

THE SHSU PROGRAM COUNCIL PRESENTS



Miss Sam Houston

SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT

CONTESTANT APPLICATION

DUE BY - OCTOBER 3, 2018
LSC 324 | 3:00 PM

For more information,
Contact Program Council at (936) 294-1763
or

Rachel Valle at rachel.valle@shsu.edu or (936) 294-3588.

Greetings!

Welcome to the Sam Houston State University Miss Sam Houston Pageant Information and Application Packet! We are elated that you are interested in becoming Miss Sam Houston 2019. The Miss Sam Houston Pageant is an event for scholarly and influential female students on the campus of Sam Houston State University. It serves to acknowledge leaders on the Sam Houston campus and in the Huntsville community. Miss Sam Houston acts as a role model for all and a representative and spokesperson of Sam Houston State University. She upholds the highest ideals, vision, and motto of the university and the Texas State University System. The Miss Sam Houston Pageant is open to all women who understand that this is not a “beauty pageant,” but a scholarship program that judges contestants on their talent, creativity, and capability to speak with confidence, poise and grace. This pageant highlights the intelligence, creativity, and numerous accomplishments of the contestants who are currently pursuing their life goals educationally and professionally.

This packet contains important information on contestant eligibility and requirements, pageant overview, the application process, and other valuable material. Please read over the information thoroughly; it is all very important. You will be asked to complete forms, provide information, and submit materials as needed. Additionally, in order to remain in the competition, you must agree and abide by all rules, guidelines, and deadlines. Please understand that all requests are necessary for the successful production of the Miss Sam Houston Pageant and must be followed.

Please feel free to contact the SHSU Program Council if you have any questions or concerns regarding the pageant. We look forward to working with a great selection of students and personalities this year. We know that Miss Sam Houston 2019 will be a true success and we look forward to seeing the legacy of Miss Sam Houston continue to grow! Applications are **due by October 3, 2018 by 3:00 PM** in the Program Council Office in LSC 324.

We wish all contestants the best of luck!

Rachel Valle
Program Council Advisor
Assistant Director of Student Activities

Amy Lam
President
Program Council

Andrea James
Vice President
Program Council

Xena Matamoros
Senior Programming Chair
Program Council

Miss Sam Houston Information and Application Packet

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History of the Miss Sam Houston Pageant

The “Miss Sam Houston Pageant” has origins in the old Sam Houston tradition, the “Bathing Beauty Review” hosted by the Caroline Belvin Literary Society. The winner received prizes such as new clothes, jewelry, flowers, and received the title of “Bathing Beauty.” In 1949, the contest continued the use of the name “Bathing Beauty Review;” however, it changed the winner’s title from “Bathing Beauty” to “Miss Sam Houston.” The Caroline Belvin Literary Society continued to host the pageant until 1959 when its members were initiated into Alpha Delta Pi sorority. From then, the Alpha Delta Pi sorority hosted the pageant and changed the title to the “Miss Sam Houston Pageant” until the late 1960’s when Alpha Tau Omega fraternity began to host the pageant. Again, in the 1970’s, the pageant changed hands to the Kappa Sigma fraternity. During this time, the Miss Sam Houston Pageant and Miss Huntsville Pageant were combined allowing the winner of the Miss Sam Houston Pageant to be crowned Miss Sam Houston and Miss Huntsville. The winner was qualified to then proceed to the Miss Texas Pageant, and, possibly The Miss America Pageant. The pageant continued to flourish until it disappeared from the yearbooks of Sam Houston State University in the late 1980’s. In 2010, Program Council brought back the Pageant and crowned the first Miss Sam Houston since the 1980’s.

Program Council Mission

As a division of Student Activities, Program Council is a student-run organization devoted to creating educational and entertaining programs that encourage the development of leadership and life skills through interaction among a diverse student body.

Program Council Purpose

- To provide a well-rounded series of social, cultural, recreational, and educational activities.
- To encourage student-directed activity, individual competency and group effectiveness.
- To play a vital role in the development of persons, and be an important facet of the total education program of the University.
- To provide programs that introduce various viewpoints, stimulate discussions and encourage interaction among students.
- To provide quality programs for the students, faculty, staff, and alumni of the University as well as citizens of the surrounding communities.

Program Council Board Members

Rachel Valle.....	Pageant Director & Assistant Director of Student Activities
Andrea James.....	Student Pageant Director & Vice President
Amy Lam.....	Associate Pageant Director & President
Xena Matamoros.....	Assistant Pageant Director & Senior Programming Chair
Marcus Joseph.....	Entertainment Chair
Shyanna Mutz.....	Education Chair
Yvonne Breton.....	Arts & Recreation Chair
Danny Figueroa.....	Social Chair
Victoria Skinner.....	Spirit and Traditions Chair

