

MISS *Amazing*

Directing a Chapter





Our Mission

We're on a mission to provide lifelong personal development opportunities that nurture self-esteem in girls and women with disabilities.

Our Vision

We envision a world where all women with disabilities have the opportunity to lead healthy and prosperous lives.

Our Approach



Educate

Building Self-Advocacy Skills

We provide opportunities for girls and women with disabilities to practice self-advocacy skills, giving them the tools they need to take an active role in the course of their lives.

Working with Parents and Allies

It's important that parents and allies of girls and women with disabilities are encouraging their daughters to be independent and ambitious - at Miss Amazing and beyond. Miss Amazing gives them tools and resources for guidance.

Increasing Awareness

We want the world to know what women with disabilities have to offer. By partnering with women with disabilities and amplifying their voices, we bring attention to issues that affect their lives.



Build a Network

Building Friendships, Celebrating Role Models

By participating in our self-advocacy intensives, girls and women with disabilities become part of an empowering sisterhood that celebrates female role models from different walks of life.

Pooling Resources

With information, comes strength. We connect our families with local organizations that support girls and women with disabilities and provide opportunities for families to network, share information and recommend resources.

Engaging with the Community

Big, strong networks mean self-esteem and power for women with disabilities. That's why our local chapters organize regular community engagement activities with their participants and families.

About Self-Advocacy

Self-Advocacy skills empower people to speak UP and OUT for what they want. With strong self-advocacy skills, girls and women with disabilities can take an active role in the course of their lives, giving them greater control and self-esteem.



Self-Determination

Self-determination is the ability to make choices about aspects of your life that are important to you - like what to eat, how to dress, and how to spend your spare time.



Goal-Setting

Goal-setting means making short and long-term goals and establishing the steps needed to get there.



Presentation

Presentation skills are verbal and nonverbal communication skills that empower you to communicate opinions and desires in a persuasive way.

Our Program

The **Miss Amazing Self-Advocacy Intensive** is an educational program that teaches self-advocacy skills to girls and women with disabilities ages 5+ in a fun environment with real stakes.

Drawing inspiration from pageantry, our local self-advocacy intensives are 1-2 day events that guide participants through interviewing and public speaking exercises. All along the way, participants connect with new friends and role models and define their interests and ambitions on their own terms.



Skill Areas

The required areas of participation at a Miss Amazing event are known as our Skill Areas.



Personal Introduction

Participants take to the stage to share short elevator speeches about themselves that mention their interests, hobbies, and ambitions.



Presentation in Evening Wear

Participants take to the stage in their favorite evening wear attire and show their self-assurance through body language and nonverbal communication.



Interview

Participants sit down with a small evaluation committee to discuss their interests, hobbies, and ambitions in a casual, intimate setting.

Age Divisions

Rising Stars

Ages 5-9

Preteen

Ages 10-12

Jr. Teen

Ages 13-15

Teen

Ages 16-19

Jr. Miss

Ages 20-23

Miss

Ages 24-27

Sr. Miss

Ages 28-35

Shooting Stars

Ages 36+



Miss Amazing Representatives

Miss Amazing representatives are selected at every local intensive to represent the organization for one year. Over the course of the year, these outstanding self-advocates engage in monthly community engagement activities with their local chapter and have the opportunity to attend the annual National Miss Amazing summit in Chicago.

Using a scoring system that Miss Amazing has refined for more than a decade, an evaluation committee scores the participants in the Preteen-Sr. Miss divisions on their performances in the skill areas. Scores are averaged to select Miss Amazing representatives in each of the six age divisions.

Participants are provided with the option to opt out of the representative track when they apply, should they want to limit their experience to the annual self-advocacy intensive.



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“I was diagnosed with a brain tumor at the young age of two and had two strokes, which left me paralyzed on the left side of my body. But I’ve come a long way. Thanks to Miss Amazing, I can tell my story, share my passions, and inspire others to achieve their dreams.”

- Riley, California Miss Amazing Participant

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“After being in Miss Amazing, Grace blossomed. She had an extra level of confidence that I had never seen before. She’s been more welcome here than she’s ever been welcomed anywhere.”

