



IMPORTANT DATES IN MISS AMERICA HISTORY

- 1921** First Miss America competition is held.
- 1935** Talent is added to the competition.
- 1945** First scholarship grant (\$5,000) is awarded to Bess Myerson, the first college graduate to serve as Miss America.
- 1950s** The Miss America Scholarship Fund reaches over \$250,000.
- 1954** First nationally televised Miss America telecast kicks off one of the longest-running live events in television history.
- 1955** Bert Parks begins his 25-year tenure as Master of Ceremonies, introducing the program's theme song, "There She Is, Miss America."
- 1966** Miss America is broadcast for the first time in color.
- 1989** Focus on achievement comes of age, as the platform program is introduced.
- 1994** Heather Whitestone, who is profoundly deaf, is the first woman with a disability to become Miss America.
- 1995** By the 75th Anniversary of Miss America and 50th Anniversary of the Miss America Scholarship Fund, the Organization has become the world's largest provider of scholarships for young women in the world.
- 1996** The Miss America Organization conducts its first-ever *National Day of Service* by staging nearly 100 events throughout the country featuring Miss America Organization titleholders and community, government, business and education leaders.
- 1997** The Miss America telecast appears on ABC television for the first time since the 1950s.
- 2000** Miss America Organization celebrates its 80th Anniversary.
- 2001** The judging system at the national level is revamped in order to better reflect the goals of the Miss America Organization. In doing so, the organization is able to provide nearly \$50,000 more in scholarship money at the national level.
- 2003** Introduction of the Casual Wear Phase of the Competition. The national judging process was revised to accommodate this addition.
- 2004** Miss America celebrates 50 years on television
- 2005** CMT and Miss America Organization Reach Multi-Year Deal for the Telecast Rights to "Miss America Pageant"