Eligibility

I. Miss Sam Houston Contestant Eligibility and Requirements

- a. All applicants must have a 2.75 or higher cumulative SHSU grade point average as of the beginning of the fall 2018 semester unless beginning their first semester at Sam Houston State University (i.e., incoming freshmen or transfer students).
- b. Applicants must be enrolled as a full-time (undergraduate or graduate) student at Sam Houston State University (i.e., undergraduate=12 hours, graduate=9 hours).
- c. Applicants must be in good academic standing with Sam Houston State University.
- d. Applicants must not be eligible for graduation prior to spring 2020.
- e. Applicants attending Sam Houston State University through a Student Visa must provide a copy for verification.
- f. Applicant must not have any Sam Houston State University Code of Conduct Violations. The SHSU Student Code of Conduct can be found here: <https://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/documents/2016-2018%20Student%20Guidelines.pdf>.
- g. All applicants must submit a completed application with all support documents included prior to the application deadline. This includes a platform statement, biography, class schedule and any other requested documents.
- h. All applicants must have an Organizational Sponsor.
 - i. An organizational sponsor is defined as any university recognized student organization registered with the Department of Leadership Initiatives.
 - ii. Contestants do not have to be a member of the student organization to be sponsored by the organization.
 - iii. Each organizational sponsor can only sponsor one contestant.
 - iv. Every organizational sponsor must complete an Organizational Sponsor Agreement Form agreeing to allow the contestant to represent the organization in the pageant.
 - v. Organizational sponsors are not required to financially assist the contestant
 - vi. By becoming an organizational sponsor, the organization is given the opportunity to help their contestant spread awareness of their organization's name and, should she win a title, will receive a financial award in the amount stated in the Organizational Sponsor Agreement Form.
 - vii. Should a sponsoring organization drops their candidate or a candidate no longer wishes to be associated with the organization, the Organizational Sponsor will only be allowed to replace the candidate prior to the Personal Interview portion of the competition. Once Personal Interviews have taken place, Organizational Sponsors will not be allowed to change their candidate. In doing so, they will remove their eligibility to participate in the pageant.
 1. Contestants who are dropped by their Organizational Sponsor may only continue to participate in the competition if the contestant secures a replacement Organizational Sponsor and submits a new Organizational Sponsor Agreement Form within 3 business days of being dropped from the previous Organizational Sponsor. In addition, the contestant will be required to buy a replacement sash from the same sash company used for all contestant sashes (estimated cost: \$150). The contestant must have the Organizational Sponsor Agreement Form and their new sash turned into the SHSU Program Council prior to January 24, 2019. Any time after will disqualify the contestant from the competition.
- i. All applicants must submit a resume.
 - i. This is your opportunity to demonstrate to the judges why they should consider you for the title of Miss Sam Houston 2019 or Miss Piney Woods 2019. You may list as many or as few items under each category as you desire. Your only restriction is that it must follow the established format and it must fit on one (1) page. For an example, see Section II of this application packet.
- j. All applicants must have a platform and write a Platform Statement.
 - i. A platform is the issue or organization a contestant promotes through her title and involvement with the pageant. Every contestant is required to participate in service to the issue or organization of her choosing through her Platform. Each contestant must choose an issue about which she cares deeply and that is of relevance to our society. Please see Section II of this packet for more information on the exact specifications for writing

your Platform Statement.

- k. Applicants must participate in a Personal Interview with the Preliminary Judges. This date will be on a Thursday or Friday in October and will be released to all contestants with at least a week's notice. More information on Personal Interviews will be discussed in a later section of this packet.
- l. All contestants must commit to attend all preset practices and dress rehearsals unless contestant has approval from the Pageant Director. See **Contestant Timeline & Schedule** for specifics on when pageant practices and dress rehearsals will be held. We reserve the right to implement additional practice and dress rehearsal sessions. Any contestant who misses more than two practices or any dress rehearsal will be dismissed from the pageant unless otherwise approved by the Pageant Director.

II. Miss Texas Contestant Eligibility

- a. A contestant must be a female citizen of the United States of America and a bona fide resident of the State of Texas at any time before the first preliminary of the local pageant competition, and must remain such throughout her participation within the Miss Texas Pageant and Miss America Organization programs.
- b. A contestant must not have been convicted of a crime.
- c. A contestant shall not be less than eighteen (18) years of age on date of the local pageant in which she competes nor more than twenty-four (24) years of age on December 31, 2019.
- d. Contestants must be single and never been married or have had an annulment of marriage, and must not be, nor have been, pregnant, nor ever have cohabited with a male in lieu of a marriage contract.
- e. Unless specifically waived in writing by the Miss America Organization, no contestant in either a Local or State Pageant shall be eligible to compete if she has endorsed or contracted to endorse any product or services competitive to those products or service sold by the national sponsors or national licensees of the Miss America Organization within three (3) months prior to the competition and/or is under such contract for endorsement at the time of competition or thereafter.

Contestant Timeline and Schedule

I. Deadlines

Items Due	Due Date
Completed and Signed Application with all support documents	October 3, 2018 by 3:00 PM
Information for Pageant Video	October 24, 2018
Silver Heels	October 24, 2018
Spirit Wear theme selection	November 7, 2018
Headshot and Video Attire	November 14, 2018
Spirit Wear Attire, props, and blurbs first check	November 30, 2018
Talent Attire	November 30, 2018
Talent (exactly as being performed pageant night)	November 30, 2018
Talent Music (as it is to be played pageant night)	November 30, 2018
On-Stage Peer Interview Question	November 30, 2018
Evening Wear	January 16, 2019
Spirit Attire including props final check	January 16, 2019

*All dates are subject to change.

II. Practice schedule

- The 2018-2019 Miss Sam Houston Pageant Practice Schedule is below. All contestants are required to attend all of the scheduled practices listed below. Any contestants who miss more than two practices will be removed from the pageant, unless the Pageant Director approves absences.
- All practices are closed practices except for one talent designated practice where you will be allowed one spectator.

October		November		January	
Date	Time	Date	Time	Date	Time
Wednesday, October 10 th *	4:30-5:30 PM	Wednesday, November 7th	4:30-6:00 PM	Wednesday, January 16th	4:30-6:00 PM
Wednesday, October 24th	4:30-6:00 PM	Friday, November 9th	2:00-4:00 PM	Friday, January 18th	Dress Rehearsal
Friday, October 26th	2:00-4:00 PM	Wednesday, November 14th	4:30-6:00 PM	Wednesday, January 23rd	4:30-6:00 PM
		Friday, November 16th	2:00-4:00 PM	Friday, January 25th	Dress Rehearsal
		Wednesday, November 28th	4:30-6:00 PM	Wednesday, January 30 th	11:00-12:30 PM
		Friday, November 30th	2:00-4:00 PM	Wednesday, January 30 th	4:30-6:00 PM
				Friday, February 1 st	1:00-6:00 PM

*This is a mandatory practice

III. Beauties and the Bearkat

- Unless a contestant has class, contestants are required to participate in Beauties and the Bearkat on January 30, 2019 from 11:00-12:30 PM. The location is TBD. This event is dedicated to promoting the upcoming competition and to showcasing all of the contestants.

