



## Miss America's Outstanding Teen National Scholarship Rules and Regulations 2021

The Miss America Foundation (MAF) will administer all national Miss America's Outstanding Teen Scholarships as outlined in these Rules and Regulations. Please note that the **Award Period** you are allocated to request and utilize any national MAOTeen Scholarship Award is as follows:

- **Miss America's Outstanding Teen National Titleholder: An Award Period of Three (3) years** from the candidate's award(s) date (May 31<sup>st</sup> of the candidate's high school graduation year) at the national MAOTeen level in which to claim any national level scholarship award.
- **All other National MAOTeen Candidates: An Award Period of Two (2) years** from the candidate's award(s) date (May 31<sup>st</sup> of the candidate's high school graduation year) at the national MAOTeen level in which to claim any national level scholarship award.
- Candidates **MUST** have successfully completed high school to be eligible to receive any National MAOTeen Scholarship Award. **No scholarships will be awarded while a candidate is still a student in High School.**
- All candidates **must begin using their scholarship within one (1) year of the candidate's high school graduation.** The **universal date of May 31<sup>st</sup> of your high school graduation year** is used for all candidates for this calculation purpose.
- In the event a candidate is **unable to utilize all scholarship awards within the designated award period of three (3) years for Miss America's Outstanding Teen National Titleholder and two (2) years for all other National MAOTeen Candidates** the award(s) will **automatically be forfeited.**
- **No refunds to the student/candidate for any overpayment are allowed.** All overpayments must be returned to The Miss America Foundation for subsequent use. In the event a student is reimbursed for overpayment and does not return the overpaid funds within thirty (30) days of receipt, the student/candidate will automatically forfeit any future scholarship awards. All overpayments should be directed back to MAF and submitted to:  
The Miss America Foundation  
P.O. Box 714  
Cape May Court House, New Jersey 08210

### 1) SCHOLARSHIP USAGE:

Scholarship funds may be applied to tuition, textbooks, and other appropriate *course required* educational expenses. All unusual or questionable items of expense must be referred to **The Miss America Foundation (MAF)** with as much information as possible, and far enough in advance, for consideration of approval.

Amounts received as scholarship payments are taxable income to the extent that they exceed “**Qualified Tuition and Related Expenses.**” Qualified Tuition and Related Expenses are defined as tuition and fees required for a student’s enrollment or attendance at an educational institution and include tuition, fees, books, supplies, and equipment required of all students during instruction.

As a reminder, it is each candidate’s obligation to determine whether the scholarship, in whole or part, is considered gross taxable income, regardless of whether a Form 1099 has been issued by The Miss America Foundation. Candidates are encouraged to consult a tax advisor regarding the taxability of the scholarship payments.

Payments for **on-campus (only)** room and board (meal plans are covered only if the student is living in on-campus housing and is a full-time student). Full time student is a minimum of 12 semester hours. Payments will **only** be made directly to the educational institution. All such requests must be accompanied by appropriate documentation from the educational institution evidencing the charges for same.

To qualify, candidates must maintain at least twelve (12) credit hours as a full-time student, nine (9) credit hours as a part-time student, or nine (9) credit hours as a graduate student. **Payments do not cover bus passes, ID cards, health insurance, key fees, deposits, or other non-tuition related items. Utilities (electric, gas, cable, phone, etc.) are also not covered.**

**Part-time students are NOT eligible for room and board reimbursement.**

Payment of all approved expenditures must be made directly to the college, university, or other accredited institution of higher learning as recognized by the US Department of Education. A detailed, current tuition invoice (**within 45 days of submittal**), reflecting a balance due to the school, (**apart from computer or musical equipment expenses outlined below**) must accompany the payment request.

Payment to any non-domestic institution of higher learning must have a U.S. federal tax identification number. Please note, the amount requested may not exceed the amount due. When requesting an award, it is the candidate’s responsibility to ensure proper planning and time allotment to process the scholarship request to meet all deadlines.

**Please note, it is recommended that you submit no later than 45 days prior to the due date to ensure timely payments can be made.**

#### **REQUESTING USAGE:**

**Requests for scholarships are submitted online to The Miss America Foundation at [missamerica.org](http://missamerica.org) for review and approval.** Requests are processed upon written receipt of an invoice from Colleges and Lending Institutions or from the candidate for recognized educational expenses. All documents must be attached. Each candidate must register on the MAO website to be eligible to submit a scholarship award request.

Go to:

[www.missamerica.org](http://www.missamerica.org)

Organizational tab

Request for National MAOTeen Scholarship

Registration Form

Once a candidate has registered, they may access the National MAOTeen Scholarship Request Form in the same location.

You **MUST** be registered first to request a national scholarship award.

Candidate's may request awards for Qualified Tuition and Related Expenses, defined as tuition and fees required for a student's enrollment or attendance at an educational institution and include tuition, on-campus room and board only, fees, books, supplies, and equipment required of all students during instruction.

