



## NEWSLETTER

### New Hampshire delegates shine on the national Miss America Stage!

We are so proud of our Miss New Hampshire, **Xanthi Russell**, and Miss New Hampshire's Teen, **Megan Plaza**, for representing our state with such grace, confidence, and commitment at the national Miss America Competition in Orlando this September. Competing at the national level is an incredible achievement, and both of these remarkable young women showcased the very best of New Hampshire through their talent, service, and leadership. We couldn't be prouder!

Please join us in welcoming Xanthi and Megan back to New Hampshire as they continue their year of service, inspiring young people, advocating for their community service initiatives, and serving as role models across the state. We hope you can join us for a welcome home party, *The World Tour Continues*, on October 23<sup>rd</sup> (see page 5 for details!). Their journey is a true reminder that success is not only measured by titles and crowns, but by the lasting impact they create in the lives of others.



### Upcoming Events

#### **The World Tour Continues**

Thu, Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 PM ET

[Click here for tickets](#)

(must be purchased by Oct 8th!)

#### **Miss NH's Teen Tea Party**

Saturday, November 22, 2025

**Sign-up  
here to get  
our Newsletter!**



Photo credit: Houston McCullough

To suggest a topic for a future newsletter,  
use our [topic suggestion form](#) or email [media@missnh.org](mailto:media@missnh.org)!



Follow us!

[www.missnh.org](http://www.missnh.org)

## Miss NH Trunk Show: A Stylish Success!



The Miss New Hampshire & Miss New Hampshire's Teen Trunk Show was held on August 14, 2025, bringing together local titleholders, contestants, and supporters for a dazzling display of style, community, and celebration. Xanthi and Megan shared their Miss America wardrobes, showcasing looks for the various phases of competition—including talent, evening wear, and interview—giving the audience an exclusive sneak peek of what they planned to wear on the national stage. Guests mingled, shared words of encouragement, and were offered a unique opportunity to experience Xanthi and Megan's dedication, preparation, and heart behind their wardrobe choices.

A highlight of national competition week is the Go Red for Women® Gala. This year, in a touching tribute to Miss New Hampshire history, Xanthi wore a beautiful red gown designed by Vera Wang for Miss America delegates in the 1990 competition. Jen Blanchard, Miss New Hampshire 1989, generously let Xanthi borrow this timeless gown for her Miss America experience (*see our feature on Jen Blanchard on page 3!*). "I truly believe so strongly in the legacy of our 'forevers' at both the state and national level," said Xanthi. "This program is all about sisterhood, leadership and mentorship and I'm so grateful to play a role in that special circle of women!"



Photo credit: Houston McCullough

Volunteers  
needed

**Interested in getting more involved? Sign-up to volunteer!**

[Volunteer Sign-up Form](#)



Volunteers  
needed

You can help with event planning, donor outreach, production of the state competition, accompanying Miss NH at events, serving as Field Director for local competitions, and more!



Follow us!

[www.missnh.org](http://www.missnh.org)



# Miss New Hampshire 1989 --- Catching up with Jen Blanchard!

We caught up with Jen Blanchard, Miss New Hampshire 1989, to see what she has been up to since completing her year of service

## **How did you first get involved with the Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Program?**

When I was a little girl, I never missed watching Miss America on TV—it was something I looked forward to every year. As I got older, I loved reading the Union Leader articles about the local pageants and the Miss New Hampshire program. At 19, I finally decided to give it a try and entered the Miss Deerfield Fair pageant. Much to my surprise, I won! That moment launched my two years of competing, and I was so honored to be named Miss New Hampshire 1989.



## **What did you gain from participating in the Miss NH Scholarship Program?**

The program gave me so much more than I ever imagined. Of course, I was grateful for the scholarship money, the chance to go to Miss America, and the honor of representing our great state. But the biggest gift was the family Mike and I found along the way. Over the past 35+ years, that “second family” has continued to grow, and it’s been such a joy to be part of it.



Jen Blanchard wearing the Vera Wang “Lady in Red” dress at the 1990 Miss America competition.

## **What are you up to today and how have you stayed involved with the program?**

I’ve been in pharmaceutical sales for 25 years—21 of them with Merck—and now I’m a Therapeutic Hematology Sales Representative with Bristol-Myers Squibb. Outside of that, I’m passionate about fitness! I’m a personal trainer, indoor cycling instructor, and TRX instructor. Mike and I are still very involved with the Miss New Hampshire program—over the years I’ve served on the board, been Judges’ Chair, and most recently worked as a dressing room chaperone. Mike is the set designer and builder for all of our shows.

## **What is a fun fact or something people might be surprised to learn about you?**

I’m a total trivia buff and a game show nut—I never miss a chance to test my knowledge (or shout answers at the TV!).



Follow us!

[www.missnh.org](http://www.missnh.org)

# Brooke (Mills) Schuessler, Miss New Hampshire 2023, continues her legacy through National Concussion Awareness Day



U.S. Senator Maggie Hassan recognized September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, as National Concussion Awareness Day. Senator Hassan has led Concussion Awareness Day since her time as Governor of New Hampshire, following the advocacy of Brooke (Mills) Schuessler, our Miss New Hampshire 2023, who experienced a life-altering concussion when she was in high school. Instead of letting her concussion get the best of her, Brooke turned her injury into a platform that she used to educate people about the dangers of concussions, including gaining support to declare a National Concussion Awareness Day!