IV. Dates for Dress Rehearsals

- All dress rehearsals are mandatory. The dates below are tentative and will be confirmed at least a week prior to the first date. **Any contestants who miss any of the dress rehearsals without prior Pageant Director approval will be removed from the pageant.**
- All practices are closed practices except for one talent designated practice where you will be allowed one spectator.

Date	Time
Friday, January 18, 2019	1:00-6:00 PM
Friday, January 25, 2019	1:00-6:00 PM
Monday, February 4, 2019	5:00-10:00 PM
Tuesday, February 5, 2019	5:00-10:00 PM
Wednesday, February 6, 2019	5:00-10:00 PM

V. Pageant Day/Night

Thursday, February 7, 2019	11:00-6:00 PM	Rehearsal
	6:00 PM	Pageant Time!

*All dates and times on this page are subject to change.

Pageant Competition Breakdown

Areas of Competition	Occurs ...	Attire	Percentage
Personal Interview with Preliminary Judges	Shortly after submitting your application	Interview attire; Contestant to Provide	20%
Opening Number & Introduction	Pageant Night	Attire to be provided; Contestant to Provide Heels	--
On-Stage Peer Interview	Pageant Night	Same as opening number	15%
Spirit Wear	Pageant Night	Contestant to Provide; Approval Needed	15%
Elimination to Top 8			
Talent	Pageant Night	Contestant to Provide; Approval Needed	30%
Elimination to Top 5			
Evening Wear & Personal Impact Statement	Pageant Night	Contestant to Provide; Approval Needed	10%
On-Stage Question & Answer	Pageant Night	Same as Evening Wear	10%
Total:			100%

- ❖ **Personal Interview:** Personal interviews will occur within 2-4 weeks after the application deadline (October-November). Personal Interviews will consist of an interview with 2-4 preliminary judges. All interviews will be no longer than 15 minutes. At the end, the contestant will be given the opportunity to make a 30-second closing statement. The interview is confidential, even after the pageant is over.

Questions are on general topics, items from your resume, facts about SHSU, and from your platform essay. This is your opportunity to let the judges get to know you. The judges are looking for: overall first impression, qualities and attributes of Miss America, positive role model, knowledge and understanding of platform, ability to fulfill job responsibilities, confident and commanding presence, personality, appearance and attractiveness, validated opinions and responses, ability to express feelings and defend beliefs, energy, intelligence, and communication skills (speech, vocabulary, and grammar).

At the conclusion of all Personal Interviews, only the Top 14 contestants will progress forward.* Personal Interview scores are 20% of the contestant's overall score. Meaning, scores from the interview will carry over to the night of the pageant and will be one of the determining factors accounted for in each elimination process.

*Number of contestants is subject to change

- ❖ **On-Stage Peer Interview:** The on-stage peer interview is a new addition to the pageant that will allow the judges and audience to get to know the contestant better. The on-stage peer interview will be replacing the lifestyle and fitness in swimwear portion to align with the new changes to the Miss America Competition. The on-stage peer interview will be worth 15% of the contestants overall score. Each contestant will submit a question directly to the Directors of the Pageant. All questions will be kept confidential until the interview occurs. Each contestant will ask another randomly drawn contestant the question they submitted. Contestants will be given thirty seconds to answer. Judges will be informed immediately if a contestant runs over her allotted time and 25% of the overall received score for this portion of the competition will be deducted. Questions will be on general topics and current events. The judging will emphasize your knowledge on the topic asked, poise in handling the questions, and how well you articulate your beliefs on the issue— not the position you take. The judges are evaluating your extemporaneous responses to the onstage question, poise, confidence, and comfort level in speaking before a large audience.
- ❖ **Spirit Wear:** Spirit wear will account for 15% of your overall pageant score. Contestants will be expected to personally design, embellish, and decorate clothing to display their creativity and spirit for Sam Houston State University. In addition, the contestants must submit a brief description (3-5 sentences) about their spirit wear to be read during their walk. The Pageant Directors will set deadlines for when they must see and approve all spirit wear prior to the pageant. Pageant Directors will typically require contestants to explain/show ideas for spirit wear in an effort to monitor the progress and appropriateness of all contestant spirit wear prior to final deadlines. The footwear for this portion of the competition should be whatever the contestant determines is fit for their specialized attire. The judges will be looking for how well each contestant develops, displays, and captures the essence of Sam Houston State University spirit. In addition, the judges will rate each contestant on their creativity, confidence, neatness, stage presence, and energy.

- ❖ **Talent:** The talent portion will occur during the night of the pageant and will account for 30% of the remaining contestant's scores. The contestant must begin and finish onstage. The time limit for talent presentation is 90 seconds. Nothing longer will be accepted and this WILL be strictly enforced! Contestants should plan a performance that will not exceed this limit. Judges will be informed immediately if a contestant runs over her allotted time and 25% of the overall received score for this portion of the competition will be deducted.

The Pageant Directors will set deadlines for when all full and final talents must be approved by. Anyone who has not been given approval by the set deadlines, will not be able to participate further in the pageant. All props must be functional and an integral part of the talent. Contestants can be born with the talent or work up to them: singing; flexibility; acting; classical music; dancing (ballet, modern, tap, lyrical); gymnastics; cheerleading; acting, etc. All talent performers are solo acts and must be performed with no other person on the stage. No acts, which may constitute a danger (e.g., swords, fire), require elaborate prop setup, or use of live animals will be permitted.