Requests for computer or musical equipment will only be considered:

- 1) if the college or school states in writing that it is a mandatory requirement for the candidate to complete the coursework.
- 2) the candidate may be reimbursed for this expense, provided the candidate submits either a letter from the school stating the mandatory requirements of the course include the identified equipment or the candidate submits a course description outlining the mandatory equipment from the school catalog.
- 3) there is a two thousand dollar (\$2,000.00) cap on musical and computer equipment, and this type of expense will only be reimbursed once.
- 4) computer software may also be considered a reimbursable expense, provided it is a course requirement.
- 5) the original bill of sale and the original credit card receipt or a copy of the cancelled check to be reimbursed for the expense.

## **2) PRIORITY OF LEVEL IN USAGE:**

Candidates must utilize and exhaust all scholarship funds awarded at the local and state level before requesting funds awarded at the national level. Verification must be submitted in writing from the State Executive Director/Teen Director that all local and state scholarship funds have been exhausted.

## **3) STUDENT LOANS:**

Scholarships may be utilized to cover outstanding student loan obligations. In all cases, requests must include a current bill (within 45 days) from a bona fide third-party lending institution as recognized by the US Department of Education, which must include:

- (1) repayment address.
- (2) a student account number and amount due.
- (3) a copy of the promissory note reflecting that the candidate is the primary responsible payer of the obligation.
- (4) a student transcript reflecting completion of the coursework.

#### 4) USAGE FOR FUTURE EXPENSES AND FORFEITURES:

The Award Date is the date upon which the scholarship was initially awarded (the "Award Date"). The Award Period is the time frame in which a candidate is given to utilize and claim any scholarship award(s), (the "Award Period").

Scholarships may be utilized for documented educational expenses within the **three (3) year Award Period for Miss America's Outstanding Teen National Titleholder and two (2) year Award Period for all other National MAOTeen Candidates.**

Candidates **MUST** seek application of any National MAOTeen Scholarship Award(s) **within one (1) year of graduating from high school (May 31<sup>st</sup> being the universal date of the candidate's graduation year).** **ALL** Scholarship awards will be **forfeited** if no requests or utilization of scholarship awards has been made during the one (1) year following high school graduation time frame.

Candidates **MUST** utilize all local and state level scholarship award(s) prior to applying for any national level scholarship award. Verification **MUST** be submitted, in writing, by the Candidates MAOTeen State Executive Director/Teen Director, that all local and state scholarship awards have been exhausted, without forfeiture, to request any National level Outstanding Teen Scholarship award(s).

Once a candidate begins usage of her scholarship award(s), should there occur a **continuous, uninterrupted one (1) year period** in which there is **no activity** in the candidate's account, the balance of that account will **automatically be forfeited.**

Please note, if a candidate forfeits any scholarship funds awarded at the local or state level, then her scholarship funds awarded at the national level will automatically be forfeited. **Any scholarship balance remaining after the Expired Award Period will automatically be forfeited.**

- **Miss America's Outstanding Teen National Titleholder** has an **Award Period of Three (3) years** from the candidate's award(s) date at the national level in which to claim any national level scholarship award.
- **All other MAOTeen National Candidates** have an **Award Period of Two (2) years** from the candidate's award(s) date at the national level in which to claim any national level scholarship award.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to maintain contact with The Miss America Foundation regarding all scholarship awards and payments. The Miss America Organization and The Miss America Foundation are separate organizations and **NOT** responsible for maintaining a calendar of graduation dates for any candidates in the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Program.

#### 5) DISPUTE RESOLUTION:

Any national MAOTeen scholarship award disputes must be sent in writing to: The Miss America Foundation Scholarship Committee care of The Miss America Foundation. P.O. Box 714, Cape May Court House, New Jersey 087210.

All national MAOTeen scholarship award disputes will be reviewed by The Miss America Foundation Scholarship Committee. Every effort will be made by the Committee to fairly resolve issues that may arise regarding scholarship award(s) and/or funding.

The decision of The Miss America Scholarship Committee shall be final and binding.

**Note: Scholarship awarding is contingent upon availability of funds in any given year.**

**THE MISS AMERICA FOUNDATION (MAF) RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AMEND OR MODIFY THE FOREGOING SCHOLARSHIP RULES AND REGULATIONS AT ANY TIME WITHOUT NOTICE. CONSISTENT WITH THE RULES AND REGULATIONS, THE DECISION OF THE MAF SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.**

I (Candidate Name) \_\_\_\_\_ have received, read and understand the current (May 01, 2021) Miss America's Outstanding Teen National Scholarship Rules and Regulations as provided to me in writing. I understand these Rules & Regulations to be part of my candidate contract agreement with the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Program. I understand I must follow these Rules & Regulations regarding the application and payment of scholarship awards. I also agree that, any dispute which may arise concerning the payment of national MAOTeen scholarships, will be reviewed by The Miss America Foundation Scholarship Committee which is a separate organization from The Miss America Organization with its own Board of Directors and their decision (MAF) shall be the final and binding.

I understand that the Award Period for utilization of any National Outstanding Teen Scholarship Award is Three (3) Years for Miss America's Outstanding Teen National Titleholder and Two (2) Years for all other National MAOTeen Candidates:

Miss: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Candidate Title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Candidate Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Parent/Guardian Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parental/Guardian Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)