



National Pageant Handbook

Welcome

Dreams Do Come True and This Is Where They Start!

As National Director for Miss American Coed it is my pleasure to welcome you to our pageant family! As a former contestant myself I can tell you this experience is not just about the crown it builds character, creates friendships to last a lifetime, and instills a foundation of public speaking and interview skills to help you accomplish your goals for the future. By taking this first step you are starting a journey of personal growth and becoming the best version of yourself. I am so happy that you will be joining us and if I can help in any way please feel free to reach out to our office anytime!

*Best Wishes,
Michelle Landry*



**Discover Your
Potential**

National Titles

Miss

American Coed

Our National Queens competition is our most exciting event of the year! This competition is open to State or Regional winners, and any contestants appointed by our national office. Our National Queens will take home a very generous prize package and will sign a contract to represent American Coed during their reign. The age divisions available for the National Queens Competition are: Princess (3-6), Sweetheart (7-9), Preteen (10-12), Junior Teen (13-15), Teen (16-18), Coed (19-24), Ms (25 -34), Woman (35-44), and Classic Woman (45 and up)

Miss

American Victory

Our National Victory competition is a secondary national title open to queens contestants and contestants appointed by our National Office. This program gives our contestants an additional opportunity to win as well as gives them the chance to showcase a broad range of skills by including their best live optional performance in their overall score. The age divisions available for our National Victory titles title are: Princess (3-6), Sweetheart (7-9), Preteen (10-12), Junior Teen (13-15), Teen (16-18), Coed (19-24), and Ms (25 and up)

Prize Packages

National Queens

- \$1,000 Cash Prize for Princess, Sweetheart, Preteen, Junior Teen, Teen & Coed
- \$800 Cash Prize for Ms, Woman, and Classic Woman
- Custom Designed Crystal Award
- American Coed Pageants National Crown
- American Coed Pageants National Banner
- Accommodations paid for a Queens Weekend & Photo Shoot
- Accommodations paid for exclusive National Queens Trip
- 6 night stay at the National Pageant Host Hotel
- Apparel Set sponsored by Stitchmasters
- Official Miss American Coed designed Crown Case by Crown Couture
- Opening number outfits for the National Pageant provided by Stitchmasters
- Custom Title Ear Headband by EllieCakes Custom Ears
- Personalized "Reign Training" Sponsored by Commit to the Crown
- Title Key Chains and gifts sponsored by Everyday Essentials by Erica
- Highlighted in Feature Story in Pageantry Magazine
- Featured in Full Page Ad in Pageantry Magazine
- Farewell Video creation from Royal Reflections by Rachel
- Custom National Title Car Decal Set
- Hair and Makeup Services for the National Finals
- 4 tickets to all National Pageant Finals
- 2 tickets to any banquet at the National Pageant
- Highlighted in Art & Beauty Magazine
- Invited to attend annual American Coed Legacy Event
- Featured in National Website and Marketing Materials

Victory Queens

- \$600 Cash Prize
- Custom Designed Crystal Award
- American Coed Pageants National Victory Crown
- American Coed Pageants National Victory Banner
- Accommodations paid for a Queens Weekend & Photo Shoot
- Crown Case sponsored by Miss American Coed National Office
- Invited to attend Annual American Coed Legacy Event
- Custom Title Ear Headband by EllieCakes Custom Ears
- Highlighted in Feature Story in Pageantry Magazine
- Custom National Title Car Decal Set
- 2 Tickets to National Finals
- Featured in National Website and Marketing Materials

Optional Awards

- \$300 Cash Prize
- American Coed national optional crown
- American Coed national optional banner
- Custom Designed plaque

Additional Awards

We will also recognize contestants with the following awards with no cost to enter! Overall Interview, Overall Interview Appearance & Introduction, Overall Eveningwear, Academic Achievement, Volunteer Service, Erin Joy Award

Pageant Scoring

Preliminary Score

Every contestant will be scored during the Eveningwear, Interview, and Interview Appearance and Introduction phases of competition. Each of these areas are equally weighted and will be added to determine the Preliminary Score. These scores will determine the Top Finalists for each age division. The Top Finalists will be announced during the Final Pageant.

Final Pageant Score

After the announcement, the Top Finalists will compete in Eveningwear and an on stage introduction. Based on their performance in these events the judges will give each Top Finalist a Final Pageant Score. The Preliminary and Final Pageant Scores will be added to determine our Queens Court and National Queen for each age division.