**Learn more about concussion prevention, treatment, and advocacy!**

[CDC](#)

[Brain Injury Association of America](#)  
[Concussion Legacy Foundation](#)

In a [press release](#), Senator Hassan said, "I'm grateful to Granite Stater Brooke Schuessler, whose dedicated advocacy continues to drive meaningful change in how we approach concussion awareness."

*Congratulations Brooke!*

**Miss New Hampshire 2025**

Xanthi Russell



**BOOK NOW**

**Bring the excitement of  
Miss New Hampshire to  
your next event!**

Whether it's singing the National Anthem, delivering an inspiring speech, or engaging with your audience, Xanthi and Megan stand ready to serve the Granite State!

**Miss NH's Teen 2025**

Megan Plaza



**BOOK NOW**

Have [Xanthi](#) or [Megan](#) attend your next event!  
Visit [missnh.org](http://missnh.org) to book!



Follow us!

[www.missnh.org](http://www.missnh.org)



The Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Program presents

# The World Tour Continues!

## Miss America's World Tour isn't over just yet!

Join us for an exciting evening to celebrate Xanthi and Megan as they return from Orlando - and to celebrate our nearly complete Miss New Hampshire and Miss New Hampshire's Teen classes! The World Tour is making a stop in "Mexico" for a night of dancing, dinner and sisterhood - you won't want to miss out on the fun!

**October 23, 2025**

**6:00pm - 10:00pm**

Atkinson Country Club  
Atkinson, NH

**\$50 per person**

Tickets must be purchased [online](#) before Oct 8th!



**Miss New Hampshire**  
Scholarship Program, Inc.

We hope you will join us!



Follow us!

[www.missnh.org](http://www.missnh.org)



## Celebrating "Scholarship" and "Success"

This issue we continue to celebrate our scholarship award winners from the 2025 state competition! Thank you to our generous donors and sponsors who make these scholarships possible! We will continue to feature our scholarship winners in future newsletters.

Become  
an In-Kind  
Sponsor!

Donate!

*Reminder* →

**Scholarship award winners can access their scholarship funds by visiting the Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Foundation Website ([request funds here!](#))**

### 2025 State Competition Awards

*Scholarship*



**MADDIE HAWKES**  
Northeast Delta Dental  
STEM Award



**MEGAN WELCH**  
Northeast Delta Dental  
STEM Award



**OLIVIA PARZICK**  
Northeast Delta Dental  
STEM Award



**MORGAN TORRE**  
Academic Achievement  
Award



**MOLLY KERRIGAN**  
Scholastic Middle School  
Award



**NYLAH GEURIN**  
Scholastic High School  
Award

Photo credit: Katrina Bernard Photography

Thank you to our amazing donors for sponsoring these awards!



Follow us!

[www.missnh.org](http://www.missnh.org)



# 2025 State Competition Awards

# Success

## Miss



**MARY KELEHER**  
Miss Capital Area Legacy  
Scholarship Award



**OLIVIA PARZICK**  
Enterprise Bank Women  
in Leadership Award



**MEGAN SOUCY**  
Producer's Leadership  
Award



**ABIGAIL SAHLIN**  
Forever Miss NH  
Talent Award

## Teen



**EMMA POLYUKHOVICH**  
Miss Capital Area Legacy  
Scholarship Award



**ADDESON DOLBEC**  
Producer's Leadership  
Award



**TABITHA FLATTES**  
Non-Traditional  
Talent Award



**EMMA POLYUKHOVICH**  
High Scoring  
Dance Award



**MEGAN PLAZA**  
High Scoring  
Vocal Award



**ALY BLAIS**  
Non-Finalist  
Talent Award



**OLIVIA SCHARR**  
Non-Finalist  
Interview Award

Photo credit: Katrina Bernard Photography



Follow us!

[www.missnh.org](http://www.missnh.org)

## Miss NH in the news



Read about many of our **Miss and Teen titleholders'** participation in Londonderry Old Home Day in August 2025 .



Read about **Xanthi Russell**, Miss New Hampshire 2025, hoping to make history as she heads to the national Miss America competition.



Read about **Xanthi Russell**, Miss New Hampshire 2025, and **Megan Plaza**, Miss New Hampshire's Teen 2025, as they prepare to take the national stage at the national Miss America competition.

## Upcoming Local Competitions

There is still time to earn a spot in our 2026 state competition! To compete at the state level for both Miss and Teen, you need to earn a local title during the local competition season. We hope to see you on the stage!

### Sunday, October 5, 2025

- Miss Greater Hooksett & Miss Greater Hooksett's Teen
- Miss Merrimack & Miss Merrimack's Teen
- Miss Gate City & Miss Gate City's Teen

### Saturday October 11, 2025

- Miss Stratham & Miss Stratham's Teen
- Miss Exeter's Teen
- Miss Seacoast & Miss Seacoast's Teen

### Saturday, November 8, 2025

- Miss Berlin-Gorham & Miss Berlin-Gorham's Teen



Dates are subject to change. Contact the local program listed on our [local programs website](#) to confirm dates and for more information.

## About the Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Program

The Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Program, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(4) non-profit organization and an official state program of the Miss America Organization. Scholarships are administered by the Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Foundation, Inc., a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The mission of the program is to empower young women through scholarship competitions and to provide community service and leadership opportunities while fostering life-long friendships through the Miss America Organization. For more information about the program, to host Miss New Hampshire or Miss New Hampshire's Teen at a local event, or to donate to the scholarship foundation, please visit [missnh.org](http://missnh.org).



Follow us!

[www.missnh.org](http://www.missnh.org)