

ATTACHMENT A: Rules and Regulations for Contestant Eligibility to Compete in Local, State and National Volunteer Pageants

In order to be eligible to compete, a Contestant must meet the following requirements:

1. Age.

- a. **Minimum Age** – Contestant must be at least 17 years old as of the day of the Local or State Pageant in which she is competing, will compete, is crowned or appointed as the Local or State Titleholder.
- b. **Maximum Age** - Contestant must not be older than 26 years old as of the day in which she is competing, will compete, is crowned or appointed as the Local or State Titleholder.
- c. **Eligibility Lock-In**—Contestant who is eligible to participate in and/or wins a Local or State title or is assigned a At-Large Local or State title, her eligibility is locked in and Contestant remains eligible through that full pageant cycle, not to exceed the National Finals.
- d. **Proof of Age Requirement** - Contestant will need to provide proof of age in **one** of the following forms:
 - i. Birth Certificate
 - ii. Valid Driver's License
 - iii. Passport

2. Residency. The residency requirement must be satisfied in at least one of three ways: Bona Fide Resident, Employment or Educational Status. A National At-Large Contestant, appointed by the National Organization in accordance with its National At-Large Contestant process, shall be required to meet the age eligibility requirements, but shall not be required to comply with the residency, education or employment requirements set forth below.

- a. **Bona Fide Resident** - If a Contestant is seeking to establish residency by way of **Bona Fide Residency**, Contestant must provide a current driver's license issued in the State in which she will compete. *If the above is unavailable, Contestant must present copies of 2 or more of the following:*
 - i. A current voter registration card or written statement from the applicable state or local voting registrar of valid current voter registration in the State.
 - ii. An official transcript or report card from Contestant's school.
 - iii. A current vehicle registration in Contestant's name from the State.
 - iv. A current lease in Contestant's name.
 - v. Federal student loan correspondence or notices on which Contestant is named primary or secondary in the applicable State.
 - vi. Other forms of proof of Bona Fide Residency, that are reasonable and can be validated, may be accepted by the Local, State and National Organizations.
- b. **Employment** – If a Contestant is seeking to establish residency by way of **Employment**, Contestant must provide proof, that is reasonable and that can be validated, of employment showing the official start date and full-time employment status. Full-time is defined as no less than 30 hours per week.
- c. **Educational Status** – If a Contestant is seeking to establish residency by way of **Educational Status**, Contestant must provide proof of student status or acceptance into the accredited college or university located within the applicable State.

3. Education.

- a. **Requirements** - Contestant must be a high school graduate as of the first day of the State Competition. If Contestant has not graduated from high school with a diploma, then Contestant must have successfully completed the G.E.D. testing program for high school equivalency or have successfully completed the academic requirements for entry into an accredited college/university degree program requiring attendance by the beginning of the fall semester of the year in which Contestant will compete in the State Competition.
- b. **Proof of Education Status** – If a Contestant is seeking to establish eligibility by way of **Educational Status**, Contestant will need to provide one of the following:
 - i. High School Diploma, displaying date of Graduation
 - ii. G.E.D. certificate for High School showing date of completion
 - iii. Acceptance Letter into an accredited college/university degree program