- Cathy, Grace’s Mom



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“Through Miss Amazing, I learned that I can make a difference in my community and that I am a great leader and public speaker! I learned that I have an important voice and, if I use it, the right people will listen. Miss Amazing has helped me gain tons of confidence and self-respect.”

- Chloe, Tennessee Miss Amazing Participant



Responsibilities of Miss Amazing Chapters



Organize an annual Self-Advocacy Intensive

Chapters are responsible for securing the venue and funding necessary to produce a 1-2 day self-advocacy intensive at some point between October and April.



Facilitate Monthly Community Engagement Activities for Families

Chapters are responsible for developing a year-long calendar of monthly community engagement activities, using input from the Miss Amazing representatives that were selected at the self-advocacy intensive. Community engagement activities can include promotional events like local parades, festivals, and fairs. However, the large majority of a chapter's monthly activities should be volunteer service initiatives like serving at local food banks, nursing homes, or animal shelters.



Support Miss Amazing Representatives attending National Miss Amazing

Chapters are responsible for coordinating one (1) fundraiser for their representatives to help offset travel expenses associated with attending the National Miss Amazing summit.

Responsibilities of Miss Amazing Inc.

Facilitate Onboarding Process

Miss Amazing provides access to a series of online training modules, collectively called Miss Amazing University. Miss Amazing University takes chapter directors step-by-step through event logistics, strategic planning, budgeting, accounting procedures, and much more. There's no need to re-invent the wheel when our organization's guidelines and best practices are all in one place.

Provide Web Tools and Standardized Documents

Included in Miss Amazing University, Miss Amazing provides chapters with access to a large collection of standardized literature and materials, including a budget template, informational materials, promotional assets, a sponsorship proposal template, financial tools, and much more. The national office also builds a website for each chapter and facilitates the delivery of participant and volunteer applications through the parent website.

Coordinate Bi-monthly Meetings

Small groups of Miss Amazing directors meet in video conferences every other month to discuss their successes and challenges and to hold each other accountable for the goals that they set.

Organize National Miss Amazing Event

The national office organizes the National Miss Amazing event at the end of every summer. In addition to serving and connecting Miss Amazing participants and their families, National Miss Amazing also hosts meetings for members of local leadership teams. At these meetings, our most dedicated volunteers discuss best practices and the larger vision of Miss Amazing.

Planning Stages

Ideation

2 MONTHS

Build Strategic Plan
Build Budget
Secure Venue and Date for Intensive
Finalize Event Schedule
Lay Groundwork for Promotion

Lift Off

2 MONTHS

Pursue Sponsors
Execute First Fundraiser(s)
Pursue Partnerships with Volunteer Partners
Pursue Partnerships with Gateways to Participants

Mid-Cycle

3 MONTHS

Confirm Emcee
Design and Order Signage
Finalize Scripts and Send to Emcee
Continue Pursuing Sponsors
Continue Pursuing Community Partners
Order Merchandise from National Office
Order Meals and T-Shirts for Event
Send Reminders of Application Deadline
Execute Fundraiser(s)

Peak

2 MONTHS

Order Awards
Send Out Volunteer Assignments
Send Schedules and Programs to Print
Order Name Badges
Set up Point of Sale System
Finalize Packing List

