

Catching up with...

# McKensie Garber

## Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen 2011



**LOCAL TITLE:** Miss Lake of the Ozarks' Outstanding Teen

**TALENT:** Musical Theatre Dance - "I Can Hear the Bells"

**PLATFORM:** Promoting Character Education

**YEARS COMPETED:** 4

**WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW?** I am in my last semester of college at Oral Roberts University, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Convergence Journalism with a minor in Writing. I also take dance and acting classes. I recently interned at Tulsa's ABC Channel 8. I am a student writer for ORU Public Relations, involved in various student leadership groups and theatre productions, and was recently named "Outstanding Senior for the Communication, Arts and Media Department." And I will be competing for the title of Miss Missouri in June as Miss Gateway St. Louis!

**WHAT WAS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE AS MMOT?** My most memorable event was crowning Cassidy-Rae Luebbering as my Miracle Princess during my final night as Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen. I first met her at the beginning of my reign at a Children's Miracle Network clay shootout fundraiser in the middle of a cornfield in Boonville, Missouri, and she has been like my little sister ever since. She and her family have incredibly touched and blessed my life.

**IF YOU COULD GIVE ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO THIS YEAR'S CONTESTANTS, WHAT WOULD IT BE?** Look at your preparation for the job of Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen as an incredible opportunity to become a better you. That is what this program exists for and that is what makes your time with it truly rewarding. Every contestant can live the lifestyle of MMOT and do the job without the title. One lucky girl will win the crown, but every local titleholder can live her life with excellence, poise and the servant heart of a state titleholder. The character, skills and strength you foster through this program are much more meaningful and everlasting than a crown, sash or title.

**WHAT IS ONE THING THAT HAS CHANGED SINCE YOU COMPETED?** Miss America and MAOT have partnered with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Program.

### BEST TIP TO PREPARE FOR INTERVIEW?

Focus on creating a genuine relationship with the judges and give them a sense of who you truly are and what you believe in. Don't worry about saying the right things because there are no "right answers."

### BEST TIP FOR FITNESS?

Be the healthiest you. Don't compare yourself to other contestants. Work hard, eat healthy & be proud of how beautifully unique God made you.

### BEST TIP FOR TALENT?

Choose a talent that shows your personality. Perform with passion and have fun. If you can do this, the energy in the room will be mutual and you will have created a powerful synergy.

### BEST BEAUTY TIP?

I think Audrey Hepburn said it best. "The beauty of a woman is not in a facial mode but the true beauty in a woman is reflected in her soul. It is the caring that she lovingly gives the passion that she shows. The beauty of a woman grows with the passing years."

## Prep like a winner...

**FAVORITE HEALTHY SNACK:** Apple and peanut butter

**FAVORITE BEAUTY PRODUCT:** Big Sexy Hair Powder Play

**PAGEANT WEEK ESSENTIAL:** Power naps! And quick, healthy snacks like almonds.

**WISH I WOULD HAVE...** Packed a calling card! You have to turn in your cell phone for the week at MAOT, so I had to borrow my roommate's calling card to talk to my family and prep team.