- c. **Online Educational Status**—If Contestant is enrolled in an online educational program, a Letter of Acceptance or Proof of Enrollment in a college or university physically located within the State is sufficient to establish eligibility.
4. **Out of State Exception.** If Contestant meets the age requirements to participate and does not have a Local or State Pageant within 50 miles of her established residency, she may apply to participate in a state program or apply for an At-Large State title with the “Out of State” residency exception.
5. **Eligibility Lock-In.** Once a Contestant has been deemed eligible and either:
- Contestant wins a Local or State Title or
 - Contestant is appointed a Local or State Title
- her eligibility is considered “locked in” for that competition cycle and remains valid through the National Finals.
6. **Participation.** Contestant must never have previously been a Contestant in the Miss Volunteer America National Pageant. If Contestant is a current titleholder in any other state or national pageant or competition system, she must acknowledge and agree that, unless permission is granted by Miss Volunteer America, Contestant must resign that title immediately if she wins a Local Pageant in the Volunteer system if Contestant is competing in a State with Locals or if not, State Pageant in the Volunteer system. Contestant will not be eligible to compete in the Miss Volunteer America Pageant unless and until Contestant resigns the title in such other state or national pageant or competition system, and that Miss Volunteer America may, in its sole judgment, terminate Contestant’s reign as Miss Local and/or State Volunteer if resignation is not immediately filed in such other state or national pageant or competition system.
7. **Multi-State Participation.** Under the residency rules, it is possible for a Contestant to be eligible to compete in more than one state within the Volunteer system. As set forth below, a Contestant who meets eligibility requirements for multiple states may enter, in the same pageant cycle, a Local Pageant and/or State Pageant in both states where eligibility is met. If a Contestant wins a Local Title, as long as the Contestant has fulfilled the obligations of the local title, the Contestant may compete in a Local and/or State Pageant in a different state in the same pageant cycle.
8. **Personal Status.** Contestant must be a citizen of the United States, identified from birth as a female and continues to identify as such, and must not be married at the time of competing, nor ever have been married or had a marriage annulled.
9. **Public Status.** Contestant must not currently be a candidate for public office or pursue public office during Tenure.
10. **Parental Status.** Contestant must not be nor intend to be pregnant at the time of competing or during the Tenure. Contestant must not be a parent or the adoptive parent of any child at the time of competing or during the Tenure.
11. **Familial Status.** No member of the Contestant’s family including mother, step-mother, father, step-father, grandparent, step-grandparent, adoptive parent, sister, brother, step siblings, half siblings or anyone living in Contestant’s household is currently, or has within the last three months, been employed or served as a volunteer, officer, director, trustee, sponsor, coach or agent whether in a paid or voluntary capacity in the state in which the Contestant is competing.
12. **Contractual Commitments.** Once a Contestant wins a local or state title, she must not have authorized any person, social media platform, product, company, firm or corporation to use Contestant’s name, photograph, picture, or present or future title that the Contestant holds or may hold, in connection with an endorsement to advertise any commercial product. Contestant must not have any legal obligations that would prevent or limit her participation and appearance in a Local or State Competition or your compliance with the rules, regulations, and conditions of the Miss Volunteer America organization and its Local and State Organizations.
13. **Character.** Contestant must be of good moral character and may have not been involved at any time in any act of moral turpitude or behavior that could be perceived as dishonest, immoral, lewd, indecent or otherwise contrary to the mission or reputation of Miss Volunteer America, its State or Local Organizations.
14. **Criminal Record.** Contestant must not have been charged with multiple minor or petty offenses in the last 24 months, must have never been convicted of any criminal offense and may not have any criminal charges pending against the Contestant at the time of competing.
15. **Health.** Contestant attests nothing about her health will inhibit the Contestant from participating fully in any and all Local, State and/or National Pageant activities, or serving as Local, State or National Representative. Should anything with respect to Contestant’s health change that impacts the Contestant’s ability to participate or serve as described above, she will advise the State Organization immediately to allow reasonable accommodations to be determined and made. Should any reasonable accommodations be required, such accommodations must be approved by the State Organization and must not create a benefit or advantage not afforded to all Contestants. If health care records are required to verify accuracy,

parameters of accommodations or to secure reservation of all needs associated with the accommodation, the Contestant must provide all necessary documentation.

- 16. Substance Abuse.** Contestant must attest she does not use or consume any illegal or controlled substances other than those obtained pursuant to a valid prescription and taken according to the directions of a licensed health care professional. Contestant must not abuse the use of alcohol, prescriptive drugs or other dangerous substances.
- 17. S.E.R.V.E. Initiative. LOCAL:** Contestant must have at least an interest in, if not current involvement with a cause, charitable organization, philanthropic effort, or nonprofit that would serve as the basis for the Contestant's S.E.R.V.E. initiative. **STATE:** Contestant must have active participation in a cause, charitable organization, philanthropic effort, or nonprofit that is the basis of the Contestant's S.E.R.V.E. initiative. **NATIONAL:** Contestant must provide evidence of involvement and impact as a result of her participation in a cause, charitable organization, philanthropic effort or nonprofit that forms the basis of the Contestant's S.E.R.V.E. initiative and a marketing plan for expanding the chosen S.E.R.V.E. initiative nationally.

For clarity, a Contestant must meet all requirements for eligibility to compete.