Talent must be live and any contestant who wishes to have music played during their talent must provide an edited version of the exact music they wish to be played during their talent by the deadline set by the Pageant Directors. If taped accompaniment is used and the contestant pantomimes, the name of the artist on the recording must be disclosed in the talent introduction and there can be no illusion that the contestant is singing. There can be no duplication of a talent act among the contestants. For example, a contestant may not include in a vocal medley the same song another contestant is planning to sing as a solo or as part of a different medley. HOWEVER, the same song may be played by one contestant on a musical instrument, sung by another contestant, and used as accompaniment for a dancer. A contestant may not pre-record herself as a back-up vocalist or instrumental accompanist and use that tape to accompany her live talent performance. A talent cannot be performed electronically (i.e. video tape) or with live accompaniment. Regardless of the talent performed, the background tape cannot have voices, instruments, or other noises that mimic the talent of the contestant. A vocalist may have background vocals with "oohs and aahs" or other *background* lyrics, but cannot have a tape with a voice singing the melody line for the contestant to sing along with. The same would be said for instrumentalists, dancers, and any other talent, which could provide for an unfair advantage if a judge could not delineate from the talent on the track versus the live performance of the contestant. If technical difficulties prevent a contestant from performing any phase of competition, fairness dictates that she be allowed a restart. The decision for the restart should be made with the Director and the judges' panel.

Talent attire is an important component to building each contestant's overall image. Contestants should consider delivering a clear and consistent presentation of who they are to the judges. Talent attire should consist of clothing/costuming that is appropriate for a family-oriented event and does not hinder the Contestant from performing her talent to the best of her ability. The Pageant Directors must approve all talent attire. Deadlines will be set and given to contestants with a prior notice of at least 14 days.

- ❖ **Evening Wear & Personal Social Impact Statement:** The evening wear & personal social impact statement portion will occur during the night of the pageant is worth 10% of each contestant's total score. The contestant's entire look (not the price of her gown) and stage presence is taken into consideration. In addition, contestants will prepare a brief statement regarding how they plan to utilize the title of Miss Sam Houston to make a social impact on the Bearkat community. Statements may not exceed fifteen seconds or Judges will be informed immediately if a contestant runs over her allotted time and 25% of the overall received score for this portion of the competition will be deducted. The judges are looking for: overall first impression, sense of confidence, walk, posture, carriage and grace, personality, stage presence, beauty and sense of attractiveness, and appropriateness of the evening wear. In addition, each social impact statement will be judged based on relevance, delivery, and quality of the statement.
- ❖ **On-Stage Question & Answer:** The onstage question and answer portion is worth 10% of the contestant's overall score. Questions will give insight into why the contestant is the ideal candidate for the title of Miss Sam Houston. Each contestant will have thirty seconds to respond (25% of the overall score of this portion of the competition will be deducted for anyone who exceeds their time limit). The judges are evaluating extemporaneous responses, articulation, interactivity, communication, poise, confidence, comfort level in speaking before a large audience, ability to see if candidate can serve as a role model and is reflective of her generation.

Judge and Staff Protocol

- I. Professional conduct is imperative by judges, official tabulators, contestants, and the SHSU Program Council.
 - a. Judges
 - i. Judges cannot speak to, nor have any contact with contestants outside of judging.
 - ii. Even after the pageant, judges cannot discuss scores with anyone or answer any questions about how a judge derived to their score or how a contestant could have done better.
 - b. Official Tabulators
 - i. The official pageant tabulators must remain completely unbiased when overseeing and processing scores.
 - c. Contestants
 - i. Any contestant who approaches a judge and/or tabulator for any reason is subject to disqualification from the competition.
 - d. SHSU Program Council
 - i. The SHSU Program Council must remain completely unbiased. All efforts or advice offered to one contestant should be offered to all contestants.

Pageant Conduct

- I. Contestant agrees to be a person of good moral character at all times both during the competition and during their reign as Miss Sam Houston or Miss Piney Woods.
- II. Contestant shall not be convicted of any crimes and shall possess talent, poise, personality, intelligence, charm and beauty of face and figure.
- III. Contestant has not committed, nor will Contestant commit any act inconsistent with the highest standards of public morals and conventions or which may reflect negatively upon the pageant, sponsors, affiliates, or any party related there-to. Additionally, contestants shall not knowingly or intentionally engage in nude, lewd, or lascivious media.
- IV. Bullying of fellow contestants and any other forms of abuse will not be tolerated.
- V. At all times contestant will be courteous, polite and act in a professional manner during the pageant and while representing her title.
- VI. Contestant will be respectful of everyone's time and be punctual to all Pageant scheduled events.
- VII. Contestant agrees that if she maintains or is involved in electronic networking sites such as Websites, Twitter, Facebook, blog, message boards etc, she will present a positive image, which will not contain behavior such as negative postings, inappropriate photos or inappropriate language. Any Contestant found publicly posting slanderous remarks on public forums will be immediately disqualified. This also includes any form of Social Media.
- VIII. At functions where contestants intermingle, contestant will behave in a courteous manner, and maintain polite conversation.
- IX. Contestant will advise her family, friends and/or representatives that no one is allowed on stage immediately after the crowning to allow time for the Pageant Photographer and Videographer to take the official pictures of the winners and the court. Additionally, she will remain on stage until dismissed by Pageant Director.
- X. No parents, friends, family members and/or representatives are allowed backstage.
- XI. Contestant will not in any way or at any time make comments or correspond in such a manner as to be considered slanderous or libelous to her fellow contestants, judges, the Miss Sam Houston Pageant, staff, sponsors, or any party directly related or connected to the Pageant.
- XII. At all times contestant will display good sportsmanship. Behavior which is considered disruptive or ill tempered before, during or after the pageant may result in immediate disqualification and removal from the premises.
- XIII. Contestant will not smoke in public at anytime during the pageant or when she is wearing her crown and sash. Additionally, Contestant agrees not to allow anyone to take a picture of her wearing her crown and sash holding a glass of alcohol or a cigarette/cigar. Nor will she allow anyone to take a picture with her in the picture along with another person holding a cigarette/cigar or alcoholic drink in their hand.
- XIV. All issues related to the *Code of Conduct* and consequences for violation(s) thereof shall be determined solely and exclusively by the Miss Sam Houston Pageant. Contestant agrees to accept such determinations made by the Miss Sam Houston Pageant as to both herself and others.

