



Miss Louisiana Organization *Requesting a New Franchise*

» Locals requesting a new local franchise should send a letter of request stating that they would like to hold a new local pageant to:

Miss Louisiana Organization
Attn: Shannon Futch
P.O. Box 6003
Monroe, LA 71211

» Two letters of reference/recommendation should accompany the letter of request. The recommendation letters can come from businesses or individuals that are going to be sponsors of your new local or recommendation from someone already involved with the Miss Louisiana Scholarship Organization. All this information above can also be emailed to State Liaison at futch@misslouisiana.org

» The letter of request should state the pageant name that you are requesting. i.e. Miss Louisiana Shrimp Festival or Miss Iberia Parish. If your local is going to be sponsored by a city/parish or school please have a spokesperson from that entity send a letter of reference/recommendation. Also included a pageant date if you have one picked out. Please include whether or not you intend on having Miss and/or Teen divisions in your new prelim.

» Please tell us a little about yourself in the letter of request and why you would like to sponsor a new local. How did you learn about Miss Louisiana? Why would you like to be involved?

» There is a Miss Franchise Fee of \$440 + [\$240 dual/double prelim waived in 09-10]. This is an annual fee subject to change. First franchise fee is due immediately after your franchise is granted, then will be due 7 days after your pageant in succeeding years.

» There is a Teen Franchise Fee of \$200 for Teen, deadline for franchise fee payment is 7 days after your pageant. These are annual fees subject to change. Franchise fee for first time pageants is due in advance of the pageant. New prelims will not be posted to the Miss Louisiana web site until the franchise fee has been paid in advance the first year.

» There is a minimum scholarship amount that must be given to the Miss winner of \$250, as well as crowns' for Miss and Teen.

» In the letter of request please state whether you will be having Miss only or Miss and Teen divisions.

» You are not mandated to hold Teen, but encouraged to generate extra money for your local.

»After receiving your letter of request and references/recommendations your request will be presented to the Miss Louisiana Board of Directors by the State Liaison at the next monthly Board Meeting. The Board will discuss your request and then make a decision whether or not to grant your new local franchise for Miss Louisiana.

» Deadline for hosting a preliminary for the 2010 state pageant is tentatively March 1, 2010.

Estimated Pageant Startup Cost Sheet

△ Miss Franchise Fee	\$440 [\$240 dual]
△ Teen Franchise Fee	\$200
△ Minimum Miss Cash Award ⁰	\$250
△ Miss Local Crown ¹	\$130
△ Teen Crowns	\$60-100
△ DJ/Sound	~\$300-\$600

Other Possible Expenses

- △ Renting Location/Arena/Gym/Auditorium
- △ Stage Backdrop – Grosh Rentals **grosh.com**
- △ Decorations for the Stage (usually based on theme you go with)
- △ Trophies or Plaques or Chrome Trays for winners
- △ DJ/Soundman (I recommend someone who has done it before)
- △ Printing Programs for the Event (not mandatory, but nice)
- △ MC for your prelim (Miss Louisiana/LAs Outstanding Teen/Local TV anchor)
- △ Volunteer(s) to work front door, Volunteer(s) to work back stage/changing area
- △ Spot Light or other lighting for the stage and someone to run the Spot Light
- △ Flowers for the winners (optional)
- △ Setup a Judges' Table (pens/pencils/notepad/post-it notes/desk lights/bottle water, peppermint or other hard candies)
- △ Judges Gift Baskets (optional – little something thanking the judges for taking time to come judge)
- △ Other Awards: (Optional)
 - 1st runner up (cash, tuition, or trophy)
 - 2nd runner up (cash, tuition, or trophy)
 - 3rd, 4th and 5th if you have enough contestants
 - Interview Winner (crystal or silver trophy)
 - Talent Winner (crystal or silver trophy)
 - Swimsuit Winner (crystal or silver trophy)
- △ You should also remember the expense of motel/hotel during the state competition in June. You will be in Monroe for about 5-7 days during the state competition.

△ GET AS MUCH DONATED AS POSSIBLE – Recognize them as Sponsors

Things to remember:

Location Auditorium (sufficient size for dancers/piano)
Sound Necessary equipment for emcees and talent presentations
Lighting Necessary equipment for pageant production
Printing Program Book (Necessary to receive matching funds from Miss America)

Emcee

(2) **Auditors**

(5) **Judges:** 1 should be a novice judge.

You should provide overnight accommodations if possible (if necessary) and lunch and/or dinner. State Liaison will notify you of your board monitor for first time pageants.

Contestants cannot be charged to compete in the Miss America system. However, contestants can sell ads for the program book or can be sponsored by different campus groups; i.e. sororities, fraternities, band, etc. but not required.

New pageants may qualify for the following:

1. A \$500.00 New Pageant Grant from MAO (4 new prelims per calendar year)

Please note that this money from Miss America MUST be awarded as scholarships to this year's contestants and MUST be acknowledged in your local pageant program. New Pageant Grants are determined by MAO and whether or not funds exist. Deadline submission to receive one of the four new local pageant scholarships is December 31, 2008.

⁰ Can be in-kind scholarship

¹ Official Local Crowns must be purchased from <http://www.thebestcrowns.com>