



NEWSLETTER

Countdown to Miss America National Competition!

The excitement is building as **Lauren Plank**, Miss New Hampshire 2026, and **Kendall Laroche**, Miss New Hampshire's Teen 2026, prepare to take the national stage later this month! On August 6, 2026, the Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Program hosted our annual **Trunk Show**, bringing together local titleholders, contestants, and supporters for a dazzling display of style, community, and celebration. **Emily Spencer**, Miss New Hampshire 2024, and **Caroline Carter**, Miss New Hampshire's Teen 2014 and Miss New Hampshire 2016, served as emcees. Lauren and Kendall shared their Miss America wardrobes, showcasing looks for the various events and phases of competition, including visitation, talent, and evening wear, giving the audience an exclusive sneak peek of what they plan to wear on the national stage. Guests mingled, shared words of encouragement, and were offered a unique opportunity to experience Lauren and Kendall's dedication and heart as they prepare for an experience of a lifetime!

Trunk Show



Save
THE
DATE

Miss NH & Miss NH's Teen
Tea Party
Sat January 9, 2027



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Prepare the world for great women.*



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Miss America

Tribute to America's 250th

Aug 31 - Sept 6, 2026
West Palm Beach, FL

TEEN PRELIM:

Tues SEPT 1, 7pm ET

TEEN FINALS:

Sat SEPT 5, 7pm ET

MISS PRELIM:

Wed SEPT 2, 7pm ET

MISS FINALS:

Sun SEPT 6, 7pm ET

TALENT PRELIMS:

Thur SEPT 3, 5pm ET



Visit  missamerica.org
for more information!



Photo credit: Ashley Long

America's Choice Voting Now Open!

Be sure to vote for Lauren & Kendall to help them secure a coveted spot in the Top 11 Semifinals!



Vote for **Lauren** [here!](#)



Vote for **Kendall** [here!](#)



Check out our refreshed Miss New Hampshire **Merch Store** with new styles featuring **America 250** themed apparel and accessories!

[**Miss New Hampshire Store**](#)



Sign up for **Miss America's The Sash Report**, the inside scoop on brand ambassador appearances, sneak peeks at new partnerships and collaborations, behind-the-scenes information, and showcase articles straight to your inbox on a monthly basis.



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Miss New Hampshire

Goes to Philly!

In July, **Lauren Plank**, Miss New Hampshire 2026, proudly represented New Hampshire in Philadelphia during the **America 250 celebration**, joining fellow Miss America state titleholders from across the country for this historic national event. Lauren's participation was a wonderful opportunity to showcase New Hampshire at a national event while connecting with titleholders from across the nation. Lauren was transported in style by our generous sponsor, **Pat's Car Service!**



Lauren is pictured with her fellow New England sisters.

Check out Lauren's luggage sponsored by **Samsonite!**

Lauren worked with **Togatae Designs** to create a beautiful shoe to represent her and New Hampshire in the **Show Me Your Shoes Parade!** The design features the NH state flower, the lilac, and carries an especially meaningful touch as the shoe incorporates Lauren's grandmother's favorite color.



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Catching up with Miss New Hampshire 2000 Lauren Meehan Machos

Lauren returned to the Miss New Hampshire stage during our 2026 competition production, sharing her incredible talent as a featured singer and reminding us of the lasting legacy of women who have proudly worn the Miss New Hampshire crown. We caught up with Lauren after the competition 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?

My journey with the Miss New Hampshire Organization began at 17 when I competed in the Miss Nashua local program. It all started with a family friend who believed in my musical abilities and challenged me to step outside my comfort zone. We still joke that her simple “I dare you” led me to my first scholarship competition. Although I finished as 3rd Runner-Up, I earned my first scholarship dollars and was inspired by the talented young women I met. After taking time to adjust to my freshman year at the University of New Hampshire, my father encouraged me to compete again, not just for the experience, but to help fund my education.

I went on to win the Miss Lakes Region title and that year, I was honored to be crowned Miss New Hampshire 2000. Through scholarship awards for talent and interview, and ultimately through the Miss New Hampshire and Miss America Organizations, I was able to graduate from the University of New Hampshire with my education fully funded. What began as a simple challenge became a life-changing opportunity. Beyond the financial support, the organization shaped my confidence, leadership, and commitment to service, qualities that continue to guide me today.

What did you gain from participating in the Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Program?

It is difficult to identify a single most memorable moment because my year of service was filled with extraordinary opportunities. I was privileged to use my voice in many ways; advocating for important causes through public speaking and education, as well as through music, including the honor of singing for the President of the United States, performing with the Boston Pops, and singing the National Anthem at sporting events throughout New England. While those experiences were unforgettable, the greatest impact came from the skills I developed along the way. The ability to communicate effectively, speak with confidence, build meaningful relationships, and cultivate a strong professional network has been invaluable throughout my career. Those foundational skills continue to influence my leadership style and have played a significant role in my professional success.