Pageant Awards

After all competitions are complete, the top five finalists will be tabulated by the Official Pageant Tabulators. The Official Pageant Tabulators will sign the final ballots and pass the results to the emcees to be announced. The following titles and awards will be given:

❖ **Winner: Miss Sam Houston**

- \$1,250 Educational Award
- \$400 for her Sponsoring Organization
- One-Semester Meal Plan (10 meals per week), Courtesy of SHSU Dining
- Advancement to the 2019 Miss Texas Pageant, a member of the Miss America Pageant
 - Includes:
 - Official Headshots
 - Makeup Lessons

❖ **Runner-Up: Miss Piney Woods**

- \$750 Educational Award
- \$200 for her Sponsoring Organization
- Advancement to the 2019 Miss Texas Pageant, a member of the Miss America Pageant
 - Includes:
 - Official Headshots
 - Makeup Lessons

❖ **2nd Runner-Up**

- Will take the place of Miss Piney Woods should Miss Piney Woods vacate her title or assume the title of Miss Sam Houston. This winner does not receive an award.

❖ **Miss Congeniality**

- This is the only award voted on by the contestants themselves. This award reflects the respect and admiration of the delegate's peers, who voted for her as the most congenial, charismatic and inspirational participant. Voting is conducted in the weeks prior to the pageant. This winner receives a non-monetary award.

Titleholder Responsibilities

- I. Titleholders (i.e., Miss Sam Houston 2019 and Miss Piney Woods 2019) must sign a Titleholder Agreement upon winning their title.
- II. Titleholders must maintain a 2.75 cumulative SHSU grade point average for the entirety of their reign.
- III. Titleholders must be enrolled at Sam Houston State University in at least 6 credit hours during the spring 2019, fall 2020, and the spring 2020 semesters.
- IV. Titleholders must attend prescheduled pageant headshot makeup/hair, pageant headshot photoshoot, and makeup lessons.
- V. Titleholders are financially responsible for all necessary attire, accessories, and fees associated with the Miss Sam Houston Pageant and the Miss Texas Pageant, unless otherwise noted (i.e., The average amount of money spent to prepare for the Miss Texas Pageant by the 2018 titleholders was between \$1,500-\$3,000). Sponsorships are permitted with the approval of the Pageant Director and are the responsibility of the titleholder to secure.
- VI. Titleholders must complete all paperwork and requirements to participate in the 2019 Miss Texas Pageant. Additionally, titleholders must travel to all Miss Texas designated events such as, but not limited to, the Miss Texas 2019 Spring Meeting (Friday-Sunday; typically held in April) and the 2019 Miss Texas Pageant (a weeklong competition in late June/early July).
- VII. Titleholders must read and understand the Student Code of Conduct written in the current Student Handbook at Sam Houston State University and have read all requirements to participate in the Miss Sam Houston Pageant, Miss Texas Pageant, and Miss America Organization as initially given in this document.
- VIII. Titleholders will uphold the titles of as bestowed upon them (i.e., Miss Sam Houston 2019 and Miss Piney Woods 2019) for the 2019-2020 pageant year (February 7, 2019-February 2020).

- IX. Miss Sam Houston 2019 and Miss Piney Woods 2019 **must** compete at the Miss Texas America Pageant during the summer of 2019.
- X. Titleholders must attend events selected by Program Council and the Department of Student Activities unless their class schedule prevents them from doing so.
- XI. Both titleholders must always conduct themselves in a manner that is fitting of a public figure and representative of Sam Houston State University.
- XII. Titleholders shall not wear their crown and/or sash and/or represent the pageant/festival at any other events/activities unless they obtain permission from the Pageant Director.
- XIII. Both titleholders must give permission to the Sam Houston State University and any of its representatives to use their photograph and/or video for publicity, news articles, or other purposes in print media, social media, websites, and any other media/print platforms.
- XIV. Titleholders may not have participated in any activities that would be embarrassing to the titleholder and/or Sam Houston State University prior to this agreement. Titleholders also agree that if during their year of reign, they do engage in any such activity, including being arrested and charged with a crime, the SHSU Program Council shall have the right to declare their title void and will return/reimburse all prizes and/or awards to the SHSU Program Council.
- XV. Titleholders will not make statements containing inappropriate or profane language. In addition, titleholders agree not to post pictures or videos of themselves dressed inappropriately, drinking alcoholic beverages or making inappropriate gestures.
- XVI. All title resignations must be submitted in writing via email to Sam Houston State University Assistant Director of Student Activities/ Pageant Director, Rachel Valle.
- XVII. Titleholders understand that in the event that either of them do not fulfill any of these responsibilities and/or resign, the SHSU Program Council shall have the right to strip titleholders of their title and begin the successor process at their discretion. In the event this would occur, all awards, lessons, headshots and any other costs spent in association with the title (i.e., Miss Sam Houston 2019 and Miss Piney Woods 2019) would require immediate reimbursement by the terminated titleholder to the SHSU Program Council. These costs include, but are not limited to, the following: title, monetary awards/scholarships for both the titleholder and her organization, headshot photography services, headshot makeup services, makeup lesson services, travel costs, etc.).

Section II: Forms

In this section, you will find the following forms and information:

- Contestant Application*
- Contestant Agreement*
- Contestant Biography Template
- Organizational Sponsor Agreement Form*
- Model Release Form*
- Release and Indemnification Form*
- Platform Statement Guidelines and Sample
- Resume Sample

*Please detach these forms from the packet and submit them with your application.

