

## CHARLEE'S CORNER



Contestant orientation is quickly approaching, so I wanted to focus this week on something you may be putting a lot of thought into...the contestant lottery! If this is your first time competing in Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen, the contestant lottery is a random drawing to determine the order in which contestants will select their spot in the competition lineup. There are two groups, A and B, and the main difference between the two is when you compete in private interview and in Evening Gown/Onstage Question in prelims. Often times, this decision may seem daunting: choosing an order that highlight your abilities, minimizes your weaknesses and makes you feel good! Let me start off by saying two things: (1) there are going to be two girls that are in the first spot, so don't think of this as a disadvantage, but rather a place to set the bar, and (2) no matter where you are in the lineup, the entire process is psychological. If you feel you're not going to perform your best in one spot over another, chances are your mind will tell your body that you probably won't.

In 2013, I placed 1st Runner Up. This was also the year I was called dead last into the Top 10. For many girls, this might seem like the perfect placement, but it threw me off my game majorly. I was in such fear that I wasn't going to get called into the Top 10, that I let my nerves get the best of me. The next year at orientation, I was one of the last girls called for the lottery and what was left? Spot #2. Instead of psyching myself out again, I focused on maintaining a positive mindset of having the opportunity to set the bar high. I proudly chose spot #2, soared through preliminary competition, and when I was called second into the Top 10 this year, I just knew my lucky number would help carry me through the finals.

So, don't stress about the lottery, ladies! There is no magic placement - if you are meant to be Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen, the judges will find you, no matter where you are in the lineup. Focus on keeping a positive attitude and know that this is a competition within yourself. Best of luck and don't forget to SPARKLE!

- Charlee Bisch, Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen 2014

## Top 10 Tips for Acing the Competition

- 1 Never compromise who you are or what you stand for.
- 2 The best way to grow in experience is to put yourself out there!
- 3 Perform your talent in front of everyone - family members, friends, schools, community groups. There's no such thing as too much practice.
- 4 Focus on being healthy, not skinny. A healthy lifestyle is important for competition, but even more important for maintaining the energy to carry out the job of being Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen.
- 5 Start practicing your push-up now. It won't come overnight!
- 6 Practice interview questions, but even more importantly, practice engaging in discussion. You may not always agree with others' opinions, but it is important to understand where they are coming from.
- 7 Remember you're a role model. Actions speak louder than words.
- 8 Cherish the friendships made throughout your experience. I have met some of my closest friends through the Miss Missouri and Miss America's Outstanding Teen programs.
- 9 Remember, there may always be someone smarter, prettier, more talented, or better at push-ups than you. Don't be so hard on yourself. Work to be consistent - it's the total package that the judges are looking for!
- 10 Never forget one of my favorite quotes: "She believed she could, so she did."



## FEATURED FORMER



### Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen 2006 *Melanie Collier*

**LOCAL TITLE** | Miss Kirksville's Outstanding Teen  
**TALENT** | Lyrical Dance - "I Am Changing"  
**YEARS COMPETED** | 1

**WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW?** I graduated from the University of Missouri in 2011 with a bachelor's in Business Administration and Marketing. I started working in pharmaceutical sales right after graduation with the world-leader in eye care, Alcon. Since then, I have held various sales roles with Alcon, most recently being promoted to Glaucoma Consultant. Last spring, I bought a house in the St. Louis area and am learning to become a homeowner, one DIY at a time. I also added a furry friend to my house last fall - Olive, a standard golden doodle puppy, who firmly lives by the rules of "the bigger the hair, the closer to God!"

**WHAT WAS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE AS MMOT?** Throwing out the first pitch at a Kansas City Royals game! As the least athletic sibling in my family, I think my dad still likes to boast about the time his daughter played in the big leagues, and the reaction of the players in the dugouts when I sunk one right down the middle, crown and all, was priceless.

**HOW HAS YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE MMOT ORGANIZATION HELPED YOU GET TO WHERE YOU ARE TODAY?** I did not realize how valuable my experience in the MMOT organization would be going into the job search, with so much interview practice under my belt. I think my interview skills helped me stand out and public speaking is still such a huge part of my job every single day.

**ARE YOU STILL FRIENDS WITH ANY OF YOUR MAOT SISTERS?** I am actually in Leah Beth Bolton, Miss Tennessee's Outstanding Teen 2006's wedding this May! We have stayed really close throughout the years and have even managed some reunions to watch Miss America, only now we do it in sweatpants and with pizza by our side.

## did you KNOW?

- Miss America's Outstanding Teen has paid out **\$751,491.52** in scholarships to contestants since the organization's inception in 2005.
- Nearly **\$5 million** in cash and in-kind scholarships has been made available to MAOTeem contestants.
- Since Miss America's partnership with Children's Miracle Network in 2007, contestants have raised **\$11,570,063.05**.

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What advice would you give to future generations to help them be successful?

### SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen would like to thank the **Missouri Local Pageant Association (MLPA)** for providing lunch for the contestants at orientation, opening number production dresses & a \$500 gift card for the new Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen!!

### WORDS TO LIVE BY

"People often ask me what I think judges are looking for, or I will hear them talk about what they believe judges are looking for. There are really two things: a woman who is confident and well-spoken, and a woman who can lead. Otherwise, there is no magical formula to becoming Miss America's Outstanding Teen. So instead of trying to create a list of elements that define MAOT, I would suggest making a list of the qualities you have that give you confidence. Develop those! Each woman has something unique to offer and that is what makes this organization so powerful."

-Taylor Fitch  
MAOTeem 2009

Questions or suggestions for an upcoming article?  
Email your submissions to [MissMissouriOT@gmail.com](mailto:MissMissouriOT@gmail.com).

