

*Miss Hendersonville Scholarship Pageant, Inc.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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There They Are...Miss Hendersonville and Hendersonville's Outstanding Teen!
October 15 is deadline for 2008 pageants

(Hendersonville, NC) The Miss Hendersonville Scholarship Pageant, an official preliminary of the Miss America Organization, is seeking contestants for the 2008 Miss Hendersonville and Hendersonville's Outstanding Teen Pageants, which will be held February 15 & 16, 2008.

Contestants for Miss Hendersonville must be at least 17 years old by the competition date and no older than 24 as of December 31, 2008, single (and never have been married), a United States citizen, and meet residency requirements, meaning they must live, work or go to school in Henderson County. In addition, all contestants must be able to meet the time commitment and responsibilities set forth by the local pageant and meet all character criteria established by the Miss America Organization.

There is no fee to enter the Miss Hendersonville Pageant, and the five areas of competition include private interview, talent, lifestyle in physical fitness (swimsuit), onstage interview and evening wear.

Krysta Meinzer, Miss Hendersonville 2007, has volunteered more than 180 hours this year promoting the scholarship program and her community service platform, Blood Donor Awareness. A graduate of West Henderson High School, Meinzer is using the more than \$2,000 in scholarships she won in last year's pageant to complete her Communications Degree at Lenoir-Rhyne College.

The 2008 Hendersonville's Outstanding Teen competition is open to young ladies 13-17 years of age who meet the same criteria. These contestants can be no older than a high school junior. There is a \$150 entry fee for the Outstanding Teen competition, and the winner will compete for the state title in Raleigh next summer.

Ashley Caudle, a senior at East Henderson High School, won the local competition in 2007 and has dedicated her year to increasing awareness and prevention of child abuse. She has volunteered extensively with The Healing Place, a sexual assault response and resource center and the child advocacy center of Henderson County.

"The teen contestants compete in the same five areas of competition as the Miss Hendersonville contestants," said Tiffany Ervin, Executive Director of the program and a long-time volunteer with the Miss America organization. "However, rather than modeling a swimsuit, the physical fitness category is an outfit that suits her favorite physical activity."

According to Ervin, this allows the teen contestants to showcase their individuality. For example, Caudle modeled her volleyball uniform from East Henderson High School for the state competition in Raleigh this past summer.

All of the paperwork required for entry is available for download from the pageant's website, www.misshendersonvillepageant.com. Potential contestants can also pick up a CD from Eternal Sunn and Signature Salon. Young ladies who may be interested in receiving more information about becoming a contestant for the 2008 Miss Hendersonville and Hendersonville's Outstanding Teen pageants should contact Ervin via email at misshendersonvillepageant@yahoo.com. The deadline for both pageants is October 15.

"We have established the deadline to enter a little earlier this year because we plan to implement community service projects that can be done by all of the contestants for the 2008

titles,” said Ervin. “Every contestant will have an opportunity to be introduced to our community through several appearances that have already been scheduled. This will give them great experience in dealing with the public and will also benefit our community through increased volunteer participation.”

The winners of the 2008 competitions will represent the area in the state pageants, held in Raleigh next June. The new Miss Hendersonville will earn a \$2,000 college scholarship, and the new Outstanding Teen will win a \$1,000 savings bond. Each lady will also win various prizes from local businesses and will spend the next year serving as an ambassador for the Henderson County Chamber of Commerce.

Following a tradition that started in 2006, all contestants who compete for Miss Hendersonville will earn a \$100 scholarship to be used at the college of her choice. Preliminary winners in swimsuit and talent will also earn college scholarships, as well as the winners of community service, congeniality, photogenic and scholastic awards in the Miss Hendersonville Pageant.

The Miss America Organization is the world’s largest provider of scholarship money for women, awarding more than \$40 million in scholarships each year. In addition, contestants at all levels are required to adopt a cause, or platform, and to serve their communities on behalf of these and other causes. Miss America contestants and volunteers complete more than 500,000 hours of community service each year, making it one of the strongest service organizations in the nation.

The mission of the Miss America’s Outstanding Teen organization is to promote scholastic achievement, creative accomplishment, healthy living and community involvement for America’s teens. Miss America's Outstanding Teen is a scholarship based program. Through the

efforts of thousands of volunteers across the country, the organization offers to accomplished teens the opportunity to win college scholarship funds.

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