Contestant Application

Applicant Information			
Name:			
SAM ID:	Phone:	SHSU Email:	
Current address:			
City:	State:	Zip Code:	
Classification (circle one): Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior			Current Overall GPA:
Major/ Minor:		Anticipated Graduation Date:	
Organizational Sponsor:			
Org. Sponsor Contact Name:		Org. Sponsor Contact Phone:	
Platform:		Talent:	
Extracurricular Activities: Please list any SHSU student organizations or extracurricular activities you are active in and any positions held (organizations may be contacted for verification).			
Honors: Please list any honors or awards you have received while attending SHSU.			
Community Service/ Volunteer Work: Please list any community service or volunteer work you have participated in while attending SHSU (Freshmen candidates may list service/work from outside of SHSU).			
Disclaimer and Signature			
I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If this application leads to me becoming a contestant, I understand that false or misleading information in my application or interview may result in my dismissal from pageant participation.			
Signature of applicant:			Date:

Contestant Agreement

I have thoroughly read and comprehend all pages in the 2019 Miss Sam Houston Pageant Information and Application Packet. I specifically understand the following:

- ❖ I understand that Miss Sam Houston Pageant is university sponsored and overseen by the Sam Houston State University Program Council. The SHSU Program Council and their Advisor have full authority over all pageant functionality and reserve the right to make changes to the pageant as needed.
- ❖ I understand the eligibility requirements for both the Miss Sam Houston Pageant and the Miss Texas America Pageant, and meet all eligibility requirements.
- ❖ I have read of understand the Sam Houston State University Student Code of Conduct. The SHSU Student Code of Conduct can be found here: <https://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/documents/2016-2018%20Student%20Guidelines.pdf>.
- ❖ I have read all requirements associated with competing in the Miss Sam Houston Pageant and agree to meet all set deadlines and attend all prescheduled practices and dress rehearsals. I understand not meeting set deadlines and/or not attending all prescheduled practices and dress rehearsals may lead to my dismissal from the pageant.
- ❖ I understand the pageant process and the areas of competition. I have thoroughly reviewed the rules for each portion of the competition and understand these rules.
- ❖ I understand all judge and staff protocol and will follow the guidelines provided in accordance with the protocol.
- ❖ I understand what conduct is expected of each of the pageant contestants and will adhere to all pageant conduct guidelines.
- ❖ I understand all responsibilities associated with winning the title of either Miss Sam Houston or Miss Piney Woods.
- ❖ I understand that violating any of these guidelines will result in my dismissal from all Miss Sam Houston Pageant activities and reimbursement of all funds previously allocated.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Contestant Biography Template

Each contestant in the Miss Sam Houston Pageant is required to submit a biography. Biographies will be published on both the Miss Sam Houston webpage and in the 2019 Miss Sam Houston Pageant Program. Biographies should be approximately 3-6 sentences, written in the third person, and have the contestant's name and organizational sponsor listed above as seen in the examples below. No specific font/size is required. Contestants should type their biography in a Word document and check for spelling and grammar errors prior to submission. Once biographies are error-free, contestants must email their Word document to PC@SHSU.EDU. In addition, a printed copy of their biography should be attached to their submitted application. The examples below are from previous contestants for your reference.

Examples from Previous Contestants

Jane Doe, Miss Sigma Alpha

Jane Doe was raised in Inez, Texas and graduated from Industrial High School. She began her freshman year at Sam Houston State University in 2013 and from there she became very involved in campus organizations. She is an active member in the Collegiate FFA, Sigma Alpha; Professional Agriculture Sorority, Delta Tau Alpha; National Agriculture Honor Society, and the SHSU Agricultural Sciences and Engineering Technology Ambassadors. Jane is very passionate about agriculture and loves to inform students about agriculture. She is also very passionate about including special needs students into agriculture programs and showing teams, allowing the students to gain many different skills and enhancing their future learning experiences.

Jane Doe, Miss Sigma Sigma Sigma

Jane Doe is a Psychology major from Dallas, Texas. A sophomore at Sam Houston, she is an active member of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority as Vice Chairman of Recruitment. She proudly wears her letters because of the philanthropic partnership with helping children; from child therapy to March of Dimes while serving the community. With the aspiration to raise awareness to help children, Jane plans to travel around the world and help children in need. Aside from her involvement with her sorority, she is a part of KISS organization where she enjoys volunteering at the animal shelter. Jane is glad she made the decision to be a Bearkat because it has risen so many opportunities and brought so many wonderful people to her life.

Jane Doe, Miss Sigma Chi

Jane Doe is proud to be representing the men of Sigma Chi fraternity. Jane is a junior in the College of Education at SHSU. She spends her time staying actively involved in Alpha Chi Omega (social sorority) and KatKconnect, where she currently holds an executive leadership position. Jane enjoys volunteering with the local SAAFE House, on-campus events, and events within the Huntsville community. Jane is passionately devoted to supporting the Huntsman Cancer Foundation and Institute.

Jane Doe, Miss Theta Chi

Jane Doe is a junior mathematics major at Sam Houston State University with a minor in secondary education. She is from Whitehall, Pennsylvania and graduated from Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts, as a dance major, in June of 2014. Jane is a member of Alpha Chi Omega and has served on the executive board as Vice President of Chapter Relations and Standards and now serves as the Junior Representative on the Chapter Relations and Standards Board. Jane hopes to graduate in the fall of 2018 and plans on moving back to the northeast to be closer to her family. Jane wants to teach high school math at a performing arts high school similar to the one she attended in hopes of remaining connected to the arts.