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

This year marks 26 years since I was honored to be crowned Miss New Hampshire, and each time I return for show week, I am reminded of the friendships, opportunities, and lasting impact this organization has had on my life. It is a joy to come back most year's to perform, judge, and to celebrate the next generation of young women pursuing their own dreams.

Today, my greatest joy is my family. I am blessed to share life with my husband and our three children: a high school senior, a sophomore, and an 8th grader. Watching them grow into remarkable young adults has been my life's most rewarding privilege. Professionally, I have spent more than 23 years in the biopharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, dedicated to advancing cancer therapies. I currently lead a global function focused on strategy and partnerships with internationally recognized lung cancer experts, work that is both deeply meaningful and humbling.

Alongside that career, I have remained connected to my lifelong passion for music as a professional jazz vocalist. I perform with my jazz quartet and various big swing bands, and over the past several years we've released two album records available on all platforms and continue creating new music together - with 2 new singles coming this year. www.Laurenjmeehan.com

When work and music pause, I find the greatest happiness in the simple moments being home with my family, our three dogs, chickens, and the life we've built together. Looking back over the past 26 years, I've come to appreciate that while accomplishments are meaningful, it is the people we love, the memories we create, and the opportunity to make a difference that bring the deepest fulfillment.

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

While much of my professional life is spent leading teams, building partnerships, and speaking on global stages, I've come to value the balance that a quieter life provides. Over the years, I've embraced being more of an introvert, recognizing that career success is strengthened by moments of reflection, renewal, and intentional living.

I'm passionate about health and wellness and have adopted a longevity-focused lifestyle, prioritizing my physical, mental, and emotional well-being. I believe that taking care of ourselves enables us to show up more fully for others, whether as leaders, colleagues, family members, or friends.

Lately, that mindset has extended into new adventures at home. I've discovered a love for gardening, homesteading, and yes, even perfecting sourdough bread! There's something incredibly rewarding about slowing down, learning new skills, and finding joy in creating something from the ground up. Those simple pursuits remind me that growth, whether in life or leadership, often begins with patience, consistency, and a willingness to keep learning.





Local Competition Season Heats Up!

The road to the **Miss New Hampshire** and **Miss New Hampshire's Teen 2027** competitions is officially underway! Across the Granite State, our local scholarship programs are welcoming a new class of talented, service-minded young women as they begin their journeys toward the state stage. The 2026 local competition season kicked off in June. Each event has showcased the incredible leadership, talent, and community impact that define the Miss America Opportunity while awarding valuable scholarships and local titles.

While we've already celebrated many outstanding new titleholders, there are still several **opportunities to join the Miss New Hampshire family** this season! Whether you're ready to compete, volunteer, or cheer on your favorite contestant, we encourage you to **support one of our remaining local competitions** (see page 9).

We can't wait to welcome even more remarkable young women into the Class of 2027 as the season continues. Interested in competing in a local program? Visit the Miss NH **Local Programs** [page](#) to find event information, contacts, and everything you need to get involved.



Reminder →

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



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Book Lauren & Kendall for your next event!

Bring the excitement of Miss New Hampshire to your next event! Whether it's delivering an inspiring speech, performing a dance, or engaging with your audience, Lauren and Kendall stand ready to serve the Granite State!



Miss NH in the news



Read about Miss New Hampshire 2026, **Lauren Plank**, and many of our local titleholders joining hundreds of community members at the **Best Buddies Seacoast Friendship Walk** in Exeter. The event raised more than \$60,000 to support inclusion and friendship for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Best Buddies is a Miss America national partner.



Read about Miss New Hampshire 2026, **Lauren Plank**, joining residents of **Nashua Post Acute Care** for a special **senior prom**, celebrating the residents with an evening of music, dancing, and connection.



Read about Miss New Hampshire 2026, **Lauren Plank**, joining **Fourth of July festivities in Conway** as the community celebrated Independence Day.

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



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Miss New Hampshire
Scholarship Program



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Upcoming Local Competitions

Our local competition season is underway!

To compete at the state level for both Miss and Teen, you need to earn a local title during the local competition season. Contact the local program to confirm dates and for more information. We hope to see you on the stage!

Saturday, August 15, 2026

- Miss Lakes Region & Miss Lakes Region's Teen
- Miss Lilac State & Miss Lilac State's Teen
- Miss Gate City & Miss Gate City's Teen

Sunday, August 23, 2026

- Miss Bedford & Miss Bedford's Teen

Sunday, September 13, 2026

- Miss Souhegan Valley & Miss Souhegan Valley's Teen

Sunday, October 4, 2026

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

Saturday, November 7, 2026

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

Dates are subject to change. For more information on individual programs and to confirm competition dates, please visit our [local programs website](#).

Become a part of the sisterhood!



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.



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