Victory Scoring

Contestants competing for our National Victory title will be scored in the three required phases of competition along with their on stage optionals of choice. Their scores from Eveningwear, Interview Appearance and Introduction, and Interview will be combined with the score of their highest scoring live optional. The total of these scores will be used to determine our National Victory winner and court.



Judging Information

- Judges will score independently and will not discuss or come to a consensus
- Judges will sign a questionnaire disclosing any acquaintance with a contestant that would impair their judgement. If this situation should arise, the Judge will only provide feedback for that contestant in the form of comments and an average of the other Judges scores will be used.
- Judges will not have the opportunity to read or view a program book until after the final pageant and program book photos are not judged.
- Judge's will not be scoring Contestant Bio Sheets, nor will any awards be given for Bios
- Judges will not be allowed to discuss results with contestants or parents.
- Overall scores will be provided to the contestants free of charge after January 1st.
- Comments and scores from optional competitions will be provided upon request.
- Judges are not informed of overall standings or placement in advance.
- All staff and Judges will be staying in the host hotel and attending pageant banquets but will not be taking notes or scoring during these events.
- Walking patterns and layouts will be sent out in your upcoming newsletters.
- Contestants are allowed to participate in both Queens and Victory competitions or choose to participate in either National Queens or Victory only.
- In the event that a contestant wins both the Victory and Queens title, they will be awarded the Queens title and the Victory title will be awarded to the contestant with the next highest score.
- Judges will not be informed whether contestants are competing for the Queens or Victory competition prior to the final pageant.



Required Events

Interview

Our judges will not be looking to stump or trick you and we do not base our questions on controversial issues. They want to get to know you and find out why you want to be the next national queen. They will be looking for a natural conversationalist who is confident, comfortable, and poised. Often times the hardest questions are those that are the simplest in nature such as, "Why do you want to win?" Or "What do you do for fun?" Remember during your preparation to practice a variety of questions both challenging and simple so that you are not caught off guard and can show the panel all sides of your personality.

Interview Appearance & Introduction

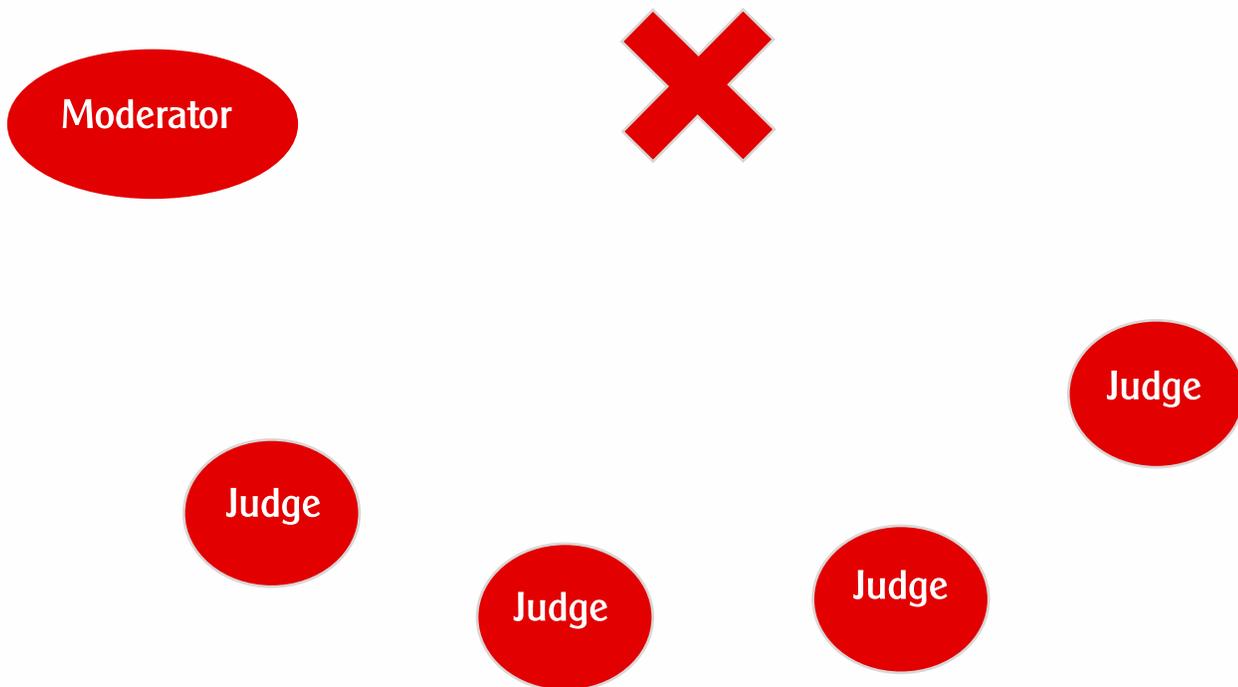
For Interview Appearance our goal is to teach our contestants the importance of making a strong first impression. Judges will be looking to ensure that not only was the dress code met but also that the outfit choice and styling choices compliment the contestant. In Introduction our goal is for our contestants to learn public speaking skills that can be utilized in your future studies and career. With that in mind our judges will be looking for a confident and natural delivery. Contestants can be creative but please note that the panel is not scoring based on content or uniqueness but rather on your approach, poise, and speaking ability. In addition, it is important to remember that this category is comprised of two elements. You will only receive one score but it will encompass the Judges' ratings on both the styling and the delivery of the introduction.