Organizational Sponsor Agreement Form

This form is to be completed by the applicant's organizational sponsor. Each contestant is required to have an eligible organizational sponsor. Any student organization who is registered and currently recognized at Sam Houston State University is eligible to sponsor a contestant. Every organizational sponsor must complete an Organizational Sponsor Agreement Form. The organization is not required to financially assist the contestant, but must allow her to represent them in the competition and assist her in developing her platform. The contestant is not required to be a member of the sponsoring organization. By becoming an organizational sponsor, the organization is given the opportunity for the contestant to promote their organization and spread awareness. The sponsoring organization of the contestant crowned Miss Sam Houston 2019 or Miss Piney Woods 2019 will receive a financial award.

Financial Awards
 Miss Sam Houston= \$400 Prize Miss Piney Woods=\$200 Prize

Organization Name: _____

Organization Contact Name: _____

Organization Contact Phone Number: _____

Organization Contact Email: _____

Organization Advisor's Name: _____

Organization Advisor's Phone Number: _____

Organization Advisor's Email: _____

Is your organization currently registered and in good standing with Sam Houston State University? (Circle one)	YES	NO

Name of Applicant your Organization is Sponsoring: _____

By signing below, I am confirming that my organization has agreed to sponsor the above listed applicant in the 2019 Miss Sam Houston Pageant.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Model Release Form

I, _____, hereby grant Sam Houston State University and/or parties designated by Sam Houston State University (including clients, purchasers, agencies, and periodicals, or other printed matter and their editors) the right to reproduce, use, exhibit, display, broadcast, distribute and create derivative works from University-related photographs and/or audio recordings and/or video images of the undersigned person. This grant includes, without limitation, the right to publish such images and/or audio, with or without my name, in the University newspaper, alumni magazine, and/or public relations/promotional materials, such as marketing and admissions publications, advertisements, fund-raising materials, and any other University-related publication. The images and/or audio may appear in any of the wide variety of formats and media now available to the University and that may be available in the future, including but not limited to print, broadcast, videotape, CD-ROM, and electronic/online media.

I affirm that I am 18 years old or older:

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Description: All photos associated with the Miss Sam Houston Pageant, the Miss Texas America Pageant, and any association with the titles of Miss Sam Houston and Miss Piney Woods.

Release and Indemnification Agreement

Student Name: _____ Sam ID: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Description of Activity or Trip:	Miss Sam Houston Pageant meetings, practices, pageant, pageant rehearsals, dress rehearsals, pageant festivities, and any and all events associated therein.
Mode of Transportation:	N/A
Location(s) of Activity or Trip:	Sam Houston State University and any locations associated with the Miss Sam Houston and Miss Texas Pageant.
Date(s) of Activity or Trip:	From October 2018 TO February 2020

I, the above named student, am eighteen years of age or older and have voluntarily applied to participate in the above Activity or Trip. I acknowledge that the nature of the Activity or Trip may expose me to hazards or risks that may result in my illness, personal injury or death and I understand and appreciate the nature of such hazards and risks.

In consideration of my participation in the Activity or Trip, I hereby accept all risk to my health and of my injury or death that may result from such participation and I hereby release Sam Houston State University, its governing board, officers, employees and representatives from any and all liability to me, my personal representatives, estate, heirs, next of kin, and assigns for any and all claims and causes of action for loss of or damage to my property and for any and all illness or injury to my person, including my death, that may result from or occur during my participation in the Activity or Trip, whether caused by negligence of Sam Houston State University, its governing board, officers, employees, or representatives, or otherwise. I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless Sam Houston State University and its governing board, officers, employees, and representatives from liability for the injury or death of any person(s) and damage to property that may result from my negligent or intentional act or omission while participating in the described Activity or Trip.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND UNDERSTAND IT TO BE A RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS AND CAUSES OF ACTION FOR MY INJURY OR DEATH OR DAMAGE TO MY PROPERTY THAT OCCURS WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THE DESCRIBED ACTIVITY OR TRIP AND IT OBLIGATES ME TO INDEMNIFY THE PARTIES NAMED FOR ANY LIABILITY FOR INJURY OR DEATH OF ANY PERSON AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY CAUSED BY MY NEGLIGENT OR INTENTIONAL ACT OR OMISSION.

Signature of Student:	Date Signed:
_____	_____
Signature of Witness:	Date Signed:
_____	_____
Printed Name of Witness:	

Platform Statement Guidelines

A platform is the issue or organization a contestant promotes through her title and involvement with the pageant. Every contestant is required to participate in service to the issue or organization of her choosing through her Platform. Each contestant must choose an issue about which she cares deeply and that is of relevance to our society. This will help the judges and audience to better get to know the contestants.

Applicant: Discuss your *personal* platform. In addition, explain how you will further the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Program "brand" to the public.

1. Set margins for 1" on all four sides. The font should be 12-point font, single-spaced, Times New Roman.
2. With the justification set for left, type "**Name:**" in **bold**. Following the colon (:), press the space bar twice. Then, type your name as you wish the judges to know it. (If your name is Mary Deborah Smith and you want to be known as "Deborah Smith", please type "Deborah Smith").
3. Double space down. Set your justification to "center". Then type in **Bold and underline** the title of your Platform.
4. Double space down. Write what you feel is critical for the judge's to know about your platform and why it is necessary for you to have the position of Miss Sam Houston to promote this platform. What you write will be what the judges know about your platform, your role in successfully dealing with this platform, and the role the Miss Sam Houston title may play in your plan.
5. Remember to include in the Platform Statement what **you** can do to get the message out and get more of your friends and other students interested in the Miss Sam Houston Pageant.
6. Remember to single space the text that you are typing.
7. This essay **may** include some of the following suggested items (this is not to be meant as an all-inclusive list list)...remember, this is **your** platform statement:
 - a. A clear definition of your platform and the specific issues you wish to address
 - b. A plan on how you have or will create awareness of the platform
 - c. The way in which you have or will change attitudes regarding the issue
 - d. The way in which you have or will change behaviors related to this issue
 - e. The way in which your platform issue will move the Miss Sam Houston Pageant Program forward
 - f. Your media plans
 - g. Your marketing strategy
 - h. How you propose to fund your ideas/plans
 - i. Any significant accomplishments you already have made in regard to your issue
8. At the bottom of the page, you **MUST** set the justification to the right. Type a line of 26 spaces. Below that line, you must type Signature/Date. Once you have printed the document, you must sign and date this document.
9. See the next document for a sample of the requested format.

