



Dear Contestant,

Thank you for your interest in being a contestant in the Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Weakley County Scholarship Pageant – a preliminary to the Miss Tennessee Volunteer Scholarship Pageant. I am excited to help you pursue your dream of becoming Miss Tennessee Volunteer – and Miss Volunteer America! This is an amazing opportunity and I look forward to learning more about your outstanding leadership skills as well as your talent and communication abilities. And, most of all, I'm excited to help you obtain educational scholarship funds!

Attached you will find information regarding the Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Miss Weakley County Scholarship Pageant to be held on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> in the Watkins Auditorium on the UTM Campus. I trust you will find the information regarding wardrobe, competitions, and scholarships especially beneficial. Please read all of this information carefully as the rules may change at any time.

If there is anything I can do, or if there is any information that you do not understand, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am here to help you in any way that I can.

I want to wish you the best of luck in your preparations.

Sincerely,

*Lori Martin*

Lori Martin

Executive Director

731-693-8727

[Missutmweakleyco@yahoo.com](mailto:Missutmweakleyco@yahoo.com)

**QUALIFICATIONS**

To enter the Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Weakley County Scholarship Pageant contestants must meet certain basic requirements and agree to abide by all the rules of the local and state pageants now in effect or as announced hereafter.

- The contestant age eligibility requirements are based on the calendar year, not a pageant cycle. In order to meet age eligibility requirements to compete in local competitions, a contestant must be at least 17 years of age on the first day of the State Pageant (July 22, 2026) in which she competes and must not be older than 26 years of age as of December 31, 2026.
- In order to compete in the State Pageant, she must have completed her high school education prior to the first day of the State Pageant (July 22, 2026).
- The contestant must have never been married or pregnant.
- If chosen as Miss University of Tennessee at Martin, contestant must agree to public appearances during the 2025/26 pageant year.
- **Miss University of Tennessee at Martin contestants:**
  - A contestant must be currently enrolled as a full-time student at the University of Tennessee at Martin (as of pageant date September 14, 2025), and must remain so through the Spring 2026 semester if chosen as Miss University of Tennessee at Martin.
  - The dual enrollment student is not eligible for the Miss University of Tennessee at Martin crown. Dual Enrollment students are not full-time students.
  - The student who is due to graduate from the University of Tennessee at Martin in the spring of 2026, but is not enrolled this fall (2025), is not eligible to compete. Students must be currently enrolled full time (12 hours) and remain so through the Spring 2026 semester. Student teaching would count as a full-time student.
- If you meet all the above criteria but do not attend UTM you ARE eligible for the Miss Weakley County Volunteer title.
- If you meet the above criteria plus the UTM criteria you are eligible for both titles.

## COMPETITION

The Miss University of Tennessee at Martin Scholarship Pageant will be held

**Sunday, September 14, 2025 at 6 p.m.**

**in the Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center**

**on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.**

Interviews and private talent rehearsals will take place late-morning/early afternoon, mandatory group practice will occur mid-afternoon, and the pageant will be that evening. All events will be in the Boling University Center.

**Application deadline is Sunday, September 7, 2025.**

*If you plan to compete at other preliminaries prior to Miss UT Martin and, if you don't win, compete in our pageant, I ask that you go ahead and register for our pageant before the deadline.*

*It's much easier to remove you from the line-up than to add you at the last minute. – thank you!*

The Miss University of Tennessee at Martin and Weakley County Scholarship Pageant is divided into four phases of competition, including private interview, fitness & wellness, talent, evening gown. Each contestant is scored individually from one to ten in each category.

PRIVATE INTERVIEW	25%
FITNESS & WELLNESS	25%

TALENT	25%
EVENING GOWN	25%

The resulting top five contestants will proceed to final ballot. Each judge will assign the five contestants scores of 10/5/3/2/1 points based on their overall personal opinion. Those scores will be tabulated, and the result will be the contestant rankings.

## SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS

### **Scholarship and Awards**

The Miss University of Tennessee at Martin Scholarship Pageant will award educational scholarships to the winners and alternates. Miss University of Tennessee at Martin scholarships are for the University of Tennessee at Martin ONLY. The winner will receive the official Miss Tennessee Volunteer preliminary crown and sash along with gifts from local and statewide sponsors. All scholarships, awards, prizes, and gifts are subject to final confirmation and will be officially announced during the pageant.

### **Scholarships:**

**Miss University of Tennessee at Martin**

\$2000 Winner; \$750 First Runner-Up; and, \$500 second Runner-Up

**Miss Weakley County**

\$1000 Winner; \$375 First Runner-Up; and, \$500 Second Runner-Up

**ENTRY FEES**

There is **no** entry fee for contestants.