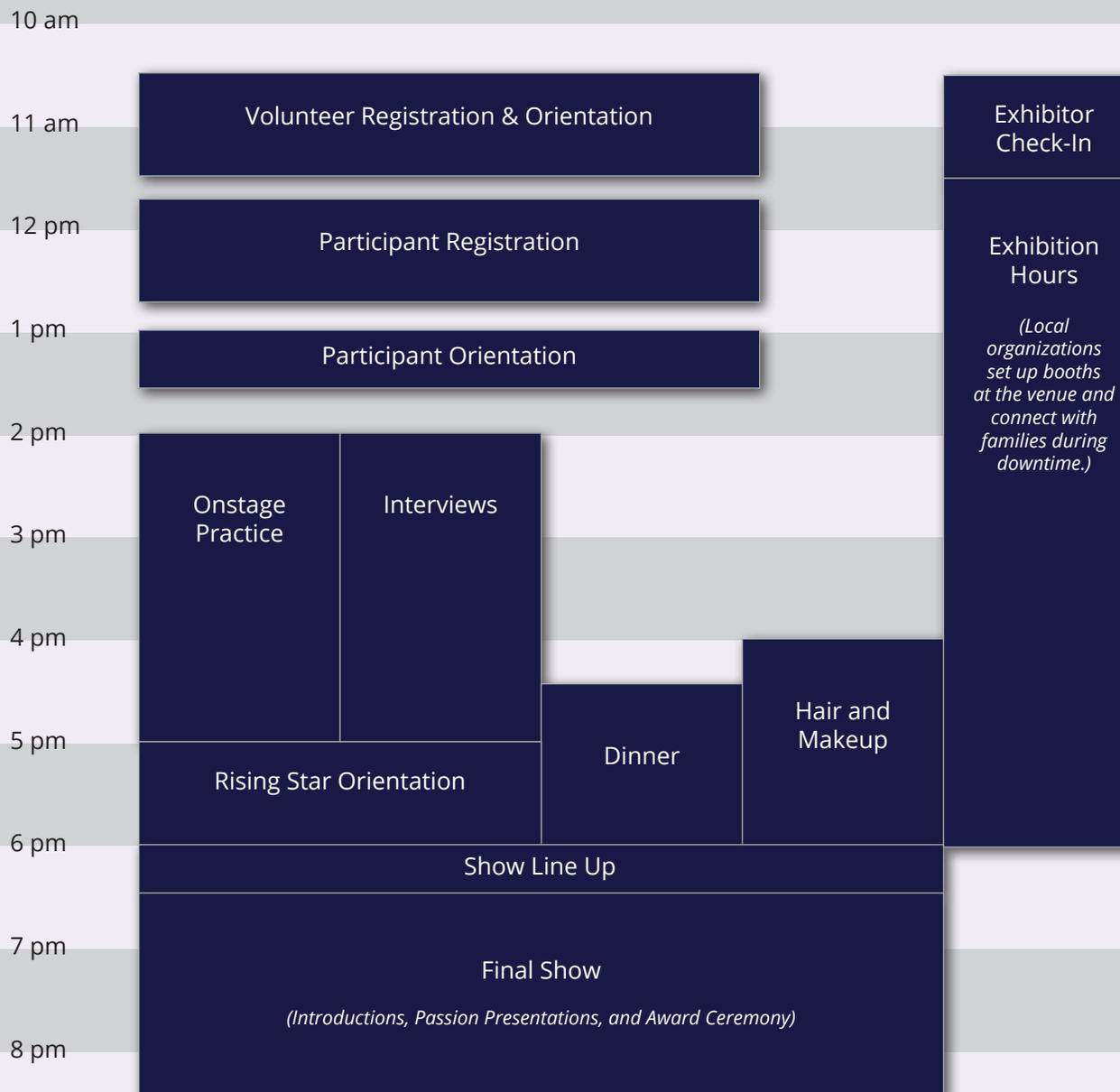
Post-Event

3 MONTHS

Make Final Deposits and Pay Outstanding Invoices
Finalize Financial Report
Arrange Orientation for New Representatives
Plan Community Engagement Activities for the Year
Hold Fundraiser to Support Travel to National Miss Amazing

Example Schedule

Each local Miss Amazing event is unique. Your event schedule will inevitably be shaped by the number of participants that enroll, restrictions from the venue, and a variety of other factors. Miss Amazing provides a number of schedule models for its chapters. See below for a typical schedule for a one-day event.



Example Budget

A chapter's budget is mostly shaped by the number of participants that enroll. See below for a summary of expenses that are typically associated with an event accommodating 30-50 participants.

The venue, trophies, t-shirts, and signage are just a few items that may be donated in-kind by generous companies in your area.

Venue and Production	\$3,000
Insurance	\$200
Signage	\$400
Office Supplies	\$200
Storage	\$500
Printing	\$200
Awards	\$800
T-Shirts	\$700
Misc. Supplies	\$800
Web Services	\$300

\$7,100

** After the annual event, a Miss Amazing chapter contributes a set percentage of its revenue to the national organization to support sustained growth of our impact.

