

CHARLEE'S CORNER

Pageant girls gone camping. Four words some people never thought would exist in the same sentence. That, my friends, is the beauty of the Miss America Organization - helping produce well-rounded, relevant, resilient ladies. Last year, the Miss Missouri Organization joined the Miss America Organization's partnership with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, a self-development program available to young people worldwide between the ages of 14-25, equipping them with life skills to make a difference within themselves, their communities, and the world.



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award was started in London by Her Majesty the Queen's husband Prince Philip. Within the award, there are four areas: community service, special skill, physical recreation and the adventurous journey. This award is a perfect partnership with the Miss America Organization because these award requirements align with the main principles of Miss America and Miss America's Outstanding Teen.

Last year, I participated in this award program for the first time, and the most memorable part of the experience was the adventurous journey. Several of the Miss Missouri and Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen contestants and I attended a two day camping trip that consisted of self-navigation, pitching tents, repelling off walls and carry HUGE knapsacks. Throughout our journey, we learned some valuable life skills and the importance of working together in a team with a common purpose. But what was even more gratifying for me was the chance to show other people, particularly those who are critics of pageants, that the true women of this organization are more than the gorgeous gowns or the makeup they wear. This weekend, Jessica Hartman, Miss Missouri, and I will embark on another journey with 17 women ready to prove the strength of this organization. If you are unable to join us on this year's adventurous journey, I hope you consider participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award program in the future - you won't regret it! Stay tuned for pictures and updates from the weekend!

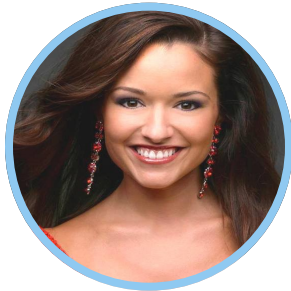
- Charlee Bisch, Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen 2014

Top 10 MMOT Winning Talents

- 1 **Airen Ferguson**, Miss Hannibal's Outstanding Teen & MMOT 2005, clogged to "Restless."
- 2 **Melanie Collier**, Miss Kirksville's Outstanding Teen & MMOT 2006, performed a lyrical dance to "I am Changing."
- 3 **Mary Bauer**, Miss Malden's Outstanding Teen & MMOT 2007, sang "Popular" from *Wicked*.
- 4 **Sydnee Stottlemire**, Miss Gateway St. Louis' Outstanding Teen & MMOT 2008, performed a lyrical dance to "Rock Your Soul." Sydnee also won a talent prelim award!
- 5 **Lauren McCreight**, Miss Gateway St. Louis' Outstanding Teen & MMOT 2009, sang "The Girl in 14G." Lauren also won a talent prelim award!
- 6 **Alexandria Black**, Miss Branson's Outstanding Teen & MMOT 2010, sang "I am Changing" from *Dreamgirls*. Allie also won a talent prelim award!
- 7 **McKensie Garber**, Miss Lake of the Ozarks' Outstanding Teen & MMOT 2011, performed a musical theatre dance to "I Can Hear the Bells" from *Hairspray*.
- 8 **Shelby Steingraeber**, Miss St. Charles' Outstanding Teen & MMOT 2012, sang "One Rock n' Roll Too Many."
- 9 **Tess Mandoli**, Miss Metro St. Louis' Outstanding Teen & MMOT 2013, performed Schubert's "Impromptu, Opus 90, #2" on the piano. Tess also won a talent prelim award!
- 10 **Charlee Bisch**, Miss Metro St. Louis' Outstanding Teen & MMOT 2014, sang "Not for the Life of Me" from *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.



FEATURED FORMER



Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen 2007 *Mary Bauer*

LOCAL TITLE: Miss Malden's Outstanding Teen

TALENT: Vocal - "Popular" from Wicked

YEARS COMPETED: 3

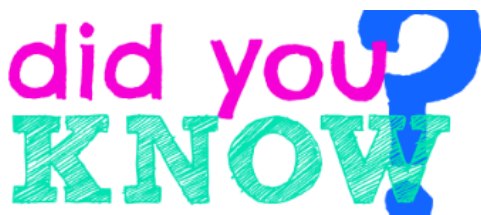
PLATFORM: Give Hope - Promoting Support & Awareness for Children's Hospitals

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW? I received my Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Relations from Southeast Missouri State University. I am currently working to obtain my Master's Degree in Health Communication from the University of Illinois Graduate School and I serve as the Partnership Manager for Special Olympics Missouri. In August, I will marry the love of my life, Travis!

WHO WAS YOUR FAVORITE MISS AMERICA? I feel that Miss America 2009, Katie Stam, embodies everything that it means to be an excellent Miss America. She was an extraordinary ambassador for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and our Troops, and she continues to leave a lasting impact on anyone that she meets or any organization that she gives of her time and talents to.

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE APPEARANCE AS MMOT? I had the honor of visiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as "Mary Poppins." I dressed up and sang to patients in the lobby entrance and waiting rooms.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THIS YEAR'S CONTESTANTS? Treat every day as though you are Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen. Be a positive example for your peers, use your talents, cultivate your platform, give of your time through service, build as many relationships as possible. These experiences will help you to find the best version of yourself and to become an outstanding teen that is ready to take on this great responsibility.



- **Miss America's Outstanding Teen** has crowned 10 winners since the first national pageant was held in 2005. MAOT has crowned **4 vocalists, 4 dancers, 1 pianist** and **1 ventriloquist**.
- **Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen** has crowned **5 vocalists, 4 dancers** and **1 pianist** in the 10 years since the pageant first began.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What role does the media play in perpetuating body image issues and insecurities for females?

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen would like to thank **Wonneman's Flowers** for providing bouquets to our new Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen and her court!

WORDS TO LIVE BY

"Participating in the Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen Organization provided me with the confidence to address any venue, encouraged me to advocate for causes that I wholeheartedly believe in, afforded me with an even deeper love for service, and inspired me to use my talents as much as possible. All of these tools, and many more, molded me into the person I am today and prepared me for my career more than I ever thought possible."

- Mary Bauer, MMOT 2007

Questions or suggestions for an upcoming article?
Email your submissions to MissMissouriOT@gmail.com.