**CONTESTANT PROFILE**

Contestants must submit a Contestant Profile and a Headshot to be considered a contestant. Directions and an example are attached and are due to be submitted to [missutmweakleyco@yahoo.com](mailto:missutmweakleyco@yahoo.com) no later than Sunday, September 7, 2025.

**TALENT**

Talent cannot exceed 90 seconds. If you are performing to a track, please provide a digital file of your music with your Contestant Profile no later than Sunday, September 7, 2025. It is always a good idea to have an additional copy of your music available on a thumb/USB drive the day of the pageant in case of an unexpected issue.

**REHEARSAL**

Group production rehearsals and private talent rehearsals will be held on the day of the pageant. **Attendance at both rehearsals is mandatory. Rehearsals are closed to the general public, but each contestant may have one guest attend.**

**WARDROBE REQUIREMENTS**

**Interview** – A professional outfit that you would wear to a job interview. Show your style but be professional!

**Rehearsals** -- Rehearsal clothes are casual, comfortable.

**Opening Introductions** –A cocktail dress of choice.

**Swimsuit** -- A one-piece or a two-piece swimsuit of any color.

**Talent** -- Contestants can wear any type of outfit that would be appropriate for their talent.

**Evening Wear** -- Long evening gown for this competition.

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets will be available at the door the night of the event. All tickets (UTM students and the general public) will be \$12 each.



**To Enter the Miss University of Tennessee at Martin Scholarship Pageant:**

1. Email Lori Martin at [missutmweakleyco@yahoo.com](mailto:missutmweakleyco@yahoo.com) with any questions you have about entering the pageant.
2. Complete and submit a Contestant Profile, Headshot and talent music to Lori Martin **no later than Sunday, September 7, 2025.**



## CONTESTANT PROFILE INSTRUCTIONS

The Contestant Profile is your primary opportunity to describe to the Panel of Judges any significant details which make you unique and the most qualified person for the job of Miss (State) Volunteer. You may list as many or as few items under each category as you desire. The only restriction is that it must follow the established format and it must fit on two (2) pages. These two pages comprise your Contestant Profile and will serve as your official application for this job. The judges will receive exactly what is submitted by each Contestant on these two pages without any changes or corrections.

It is important that each of the following instructions are utilized:

1. Create a "New" document with your computer's Word program.
2. Set margins for 1" on all four sides. The font size may not be any smaller than "10" and no larger than "12" point type, using the **Times New Roman** font style. Please refer to the attached sample to verify you are following the requested format.
3. With the justification set for left, type "**Name:**" in bold. Following the colon (:), hit the Tab button three times. Then, type your name as you wish the judges to know it. (If your name is Mary Elizabeth Smith and you want to be known as "Lizzy Smith," please type "Lizzy Smith").
4. Then, double space between **Name:** and the subsequent line. When you move to the next line, please type "**Title:**" in bold. Following the colon (:), hit the tab button 2-3 times, depending upon how long your local title is, so that your title lines up with your name in the line above. Then, type your local title. Example: **Title: Miss Memphis Volunteer**
5. Then, double space between **Title** and this next line. Once you have moved to the next line, type "**Instagram Handle:**" in bold. Following the colon (:), hit the tab button 1 time to line up with the **Title** above. Then, type your Instagram handle name, including the @ symbol.
6. Please double space after **Instagram handle** and move to the next line to type "**Age:**" in bold. Following the colon (:) hit the tab button 3-4 times to line up with the **Instagram handle** above and type your age on the first day of competition. (Ex. **Age:** 22)
7. Please double space after **Age** and move to the next line to type "**Platform Title:**" in bold. Following the colon (:) hit the tab button 3-4 times to line up with **Age** above, and type the name of your platform only, not including a description (Ex. **Platform Title:** Break Through 4 a Buddy)
8. Please double space after **Platform Title** and move to the next line to type "**Talent:**" in bold. Following the colon (:) hit the tab button 3-4 times to line up with **Platform Title** above, and type the kind of talent you will be performing, along with the selection piece in quotations (Ex. **Talent:** Vocal "He's Alive")
9. Please double space down and type "**Education:**" in bold. Hit the tab bar two to three times and then type your most recent school first. If it is grad school, indicate it as such. List degree seeking (all on the same line as the name of the school when possible and if two lines are needed, please indent), move to the line underneath that to list your undergraduate school and degree sought/achieved, and below that list your high school.
10. Please double space down and type "**Professional Objective:**" in bold. Hit the tab button one time. Type a description of your educational goals and how your academic path will assist you in achieving your future career goals.
11. Please double space down and type "**Honors & Achievements:**" in bold. Hit the space bar twice, then type all scholastic, community service, academic honors, and any other achievements. Please list the most significant examples of accomplishments you have been awarded related to your educational, community service and professional achievements. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;) with a period (.) after the last item listed.



