



Approved Performing Arts & Talent List

Vocal	Dance
Instruments	Gymnastics (all types)
Baton Twirling	Painting
Magic	Stand Up Comedy
Dramatic Reading	Monologues
Slam Poetry	Spoken Word
Flags or Color Guard Presentation	Martial Arts Demo
Silks	Roller Skating
Hula Hoops	Balancing Acts
Unicycling	Juggling
Theatrical Science Experiments	Ventriloquism
Rodeo/Roping	Cheerleading
Contortionist	Signing
Storytelling (HerStory)	Ballroom Dancing*
	Cheer Skills*

**Partner approval by request.*

***The list above was determined by the Miss America Opportunity.
The Miss Spokane Scholarship Organization does not have the ability to edit the list.***

Miss Spokane

Scholarship Organization

TALENT RULES & REGULATIONS

MSSO = Miss Spokane Scholarship Organization

Overview:

- Talent performances must be listed on the "Approved Performing Arts & Talent List" from the Miss America Organization.
- Only ballroom dancing and cheerleading talents are allowed to use a partner, approved by request.
- Talents may not exceed 90 seconds (1.5 minutes) in length.
- If a contestant has a special microphone, sound, lighting, or prop request, these must be discussed with the MSSO in advance.
- Lighting will remain the same for each phase of the competition – unless the talent requires it for visual purposes (determined by the MSSO).
- Contestants, parents, etc. may NOT contact any rehearsal or competition venue for any reason. All questions must go through the MSSO.
- No two contestants may perform the same talent selection. For example: if a contestant is singing "At Last," then no other contestant may sing, dance, play, etc. the same song nor a version of that song. Talents are selected on a first come, first serve basis.
- Once a talent selection has been made on the Production and Talent Form, the talent selection may not be changed.
- In the event of a technical difficulty during the competition that inhibits the judges' ability to fairly judge the performance, the stage will go dark and sound will be cut. A contestant must not stop her performance unless the stage goes dark. The contestant will be asked if she wants to immediately restart, or wait until the end of the lineup to restart. The technical difficulty must be witnessed by the production staff. Contestant "mess ups" do not count as technical difficulties.

Music:

- Background tracks are required for ALL contestants, except instrumentalists (although, they are still highly encouraged for instrumentalists as well). Instrumentalists that do not use a background track will be timed. If a contestant goes over 90 seconds, the judges will be informed.
- Tracks may not exceed 90 seconds (1.5 Minutes) in length.
- Tracks must be submitted/approved by the specified deadline. If no track is received, then the MSSO will choose the background track. Any unacceptable tracks will be returned to the contestant for editing. If no acceptable track is submitted to the MSSO by the deadline, the MSSO will choose the background track. It is advised to submit background tracks as early as possible so that they may be approved by the deadline.
- ALL background tracks must be found on the ASCAP/BMI website (see Production & Talent Form or MSSO website for link to ASCAP/BMI website). If a contestant is performing to a mix of different songs, all songs in the mix must be found on the ASCAP/BMI website.
- If a contestant needs help editing a track, finding a background track, or finding the background track on the ASCAP/BMI website, the MSSO is more than happy to help. Requests for help must be made at least 3 days prior to the submission deadline.
- In the case of a vocalist (singer): An accompaniment may contain background vocal parts. While those voices should blend with the contestant's voice, they must not overpower her. A

contestant may provide her own background vocals, using her own voice. This will not be announced that she has done so to the judges. A contestant may only be judged on what she performs live.

- In the case of an instrumentalist: An accompaniment may include the instrument a contestant is playing on stage. However, the instrument must not overpower the contestant (i.e., the accompaniment for a pianist may contain piano, but there should be no question in the judges' minds what notes are coming from the candidate live onstage.)
- In the case of a tap dancer, clogger, or similar: Music may not include any tap sounds.
- A contestant may participate in the recording of her track by playing an instrument during her pre-record, but such will not be announced to the judges. She will only be judged on what is performed live.

Props:

- Props are not required.
- All props must be preapproved by the MSSO.
- All props must be brought to rehearsal(s) when the contestant performs her talent.
- Props must be brought to the venue when the contestant arrives on competition day and must be taken home immediately following the competition. No early or late drop offs are allowed.
- Props must be easy for 1-2 people to set up and remove from stage with minimal strength, in no more than 30-45 seconds.
- NO large gymnastic/cheerleading mats will be allowed. Mats may not cover a total square footage of larger than 20ft x 20ft when fully set up (and hooked together if multiple pieces).
- NO props requiring "clean up" or that make the floor hazardous for contestants to walk/perform on afterwards will be allowed.
- NO hazardous/dangerous science experiments are allowed.
- NO fire is allowed.
- NO glitter is allowed.
- For any painters or science experiments, the contestant must provide her own thick/heavy duty tarp to place on the stage to protect the floor from any accidental spills or splashes. The tarp must be thick enough so that it does not rip when walked on (especially with high heels) and must not rip when tape is applied to secure it to the floor. Black heavy duty tarps are preferred, as they blend best with the stage.
- Only the Miss Spokane Organization production team will set up and remove props from the stage – no one else is allowed backstage.



PARTNER PROP OVERVIEW

- All partners must sign the Partner Prop Agreement.
- The partner is not scored during the performance.
- The time limit for talent performances remains 90 seconds maximum.
- A video of the intended talent performance must be submitted, prior to approval.
- The partner must be dressed in all black.
- The partner may not have any solo performances.
- The partner must be at least 13-years-old on competition day.
- The partner must not have an immediate family member on the judging panel, serving as a board member in the Miss Spokane Organization, nor volunteering backstage. An immediate family member is defined as child, spouse, parent, grandparents, aunt, great aunt, uncle, great uncle, niece, nephew, and sibling – whether by whole or half blood, or by marriage, including step children or adoptions or spouse of any of the foregoing.
- The partner must have never been convicted of a criminal offense, other than a minor traffic offense, and no criminal charges are pending against him/her.
- The partner must attend rehearsal(s) at the time when talents are performed. They do not stay for the entire rehearsal.
- The partner must attend the dress rehearsal at the time when talent is performed. They do not stay for the entire rehearsal.