Eveningwear

In Eveningwear our judges will be looking for a natural walk that shows confidence and comfort on stage. Ideally your walk would have limited poses, an excited and happy expression, relaxed arms and shoulders, and picking up or holding your gown is discouraged. Judges will be looking for your stage presence, the ease in your movements, and poise in your moment in the spotlight.

Interview Room

To start our “Round Robin” Interview and the Interview Appearance & Introduction phase, contestants will meet in the interview waiting room where they will be separated into their groups. Once the judges are ready to begin, contestants will be brought into the room by a staff member. Each contestant will be asked to step forward to the marked “X” to perform their introduction followed by a turn to model their interview outfit. Contestants in the Princess age group may perform a pivot or circle turn. Contestants in all other divisions should perform a pivot turn. After all contestants in the group have performed their introduction, the moderator will bring the group to the room and direct each contestant to their first judge to start the interview. The moderator will remain in the room to keep time and will notify contestants when they will rotate to their next judge. Once all of the contestants in the group have met with each judge, they will be sent off to take photos and get ready for their next event. Final diagrams of the Interview Room and State will be send in your newsletters and any updates will be emailed prior to Nationals. Please remember to arrive 15 minutes early to the interview holding room to be lined up.



Eveningwear Dress Code

Princess, Sweetheart, & Preteen Divisions

- Ball Gown styles are strongly preferred
- Judges are looking for age appropriate styles and are allowed to use their discretion on what is considered age appropriate
- Gowns may not be strapless. Halter and One Shoulder are allowed
- Gowns should be floor length
- Shoes for the Princess & Sweetheart divisions should stay under 2 and a half inches tall, Preteens should stay at or under 3 inches
- Trains are permitted
- No Makeup of any kind is allowed for this event
- Light and/or bright colors are generally preferred but darker colors are allowed

Junior Teen Division

- Judges are looking for age appropriate styles and are allowed to use their discretion on what is considered age appropriate
- Gowns may be any style but should be considered appropriate for the age division and not viewed as sexy or revealing
- Back of the gown may have modest cutouts or use netting or beading
- Gowns should be floor length
- Trains are permitted
- Necklines with beading or netting may be worn but should be modest
- Light and/or bright colors are generally preferred but darker colors are allowed

Teen & Coed Divisions

- Judges are looking for age appropriate styles and are allowed to use their discretion on what is considered age appropriate
- Gowns may be any style but should be considered appropriate for the age division and not viewed as overly sexy or revealing
- Back of the gown may have modest cutouts or use netting or beading
- Gowns should be floor length
- Slits are permitted but should be modest; judges will use their discretion to determine what is considered modest
- Necklines with beading or netting may be worn but should be modest; judges will use their discretion to determine what is considered modest
- Dresses may be any color that compliments the contestant

Ms, Woman, & Classic Woman Divisions

- Judges are looking for age appropriate styles and are allowed to use their discretion on what is considered age appropriate
- Gowns may be any style
- Back of the gown may have modest cutouts or use netting or beading
- Gowns should be floor length
- Slits are permitted
- Necklines with beading or netting may be worn
- Dresses may be any color that compliments the contestant