12. Please double space down. Type **“Leadership Positions:” in bold**. Hit the space bar twice, then list all leadership positions held in school, club involvement, platform related positions or work leadership. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;) with a period (.) after the last item listed.
13. Please double space down. Type **“Employment Experience:” in bold**. Hit the space bar twice, then list all work experience including employer and role/title, you may include internships and any self-employment held. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;) with a period (.) after the last item listed.
14. Please double space down. Type **“Special Skills & Activities:” in bold**. Hit the space bar twice, then list any interesting facts about yourself, including your family, any unique skills or experiences that you would like to share with the Official Panel of Judges. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;) with a period (.) after the last item listed. This section will conclude page one of the Contestant Profile.
15. At the top of page two with margins, font and font size still the same as the previous page, please type the question **“What can you do during your Tenure of Service as a Titleholder to impact your community?” in bold**. Hit the return button once and answer the question as you see fit. The answer can be as short or as long as you would like but all five questions must fit on this one 2<sup>nd</sup> page of the Contestant Profile.
16. Please double space down and type the question **“What has been your involvement with your platform, including time commitment, strategic planning, and ways your ingenuity and resourcefulness have been demonstrated?” in bold**. Hit the return button once and answer the question as you see fit. The answer can be as short or as long as you would like but all five questions must fit on this one 2<sup>nd</sup> page of the Contestant Profile.
17. Please double space down and type **“What inspired you to first become involved with your platform?” in bold**. Hit the return button once and answer the question as you see fit. The answer can be as short or as long as you would like but all five questions must fit on this one 2<sup>nd</sup> page of the Contestant Profile.
18. Please double space down and type **“Besides the opportunity to win scholarships, what made you choose to participate in the Miss Volunteer America program?” in bold**. Hit the return button once and answer the question as you see fit. The answer can be as short or as long as you would like but all five questions must fit on this one 2<sup>nd</sup> page of the Contestant Profile.
19. Please double space down and type **“How would you utilize social media in order to further the position and job of Miss Volunteer America?” in bold**. Hit the return button once and answer the question as you see fit. The answer can be as short or as long as you would like but all five questions must fit on this one 2<sup>nd</sup> page of the Contestant Profile.
20. At the top of page 1, please right justify and add your headshot opposite your Name, Title, Instagram handle, Age, Platform Title, etc. Please see the Contestant Profile Sample for clarity.
21. Use your best judgment on what is most important for the judges to know about you. Use the space on these two pages wisely. Please refer to the Contestant Profile example as a guide.
22. The entire form must fit on two (2) pages using the Times New Roman font style. You must leave a 1” margin on all four sides of the page for all text. If you need to decrease the right margin slightly in order to format your headshot correctly, you may do so, but the text must remain in the space allotted for a 1” margin. If spacing issues arise, simply follow the Contestant Profile Sample provided.

This Contestant Profile form is provided to the judges in their Official Judges Notebook prior to the Competition. Please keep foremost in your thoughts when filling out the Contestant Profile that in signing the Contestant Agreement, you attest that any and all information shared on form submissions with Pageant Officials and to the Panel of Judges is correct, factual and true to the best of your knowledge. When these two pages are put together, they will create your job application. Your signature on the Contestant Agreement covers the materials listed on both pages of the Contestant Profile and verifies the accuracy of all the contents you provide. If any information submitted by a Contestant is found to be false, untrue or erroneous, the Contestant risks disqualification from competing in the applicable local, state or national competition, and losing the associated title.

## **Contestant Profile**

**Name:** Ashley Summers  
**Title:** Miss Memphis Volunteer  
**Instagram Handle:** @ashsummers29  
**Age:** 21  
**Platform Title:** The Salvation Army  
**Talent:** Jazz Dance "The Mirror"



**Education:** The University of Alabama School of Business pursuing a Master of Accountancy  
Graduate of the University of Alabama – Bachelor of Science in Finance, minor in Accounting  
St. Bernard School – classical honors school

**Professional Objective:** To complete a Master of Accounting from the University of Alabama School of Business and pursue a career as a Finance Manager. Ultimately, I want to serve as CFO of The Salvation Army.