Name: Deborah Smith

SAMPLE PLATFORM

Celebrating Inclusivity

Currently, the term “Cultural Diversity” is well known in the halls of institutions of higher learner and, perhaps, even in the public school classroom because of the need for educators and learners to be politically correct. But in order for us to make a true change in attitudes and behaviors of Americans, we must move beyond talk and into action and change in public policy.

I plan to continue motivating the media and to partner with the National Conference for Community and Justice. This organization has chapters in every major city in the nation and, in many cases, those chapters have community leaders involved who can, with encouragement and challenging, bring this issue out of hiding and into the public light in each of those communities.

Obviously the media and the NCCJ already exist. However, what is lacking is a lightning rod to draw attention to this issue. This is where I could step into the lead as Miss America’s Outstanding Teen.

What better role is there for a national titleholder than to be an agent of change in organizing our nation to accept our differences and to create an environment that values each person on individual characteristics rather than on stereotypes or assumptions?

Miss America’s Outstanding Teen should not be seen as just another pretty face. Yes, she should be attractive, and yes, she should attract the leaders of the future to pay attention to her. Our country’s ethnic make-up is changing rapidly and our citizen’s fear of terrorism can explode already existing, but deeply hidden prejudices. I want to be the leader that our country needs to continue tackling this issue.

Signature/Date

Resume

Name: Jane Smith
Title: Miss Local (your local title)
Hometown: Anytown, America (your home town)

Contestant Title: _____
Date of Birth: December 29, 1996

Education: University of State – sophomore – Bachelor of Science, Liberal Arts Frederick Douglass High School

Platform Issue: Celebrating Cultural Diversity and Inclusiveness

Scholastic/Career Ambition: Obtain a Masters of Business Administration **Talent:**
 Pop Vocal / “Fallen”

Scholastic Honors: Recipient of National Coca-Cola Scholarship; Recipient of the Metropolitan Urban League National Scholarship; Dean’s List; Member of the President’s Leadership Council at the UCF

Leadership Roles: Created and implemented a comprehensive Cultural Diversity Education Curriculum for grades K-12 in twelve Public Schools; University Student Body Senator; H.S. Sr. Class Pres.; College Sorority President.

Accomplishments: Recipient of the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to Community; Recipient of the National Conference for Community and Justice Humanitarian Award; Performer, Grand Ole Opry in Nashville; Piano Performance scholarship at State University.

Interesting Facts: First person on either side of my family to attend college; Youngest of five children with a 13- year gap between me and my next oldest sister and an almost 20-year gap between the oldest and myself.

Employment: Internship with a Law Firm; Internship with local ABC television affiliate; Student Assistant at State University.

How has the world you come from shaped your dreams and aspirations?

I come from a loving, supportive family that has always taught me to work hard for the things I want to achieve. Growing up, my parents always encouraged us to get involved with our local community and help those who were less fortunate than us. They tried to instill good values in us and to always guide us on the right path. I think it is because of these lessons my parents taught me that I want to make a difference in today’s world. I aspire to be a woman of great influence, preferably working in the non-profit sector, where I can apply my talents for the greater good and help to change people’s lives. One person truly can make a difference, and I am on my way to proving that cliché. I also dream to one day have a loving family of my own, with beautiful children in whom I can instill the same core values that my parents gave to me.

Of all the ways you could succeed in your life, why have you chosen to succeed in the Miss America Program? Along with providing the financial assistance for young women to fulfill our educational goals, the Miss America Organization gives us the opportunity to bring national attention to a cause dear to our hearts. If I were to become Miss America, I know that my voice would be heard as a spokesperson for my personal platform, as well as the national platform. Raising awareness of important social and political issues has always been important to me, and Miss America provides the perfect arena for that.

What social issue, other than your platform, will have the greatest impact on your generation and why? Although I’m not sure I would consider it a social issue, I think technological advancements will have the greatest social impact on my generation. Technology is changing everything – the way we communicate, our lifestyles, access to information – it’s all right at your fingertips! That can be a double-edged sword. I believe we run the risk of losing both interpersonal and language skills due to the ease and speed of communicating electronically. I believe our educators should address this issue immediately, or it may, unfortunately, have the greatest impact on my generation and every generation to follow.

Part III: Checklist	
<input type="checkbox"/> Attached	Completed 2019 Miss Sam Houston Contestant Application
<input type="checkbox"/> Attached	Signed Contestant Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/> Attached	Completed, Attached, and Submitted Contestant Biography
<input type="checkbox"/> Attached	Signed Organizational Sponsor Agreement Form
<input type="checkbox"/> Attached	Signed Model Release Form
<input type="checkbox"/> Attached	Signed Release & Indemnification Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/> Attached	Attached Platform Letter
<input type="checkbox"/> Attached	Resume
<input type="checkbox"/> Attached	Attached FALL 2018 class schedule

Thank you for completing the 2019 Miss Sam Houston Pageant Application. Please make sure all required materials are attached to this application.

Once all materials are gathered, place this application and all required materials in a large SEALED envelope with your name and contact number written on the front of the large SEALED envelope.

Please submit the sealed envelope to:

Rachel Valle

Lowman Student Center 324

DUE by October 3, 2018 at 3:00 PM.

Please contact the following for additional information:

Rachel Valle at Rachel.Valle@shsu.edu or at 936.294.3588

Andrea James at anj049@shsu.edu.