Interview Dress Code

Princess, Sweetheart, & Preteen Divisions

- Interview outfit may be a suit or tailored dress in the color or print of your choice
- Dress necklines must be modest and cannot be strapless, one shoulder, or halter style
- Dresses may have sleeves or be sleeveless
- Shoes may be any color that compliments your outfit and may be closed or open toe
- Pantsuits or jumpsuits are not permitted
- Pantyhose may be worn but are not required
- Shoes for the Princess & Sweetheart divisions should be at or under 2 and a half inches tall, Preteens should stay at or under 3 inches
- Skirt length should be modest. Judges are allowed to use their discretion to determine what is considered modest.
- Judges are looking for age appropriate styles and are allowed to use their discretion on what is considered age appropriate
- No Makeup of any kind is allowed interview or introduction

Junior Teen & Teen Divisions

- Interview outfit may be a suit or tailored dress in the color or print of your choice
- Dress necklines must be modest and cannot be strapless.
- One shoulder, Off Shoulder, and Halter styles are permitted
- Dresses may have sleeves or be sleeveless
- Shoes may be any color that compliments your outfit and may be closed or open toe
- Pantsuits or jumpsuits are not permitted
- Pantyhose may be worn but are not required
- Skirt length should be modest. Judges are allowed to use their discretion to determine what is considered modest.
- Judges are looking for age appropriate styles and are allowed to use their discretion on what is considered age appropriate

Coed, Ms, Woman, and Classic Woman Divisions

- Interview outfit may be a suit or tailored dress in the color or print of your choice
- Dresses cannot be strapless
- One Shoulder, Off Shoulder, and Halter styles are permitted
- Dresses may have sleeves or be sleeveless
- Shoes may be any color that compliments your outfit and may be closed or open toe
- Pantsuits or jumpsuits are not permitted
- Pantyhose may be worn but are not required
- Skirt length should be modest. Judges are allowed to use their discretion to determine what is considered modest.
- Judges are looking for age appropriate styles and are allowed to use their discretion on what is considered age appropriate



Example Questions

Princess & Sweetheart

- What makes a good friend?
- What are you most excited about for pageant week?
- What is the first thing you would do as the new queen?

Preteen & Junior Teen

- What are your favorite and least favorite phases of competition?
 - If you could travel anywhere, where would you choose?
 - If you had a million dollars, how would you spend it?
- What are the most important qualities a titleholder should have?

Teen & Coed

- Why do you think you'd make a great national queen?
- If your family were here, how would they describe you?
- What does success mean to you?
- If you could change one thing about yourself would you?

Ms & Woman

- What three things do you always have in your bag?
- If you could relive a moment in your life, would you?
 - Why do you want to represent American Coed?
 - What life experience has taught you most?

Example Introductions

Princess & Sweetheart

A future model and prima ballerina, I live for the stage! Someday I hope to grace the stage, but for now I enjoy playing with my friends and spending time with my favorite pets. Coming to you from Massachusetts I am.....

Junior Teen & Preteen

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. As an aspiring teacher my dream is to educate the youth of our country. A volunteer tutor and honor roll student I am well on my way to accomplishing my goals. Until then, I can be found kayaking, cheerleading and volunteering for the American Heart Association. Representing Massachusetts, I am

Teen & up

Working in direct care I truly believe that we give our hands to serve and our hearts to love. Whether its working one on one with my clients or studying for my degree I know that my work will make a difference. In my spare time this avid runner can be found training for my next race, enjoying the outdoors with my two dogs, or finding the latest binge-worthy shows. Hoping to leave a lasting impression from Massachusetts, I am.....



Please Note

Introductions have a maximum time limit of 30 seconds and should not include your age. A staff member will be present to keep time for each contestant.

Optional Competitions



Actress



Talent

Contestants will have 90 seconds to perform a commercial, scene, or monologue of their choice. Entries will be performed in our audition studio and recorded for our judges to review. Judges will be looking for entertainment value, performance quality, and poise. Makeup is allowed in all ages.

Contestants can compete with a 2 minute on stage talent of their choice. Judges will be looking for presence, entertainment value, confidence and poise under pressure. All talent presentations will be stopped at the 2 minute mark. Makeup is allowed in all age divisions for this competition.

Model

Walk the runway in an off the rack outfit of your choice. Our judges will be looking for poise, confidence, personality, a natural comfortable walk, and stage presence. Outfits should reflect something casual that you could wear in an everyday capacity. Makeup is allowed for all ages

Optional Competitions



Speech

Showcase your public speaking skills in this newly formatted competition. Contestants may select a topic of their choice to perform a speech up to 2 minutes long. Judges will be looking for professionalism, content, and a confident delivery. Makeup is allowed in all age divisions.