**Honors & Achievements:** University of Alabama Chancellor's Award; Dean's List for four semesters; Beta Alpha Psi; The Salvation Army Volunteer of the Year; Selected as one of 12 nationwide volunteers to attend National Advisory Organizations Conference 2018; Volunteer for Student Disability Services; Outstanding Student of Merit; Jack O. Tomlinson Endowed Scholarship; Created "Let's Cheer for the Volunteers" fundraiser for area local high schoolers to participate; Answered phones for annual hospital telethons from 2017-present; Outstanding Citizen Award; Wrote and published a children's book about serving as a Volunteer called "Raise Your Hand" available for purchase on Amazon.

**Leadership Positions:** University of Alabama Graduate Student Association Vice President; Founded "Serve It Up!" fundraiser for local Salvation Army chapter; Created Race for the Cure team; Raised \$12,000 for three regional Salvation Army chapters over the past four years; Volunteered over 400 community service hours for The Salvation Army at the local, state and national organizations; Resurrected the "Save the Seniors" event that was previously held annually to engage local seniors shut-ins; Mayoral proclamation for "Ashley Summers Day of Service" in Benton County; Organized "Climb for the Stars" event along with a committee to raise funds with rock wall climbing event; President, Stay Beautiful campaign; Filmed regional PSA for the West Tennessee regional Salvation Army chapter.

**Employment Experience:** University of Alabama Campus News Reporter; Intern, JP Morgan; Dog Walking Service, 11 years; Dog nanny for four Cavalier King Charles Spaniels; Babysitter; Dance Instructor, three years.

**Special Skills & Activities:** Raised over \$10,000 for CMN Hospitals through original fundraisers; I began working at age ten; I have three sisters; I am a published author; I have visited four countries; I love animals more than most people; I served as towel girl at the Celebrity Basketball Tournament in my hometown; I was the subject of our newspaper's monthly Community Spotlight feature earlier this year; My secret wish is to win an Olympic gold medal.



**What can you do during your Tenure of Service as a Titleholder to impact your community?**

I want to shine a national light on The Salvation Army and the work they are doing impacting thousands of unemployed Americans who are hungry and have lost their homes during the pandemic. I would be honored to serve on the National Advisory Council to add visibility to the job of Miss Volunteer America as well as learn even more about national initiatives. I would love to broaden my current local Help Rescue Christmas project by garnering support from all of my state titleholder sisters to form a Help Rescue Christmas campaign team to fill the growing need of food and shelter.

**What has been your involvement with your platform, including time commitment, strategic planning and ways your ingenuity and resourcefulness have been demonstrated?**

In working with The Salvation Army for the past six years, I have volunteered for numerous events but my favorite was creating “Let’s Cheer for our Volunteers” with my high school cheer squad. We recruited sponsors to donate \$1 for each cheer we could do on Spirit Day that lasted from our early afternoon pep rally through the Homecoming game that night. We had an online donation avenue, as well as going door to door to increase our reach and number of sponsors. By the end of the night, we had raised over \$1,200 and had no voice left!

**What inspired you to first become involved in your platform?**

At the age of ten, I began a dog walking service as an after-school activity to help my neighbors. What started out a favor to friends turned into a lucrative business for my age. At Christmas, I wanted to do something special for others and took as many dollars as I could wad up in my pocket to drop off in a red kettle for iconic The Salvation Army bell ringers. I was so excited to think of the people my dollars would be helping and still raise as many dollars as I can for this remarkable organization.

**Besides the opportunity to win scholarships, what made you choose to participate in the Miss Volunteer America program?**

Service--I want to improve my community by implementing programs that can meet people where they are and help get them where they need and want to be. I want to remind my friends that even connecting through virtual events, we can easily raise money change someone’s life. If you love running then you can have friends and family sponsor a mile and stay healthy while helping those who have lost their jobs during the pandemic.

**How would you utilize social media in order to further the position and job of Miss Volunteer America?** I will help establish Miss Volunteer America in her inaugural year as an influencer by increasing frequency of posting, gaining new followers and establishing the brand. I will work toward these goals through original content from daily stories of Makeup Tutorials during appearance preparation to IGTV posts sharing about the special people I encounter during my appearances. I will do a weekly recap of the week’s events with everything from the daily grind of packing and travel to the more glamorous events—it always helps to showcase it all. When appropriate, I will go live during events where I am appearing to share where I am traveling, what I am doing and who I am meeting. I will create Sponsor Spotlight Sundays to thank those who make Miss Volunteer America possible and showcase their tangible and intangible donations. I will continue to increase awareness about all of the fundraisers and events for my platform, the Salvation Army, and hold monthly virtual “Tea with Miss Volunteer America” events to raise funds for Help Rescue Christmas.