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**Local Preliminary Guidelines**

Effective with the 2018 crowning year the following guidelines shall apply for a local preliminary.

* To award one (1) title you must have a minimum of 4 (four) contestants show up and compete.
* To award two (2) titles you must have a minimum of 6 (six) contestants show up and compete.
* To award three (3) titles you must have a minimum of 9 (nine) contestants show up and compete.

Each title must receive a minimum of a $250.00 cash or in-kind scholarship and the official Miss America local crown.

At a local preliminary, you may not name a “Top 5”.

Onstage questions cannot be platform related and must be topically relevant and equally difficult selected at random.

Only two (2) preliminary awards may be given on stage. You may choose to award two (2) awards from Swimsuit, talent, or evening gown.

The Miss America Organization’s contestant age eligibility requirements are based on a calendar year, not a pageant year. To be eligible to compete in a local or state competition a contestant cannot be older than twenty-four (24) years of age on December 31st the year she could be chosen to represent her state at Miss America.