Fashion

Contestants will model their outfit in a walking pattern of their choice. Outfits should reflect high fashion and unique ensembles that show your personal style. Our judges will be looking for personality, confidence, and age appropriate styling. Makeup is allowed in all ages.

Photogenic

Judges will be looking for age appropriate and natural styling, complimentary grooming, and overall photo quality and presentation. Please note scores in the photogenic competition will not be used toward your National Victory scores. Makeup is allowed for all age divisions.

Other Awards

Academic Achievement

Our Academic Achievement competition recognizes our contestants that are outstanding students. This year Academic Achievement forms will be due prior to the pageant. Instructions will be sent in your newsletters.



Volunteer Service

Recognizing our queens who provide their time and energy to helping their community, our Volunteer Service award is a favorite of our pageant experience. This year, entries in the Volunteer Service competition will be due prior to the pageant and instructions and forms will be sent out in your upcoming newsletters

Stay Tuned!

Keep an eye on your inbox for your newsletters for more info on exciting events coming to Nationals Week!



Entry Fees

National Queens Competition

State winners competing for the titles of Miss American Princess, Sweetheart, Preteen, Junior Teen, Teen, and Coed will have a National Entry Fee of \$300. In addition, we offer appointed titles for contestants who wish to attend nationals without winning a state pageant. Contestants who wish to apply for our appointed titles have a National Title Fee of \$550. Our Contestants competing in our Ms Divisions for the titles of Ms American Coed, Ms American Woman, and Ms American Classic Woman will have an Entry Fee of \$650.

National Victory Competition

Our Contestants competing only for the titles of Miss and Ms American Victory will have an entry fee of \$450. Contestants in our National Queens Competition may also compete in Victory for an additional fee of \$150. Please note, to be eligible for National Victory contestants must compete in at least one live optional competition which have an entry fee of \$150 each

National Optional Competitions

Our Optional Competitions have an entry fee of \$150 per entry. Please note: Optional all competitions are judged by a separate panel of judges.

Opening Number Outfit

Our Nationals theme and opening number are always a favorite highlight of Pageant Week! This year's theme and outfits will be announced in your upcoming newsletters along with pricing, ordering instructions, and size charts. All contestants are required to purchase an opening number outfit.

Program Book

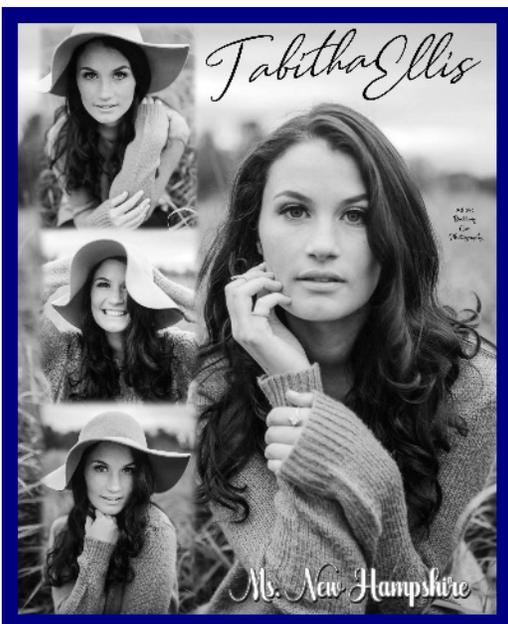
Our national program book is a beautiful keepsake to remember your time with American Coed! Each contestant will have a feature photo with space to recognize any friends, family, or sponsors that provided support on your way to Nationals. In addition to the feature photos, the program book has pages available for contestants who wish to participate in our Advertising Program. This program is a great way to build public speaking skills, gain support and sponsorship, make connections with local organizations, and earn some amazing prizes!

Feature Photos & Ad Pages

Program book photos should be a headshot or “head and shoulders” photo with you as the focus. Full body shots or photos wearing your crown and banner should not be used. All pictures will be submitted online and instructions will be provided in your email newsletters leading up to Nationals.



Advertising pages can be purchased for those who wish to work toward our Cover Girl title. These pages can include well wishes, sponsor logos, and crown and banner photos. All ad pages will be submitted online and instructions will be provided in your email newsletters leading up to Nationals.



