divisions will be asked a question from one of the following five topics.

- My community service work
- My after-school activities
- My family
- My friends
- My goals for the future

The Pre-Teen and Jr. Teen age divisions will be asked a question from one of the following five topics.

- Characteristics and duties of a NAM National Queen
- My impact through service and community involvement
- My vision for the future
- Navigating peer pressure
- Being a "girl with dreams"

Teen, Miss and Elite age divisions will be asked a question from one of the following five topics.

- Issues currently facing girls and young women
- The value of pageantry
- Social media
- Balancing multiple roles
- Being a "woman with vision"

After all the scores have been tabulated, the Emcee will ask for the results. Before the Emcee reveals the final results, she will reveal the name of the Fan Favorite winner and present her with a special award on stage. At this time, the 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st runners-up will be announced, followed by the crowning of our new National Queen.