



THE COUNTDOWN IS ON!

In just 10 short weeks, you will be embarking on the journey of a lifetime as you compete for Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen 2015! We want to make sure you are as prepared as possible for the competition and the job of being MMOT, so for the next 10 weeks, we are going to share our best-kept secrets and tools of the trade, as well as give you behind-the-scenes scoop from some of our formers!

Last June marked the 10th anniversary of the Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen & Miss America's Outstanding Teen Pageants. We are excited to continue the celebration by sharing some of our favorite Top 10 lists! We also hope you have had a chance to check out our new website, as well as follow us on our official social media pages to stay up to date on the latest MMOT news!

Charlee's Corner

Last June, my dream came true when I was crowned the 10th Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen. Since that moment, my world has turned upside down as I prepared for the biggest competition of my life. Shortly after nationals, I started school and traveled the state promoting this organization, my personal platform and serving as an ambassador for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

One of my biggest goals this year as MMOT is to promote the program on a larger scale. With most of the population utilizing smart phones, the MMOT Organization launched their social media promotion with new Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages, as well as a gorgeous new website.

I hope you enjoy our new look, as well as this newsletter designed to help you prepare as we "Countdown to the Crown"! Sit back, relax and enjoy as we spend the next 10 weeks showering you with information!

- Charlee Bisch, Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen 2014



Top 10 Reasons to Compete for MMOT

- 1 You'll never walk into an interview unprepared again.
- 2 You will build a stellar résumé!
- 3 You'll have hundreds of connections from your preparation and appearances.
- 4 Public speaking...no sweat!
- 5 You will earn scholarship money to help pay for your college education.
- 6 You will always be informed about what's going on in the world thanks to your handy news apps for interview prep.
- 7 You will have the opportunity to make a difference in your community and share your passion for philanthropy.
- 8 You are surrounded by girls just like you - smart, ambitious and talented - who will push you to be your very best in every aspect of your life.
- 9 You will be supported by incredible sponsors who shower you with perks like free hair care, gorgeous gowns, and stunning photos.
- 10 You will make friendships that will last a lifetime!

What topics would you like to read about to help you prepare for Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen?

We want to know! Email us at MissMissouriOT@gmail.com with suggestions and your topic might be featured in an upcoming issue of *Countdown to the Crown!*



FEATURED FORMER



Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen 2005 *Airen Ferguson*

LOCAL TITLE | Miss Hannibal's Outstanding Teen
TALENT | Clogging - "Restless"
YEARS COMPETED | 1 (Airen is our first MMOT!)

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW? I graduated in 2010 from Culver-Stockton College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. I am currently working for Quincy Public Schools as the Elementary Academic Assistant for the school district. Last June, I married my best friend and biggest mentor, Toby. We have two dogs, Maycee and Oliver. We enjoy traveling, working out, and spending time with friends and family.

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE AS MMOT? I really enjoyed the community service during my reign. I think it was my most meaningful work and where I felt I made the biggest difference. I was also the first MMOT, which made it a brand new adventure for everyone involved, and I love sharing that with others. And of course, the dress shopping was a fun experience too!

HOW HAS YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE MMOT ORGANIZATION HELPED YOU GET TO WHERE YOU ARE TODAY? The interview preparation has definitely helped me tremendously. It is such a great tool to prepare you for social interactions, job interviews, and professionalism in general.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST BEAUTY TIP? Practice your hair and make-up and be sure that it is "pageant ready". If you don't feel you are as skilled in this area, YouTube is a great free resource.

Did You Know?

Airen's roommate, Meghan Miller (Texas) won Miss America's Outstanding Teen!

"It was great getting to know such a smart and talented young lady. We really enjoyed our experiences both on and off the stage."

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen would like to thank
First Baptist Church of Mexico
for providing judges' transportation during pageant week!

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Should what you post on social media be grounds for getting expelled from school or fired from your job?

WORDS TO LIVE BY

"I think being a new contestant can be a little scary, but for me, I think an advantage was the fact that I came in knowing basically nothing other than that I had to be the best version of myself. Sometimes it's easy to get caught up in competition and I think that coming in knowing that this is about your own self-development rather than trying to fit a certain mold is a really helpful perspective."

-Jeanette Morelan, Miss America's Outstanding Teen 2010

Don't Forget!

- ★ **April 3** - State paperwork due
- ★ **April 11** - Contestant Orientation at the Mexico Country Club
- ★ **April 20** - Salute pages & Little Princess applications due

Questions? Check with your local director or email mmotexec@gmail.com

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

