

Miss Arkansas

May 11, 2020

TO: Miss Arkansas 2020 Participants
FROM: Miss Arkansas Scholarship Organization

RE: 1. Timeline for 2021 Participation
2. Refund Options

Dear Miss Arkansas / Miss Arkansas Outstanding Teen Participants,

As you are all aware, the Miss Arkansas Scholarship Organization has been faced with the unprecedented challenges associated with the Covid-19 Pandemic. This challenge has led to the necessity of postponing the 2020 state competition, which was announced on Friday, May 8, 2020. As was indicated in the announcement, all candidates will have the opportunity to retain their local title and compete June 13-19, 2021, for Miss Arkansas / Miss Arkansas Outstanding Teen. Likewise, any participant in the Diamond State Princess/Prince Mentoring program will have the same opportunity to participate in June 2021. While it is our hope that this adjustment will not impact any contestant or participant, we are also mindful that there may be circumstances outside of your control that cause the newly-scheduled dates in June 2021 to be impossible. Because of this, the following procedures have been implemented to assist with preparation and certainty for the 2021 state pageant, as well as provide guidance concerning refunds for any individual that will not be able to attend in June of 2021.

1. First, Miss Arkansas Scholarship Organization has set a deadline of **July 1, 2020**, for all participants (Miss Arkansas contestants, Miss Arkansas Outstanding Teen contestants, and Arkansas Diamond State Princess/Prince participants) to confirm whether or not the individual will be able to participate during the dates of June 13-19, 2021. To ensure uniformity in how this decision is communicated, please find the enclosed form where you may respond as to your availability to participate in June 2021. **The enclosed form must be received by the Miss Arkansas Scholarship Organization on or before July 1, 2020.**
2. Secondly, for individuals that will not be able to participate during the week of June 13-19, 2021, then the enclosed form also provides the necessary information for refunds. Please note that refunds will include registration fees, advertisement funds received, as well as funds received for salute pages. **Please note that the amount refunded will not include any amount that was payable to third-party vendor (i.e. PayPal fees/Credit Card fees, etc.). Also, please note that failure to return**

the enclosed form on or before July 1, 2020, will result in forfeiture of any refund amount should you ultimately not participate during the new dates in June of 2021.

3. Finally, it is also understood that if an individual is unable to participate in the state pageant, then there may be a necessity for Patron Tickets to be refunded to friends and/or family members who have already purchased tickets. Because of this, a separate form is also enclosed that specifically deals with the procedure for these refunds.

As we all face the current uncertainties together, rest assured that the Miss Arkansas Organization will continue to strive to achieve the greatest experiences for each and every participant. The difficult decisions that have been made are not without a deep understanding of the disappointment and impact that these decisions have on the lives of individuals who have spent countless hours in preparation. As an organization, we do appreciate the kind words of support that have been received subsequent to the announcement of postponement. Should you have any questions about the enclosed form, please do not hesitate in contacting the office at 501-321-3506.

Sincerely,

Jessie Ward Bennett, Executive Director

Collier Moore, Treasurer

