

## 2016 MISS ILLINOIS SCHOLARSHIP RULES AND REGULATIONS

THE MISS ILLINOIS SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION FUND WILL AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

### **1) SCHOLARSHIP USAGE:**

Scholarship funds may be applied to tuition, mandatory academic fees, room, board and other appropriate mandatory educational expenses. Parking fines, bus passes, I.D. cards, library fines, health insurance, books and supplies or other non-tuition related items are not covered. All unusual or questionable items of expense must be referred to the [Miss Illinois Scholarship Organization Scholarship Committee](#) with as much information as possible and far enough in advance for consideration of approval.

### **2) REQUESTING USAGE:**

Requests for scholarships are initially processed by the Miss [Illinois](#) Organization and forwarded to the [scholarship committee for its review and approval](#) upon written receipt of statements from colleges and schools or from the contestant for other educational expenses. All statements and invoices must be accompanied by a cover letter from the contestant.

### **3) PAYMENT GUIDELINES:**

Amounts received as scholarship payments are taxable income to the extent that they exceed "Qualified Tuition and Related Expenses". Qualified Tuition and Related Expenses include tuition and fees required for enrollment or attendance of a student at an educational organization, including fees, books, supplies and equipment required of all students in the particular course of instruction.

It is each contestant's obligation to determine whether the scholarship, in whole or part, is includable in gross taxable income, regardless of whether a Form 1099 has been issued by either The State Organization, the Community Foundation or Miss America Organization. Contestants are encouraged to consult a tax advisor regarding the taxability of the scholarship payments.

Payment of all approved expenditures will be made directly to the college, university or other accredited institution unless extenuating circumstances exist.

### **4) PRIORITY OF LEVEL IN USAGE:**

Contestants receiving scholarships at the state level must use the scholarship won at the local level prior to applying for funds at the state level. Verification must be submitted in writing from the Local Executive Director that all local scholarship funds have been exhausted.

### **5) USAGE FOR PAST EXPENSES:**

Scholarships may be used for outstanding student loan obligations provided the contestant has satisfactorily completed the coursework for which the loan was obtained. In all cases, requests must include a current bill from the lender showing a current address, a copy of the promissory note showing that the contestant is the primary payer of the obligation, and an official transcript showing completion of the coursework.

### **6) USAGE FOR CURRENT EXPENSES:**

Scholarships may be used for current educational expenses after exhausting all monies won at local level. All invoices must be original. Contestants may not request payment for expenses which are or have been covered through any other financial aid source other than student loans and which meet the provisions of item 5 above. "Current Expenses" are defined as expenses that occurred after the scholarship was been awarded.

**7) USAGE FOR FUTURE EXPENSES AND FORFEITURES**

Scholarships may be used for future educational expenses. Contestants must begin use of their scholarships within one (1) year of the date of the award [two (2) years allotted for Miss Illinois herself]. If a contestant has no activity in her scholarship account during this period, the funds in her account will be forfeited. A contestant's state funds will be automatically forfeited if she forfeits any money from the local level.

An exception to the time limits described above may be made if the contestant, prior to the expiration date, makes a written appeal to the Miss Illinois scholarship committee citing compelling reasons why the time period should be extended. An extension will generally be permitted when the contestant has had continuous educational expenses but has not been able to draw down to zero her local award within the prescribed time limits above. However, the contestant must still send a written request for extension. The Miss Illinois scholarship committee will review the request and determine whether an extension is warranted. The decision of the Miss Illinois' scholarship committee shall be final and binding.

A Contestant who begins use of her scholarship within the time designated above will then be required to show continuous activity in her scholarship endeavors up to a limit of five (5) years [six (6) years for Miss Illinois] following the date of the award. If there occurs a one (1) year period in which there is no activity in an account, then the balance of that account will be forfeited. Similarly, any balance remaining in a Contestant's account five (5) years [six (6) years for Miss Illinois] following the date of the award will be forfeited.

**8) IN LIEU OF SCHOLARSHIP:**

No cash awards will be made in lieu of scholarship even though a Contestant may be a college graduate and may not intend to continue her education.

**9) CLAIMING SCHOLARSHIP:**

To claim any scholarship, please refer to [www.missillinois.org](http://www.missillinois.org) for the necessary forms.

**THE MISS ILLINOIS ORGANIZATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AMEND AND OR MODIFY THE FOREGOING SCHOLARSHIP RULES AND REGULATIONS AT ANY TIME WITHOUT NOTICE.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understood the 2017 Miss [Illinois](#) Organization State Scholarship Rules and Regulations:

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Signed

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Dated