Suggested Separation of Duties

A Miss Amazing chapter is as strong as its team. The only positions that Miss Amazing requires chapters to have filled are the “Director” and “Treasurer” positions. However, each team should have at least 5 dedicated team members that have their own responsibilities in addition to sharing the responsibility of fundraising. See below for an example of how tasks are commonly dispersed.

Director

The leadership team director maintains the big-picture vision of the Miss Amazing program. He or she is responsible for:

- Completing all areas of training provided by Miss Amazing Inc.
- With input from the leadership team, developing a vision for the local program and a strategic plan to bring that vision to life.
- Guiding the leadership team to success. This includes being a superb delegator, communicator and motivator.
- Actively engaging with Miss Amazing’s nationwide team of directors by attending bi-monthly conference calls.

Treasurer

The treasurer works with the director to ensure the financial health of the chapter. This person is responsible for tracking receipts, issuing and depositing checks, and categorizing bank transactions.

Director of Staff

This member works with the director to recruit volunteers to fill the many different positions essential to a Miss Amazing event. Some of these positions include judges (must be people with extensive experience in disability advocacy and/or disability services), emcees, backstage assistants, ticket collectors, hair and make up artists, and merchandise table managers. The Director of Staff is responsible for:

- Recruiting qualified people to fill expertise-specific staff positions like judges, emcees, and hair and make up artists
- Recruiting local organizations that serve girls and women with disabilities to sign on as exhibitors
- Recruiting and training a trustworthy group of volunteers to help with odds and ends
- Communicating responsibilities, call-times, dress-code, and other pertinent information to staff members before the event
- Managing staff members at the event

Director of Buddies

This member works with the state director in recruiting Buddy volunteers. Buddies must be present during all event activities as they are responsible for supporting a participant throughout her Miss Amazing experience. The Director of Buddies is responsible for:

- Recruiting a sufficient number of Buddies to be paired up with participants at a 1:1 ratio (colleges, high schools, sororities, and youth groups are common sources for Buddies)
- Maintaining communication with Buddies leading up to the event and fielding questions.
- Arranging Buddy/participant assignments
- Communicating participant assignments, call-times, dress-code, and other pertinent information to Buddies before the event
- Managing Buddies at the event

Director of Participants

This member works with the state director in recruiting participants, Rising Stars, and Shooting Stars. The Director of Participants is responsible for:

- Nurturing relationships with organizations that serve people with disabilities that could send their clients to Miss Amazing (organizations including Special Olympics, the Arc, and Best Buddies are common sources for participants)
- Working with the director to maintain communication with families leading up to the event

Social Media and Graphics Lead

It's helpful to have a team member with a good design eye and with experience using design software like Adobe Illustrator and InDesign. The social media and graphics lead should also be a strong writer with an interest in media and communications. He or she is responsible for:

- Composing and sharing at least 1 social media post/week
- Designing chapter-specific literature like fliers, presentations, and the event program

Fast Facts

How many participants and volunteers does Miss Amazing expect a leadership team to recruit?

Each leadership team should strive to recruit 100 participants and at least 150 volunteers. Achieving this goal may take 2-3 years. First-time events typically have 30-50 participants and 50-80 volunteers.

Are chapter directors or committee members compensated?

Miss Amazing chapter directors and committee members are volunteers and are not compensated monetarily. However, our volunteers gain plenty in fulfillment, joy, and skills!

How many years should a director expect to commit to the position?

Miss Amazing asks for a three-year commitment from chapter directors. This commitment allows Miss Amazing to develop roots in the community and gives directors ample time to train an apprentice who will take over for the director when he or she has decided to move on.

Does the self-advocacy intensive need to be held during a certain time of the year?

Local self-advocacy intensives must be held between October and April.

How much does a leadership team need to raise to produce a self-advocacy intensive?

A leadership team needs to raise anywhere between \$6,000 and \$10,000 to produce an annual self-advocacy intensive. The final budget is dictated by the number of participants that enroll and by the amount of in-kind donations that are secured.

Thank you!

We look forward to working with you to open doors of opportunity for girls and women in your community.

Ready to apply? Go to www.missamazing.org/direct-a-program to begin.

Have questions? Send us an email at info@missamazing.org.



@missamazinginc



@missamazinginc



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