National Cover Girl

Our National Cover Girl title will be awarded to contestants who sell 10 pages in the national program book. Our National Cover Girl winners will be crowned during our Preliminary Eveningwear and will receive an amazing prize package to enjoy during Nationals week and throughout their year as National Royalty!



Prize Package

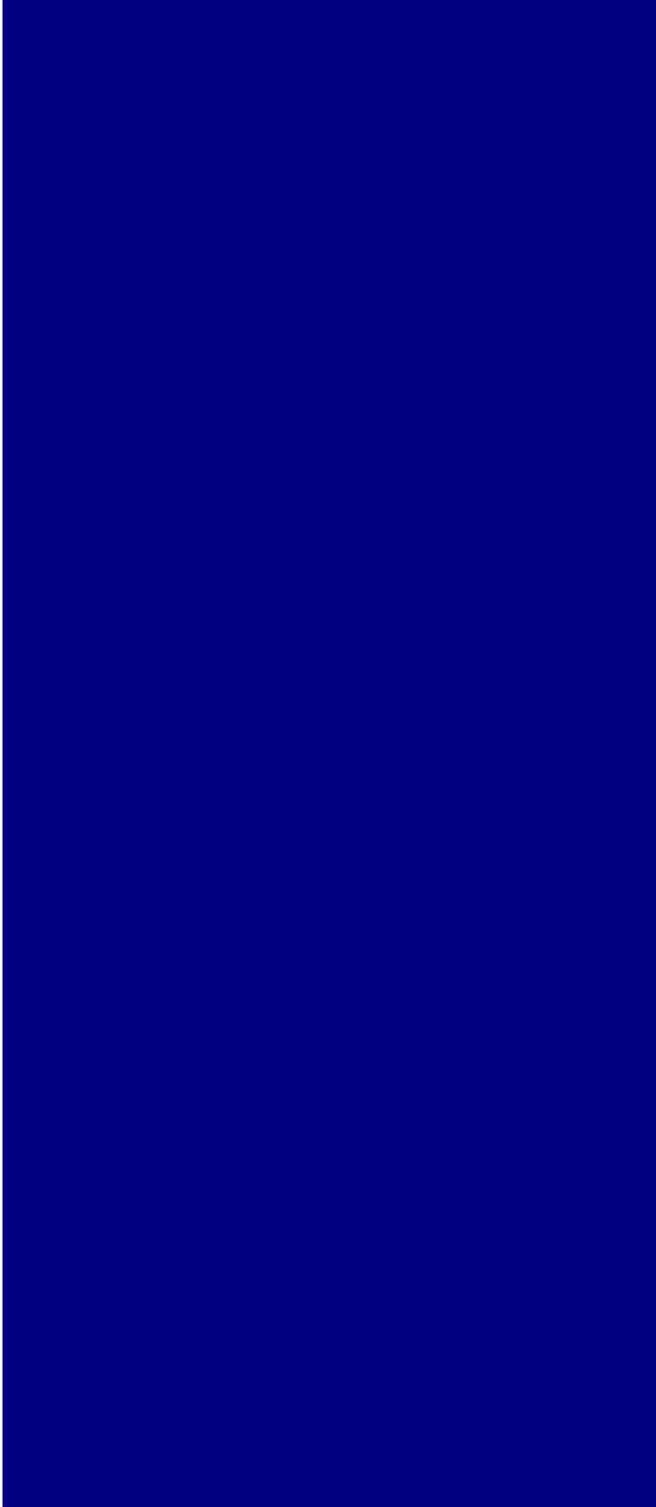
To reward our Cover Girl queens for their hard work promoting American Coed they'll each receive an amazing prize package to include:

- 6 nights stay at the National Host Hotel
- American Coed National Cover Girl Crown
- American Coed National Cover Girl Banner
- Custom designed crystal award
- Accommodations paid for the National Queens Weekend & Photo shoot
- Invited to attend Annual American Coed Legacy Weekend
- Invited to attend exclusive National Queens Trip
- Custom Title Ear Headband by EllieCakes Custom Ears
- Custom National Title Car Decal Set
- 2 Tickets to all National Pageant Finals
- Featured in National Website and Marketing Materials



Advertising Prices

Full Page: \$300
Half Page: \$150
Fourth Page: \$75
Business Card: \$30



National Miss American Coed Pageant

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