

## 2009 STATE SCHOLARSHIP RULES AND REGULATIONS

THE MISS ARKANSAS ORGANIZATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND WILL AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES: (PLEASE NOTE IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES A 501 C-3 FOUNDATION AFFILIATION MAY NOT ALLOW PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP FUND TO BE UTILIZED FOR STUDENT LOANS OR COMPUTER EQUIPMENT.)

### 1) SCHOLARSHIP USAGE:

Scholarship funds may be applied to tuition, textbooks, supplies, academic fees and other appropriate mandatory educational expenses. All unusual or questionable items of expense must be referred to the Miss Arkansas Organization Selection Committee 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 include tuition and fees required for enrollment or attendance of a student at an educational organization, including fees, books, supplies and equipment required of all students in the particular course of instruction.

Payment of all approved expenditures will be made directly to the college, university or other accredited institution unless extenuating circumstances exist (with the exception of computer or musical equipment clause). Personal Reimbursements to scholarship recipients will not be honored, so proper planning and time allotment is essential on the part of the student.

### 2) REQUESTING USAGE:

Requests for scholarships are initially processed by the Miss Arkansas Organization and forwarded to the scholarship committee for its review and approval upon written receipt of statements from colleges and schools or from the contestant for other educational expenses. All statements and invoices must be accompanied by a cover letter from the contestant.

Requests for computer or musical equipment will be recommended only if the college or school states in writing that it is mandatory requirement in order for the contestant to complete the coursework. The contestant may be reimbursed for this expense provided the contestant submits either a letter from the school stating the mandatory requirements or a list of course requirements. There will however, be a \$2,000 cap on computer equipment, and this type of expense will be reimbursed only once. Computer software is not a reimbursable item. If a contestant still has local funds available to her, a letter from the Local Executive Director that they do not reimburse or pay for computers is required. The original bill of sale must be submitted as well as the original credit card receipt or a copy of the canceled check.

### 3) PAYMENT GUIDELINES:

Payments for room and board will be made to the educational institution (or for off campus housing if your state 501 c 3 permits) to and such requests must be accompanied by appropriate documentation from the educational institution (or fully executed lease agreement) evidencing the charges for same. Contestants must maintain at least 12 credit hours as a full-time student, 9 credit hours part-time status and 9 credit hours for graduate in order to qualify. Payments do not cover key fees or deposits. Utilities (electric, gas, cable, phone, etc.) are also not covered.

It is each contestant's obligation to determine whether the scholarship, in whole or part, is includable in gross taxable income, regardless of whether a Form 1099 has been issued by either The State Organization, the Community Foundation or Miss America Organization. Contestants are encouraged to consult a tax advisor regarding the taxability of the scholarship payments.

**4) PRIORITY OF LEVEL IN USAGE:**

Contestants receiving scholarships at the state level must use the scholarship won at the local level prior to applying for funds at the state level. Verification must be submitted in writing from the Local Executive Director that all local scholarship funds have been exhausted. Outside of a request for computer equipment as discussed in Item 2, exceptions to this rule may be granted for payment of college or university room and board which do not fall within the guidelines for disbursement at the local level. The request for an exception must be submitted in writing to Scholarship Committee for consideration.

**5) STUDENT LOANS:**

Scholarships may be used for outstanding student loan obligations provided the contestant has satisfactorily completed the coursework for which the loan was obtained. In all cases, requests must include a current bill from the lender showing a current address, a copy of the promissory note showing that the contestant is either the primary or secondary payer of the obligation, and an official transcript showing completion of the coursework.

**6) USAGE FOR FUTURE EXPENSES AND FORFEITURES**

Scholarships may be used for future educational expenses, provided, however, contestants must begin use of their scholarships within 1 years of the date of the award. Prior to forfeiture, reasonable attempt will be made by the state organization to notify the contestant of impending forfeiture. If a contestant has not submitted a request to the Miss Arkansas Organization for her scholarship award dollars during this period, her right to request funds will be forfeited. If a contestant forfeits any money from her scholarship award at the local level, her award at the state and national level will automatically be forfeited.

6A) A contestant who begins use of her scholarship within the designated time above will then be required to show continuous activity in her scholarship endeavors up to a limit of 1 year (two for Miss State) following the date of her award. Any balance remaining in a contestant's award 1 year following the date of the award will automatically be forfeited.

6B)An exception to the time limits described in Paragraph 6A above may be made if the contestant, prior to the expiration date, makes a written appeal to the Miss Arkansas Organization citing compelling reasons why the time period should be extended. An extension will generally be permitted when the contestant has had local awards within the prescribed time limits above or has been awarded the state title. However, the contestants must still send a written request for extension. The Miss Arkansas Organization will review the request and determine whether an extension is warranted. Consistent with the Code and the rules and regulations of the Community Foundation, the decision of the Miss Arkansas Organization shall be final and binding. Any funds remaining in the account at the end of three years will automatically be forfeited.

**THE MISS ARKANSAS ORGANIZATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AMEND AND OR MODIFY THE FOREGOING SCHOLARSHIP RULES AND REGULATIONS AT ANY TIME WITHOUT NOTICE.**

I (Contestant) have read and understood the 2009 Miss Arkansas Organization State Scholarship Rules and Regulations:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

# Miss Arkansas Scholarship Organization

## 2009 Scholarship Rider Notification

In the event the winner of the Miss Arkansas Pageant or one of the runners-up relinquishes their title, including winning the title of Miss America, the Miss Arkansas Organization will not permit the runners-up in such instance to succeed to the scholarship and awards, as described below, which are applicable to the vacated position. The Miss Arkansas Organization agrees that it will announce the above to all interested parties prior to competition.

The Miss Arkansas Organization will duplicate the Miss Arkansas Scholarship, based on proration of year of service.

This is to certify that I have read and understand the above statement.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Title \_\_\_\_\_