



NEWSLETTER

Rehearsals begin for the 2026 competition— Our 80th anniversary year!

Contestants competing for the title of Miss New Hampshire 2026 and Miss New Hampshire's Teen 2026 kicked off competition rehearsals in March. These are the first of several all-day events to prepare them for the upcoming competitions. This year we have 24 incredible young women competing for the title of Miss New Hampshire and 22 competing for Miss New Hampshire's Teen. We can't wait for you to see them show off their hard work on the stage in a few weeks! The 2026 competition will be a memorable and meaningful celebration of our program's 80th year. Be sure to join us!

See page 7 for more information about this year's competition!



Forever Miss NH Ball
Sat April 18th, 2026
Tickets sales are closed!

**Miss NH Scholarship Program
Celebration Luncheon**
Mon Apr 27th, 2026
Tickets are on sale now!
(see page 6 for details)

**Miss NH & Miss NH's Teen 2026
State Competition**
Wed Apr 29th - Sat May 2nd, 2026
Tickets are on sale now!
(see page 7 for details)!

To suggest a topic for a future newsletter [here](#) or email media@missnh.org!

Sign-up [here](#) to get our Newsletter!



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Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Program supports multiple New Hampshire charity events

Our state and local titleholders were honored to attend two recent charitable events, continuing their commitment to service while supporting organizations that make a lasting difference throughout New Hampshire.



The 80th Anniversary **Sweetheart Ball**, hosted by Catholic Charities New Hampshire, was a meaningful evening that brought together community leaders and supporters to celebrate service, philanthropy, and the power of giving back through programs that provide critical resources to individuals and families across the Granite State.



Photo credit: Capturing Wisdom Photography

The **Rising Rose Gala**, supporting the Rising Rose Foundation, was a beautiful evening dedicated to giving back and uplifting our community here in New Hampshire. This inspiring nonprofit empowers women to lead meaningful change through its four core programs: Health, Home, Harvest, and Holiday, which provide support such as medical assistance, home repairs, food relief, and holiday gifts for families facing difficult circumstances.



Ready to Serve!

The young women of the Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Program are ready to lend a hand to other New Hampshire non-profits! Email Outreach@MissNH.org or visit our [website](http://www.missnh.org) for more information.



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Catching up with Peggy Bean Miss New Hampshire 1976

In honor of her **50th anniversary** of being crowned Miss New Hampshire, we checked in with Peggy 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 20, one of my best friends said she was attending the Barbizon School of Modeling in Boston and asked me if I'd like to take the modeling class with her. After completing the program, one of the instructors mentioned to me that I should enter pageants. After some consideration, I decided to give it a try and it was a great experience. My first pageant was Miss Hampton Beach and I was 3rd runner-up. Following that, I went on to win Miss Portsmouth and Miss Winnepesaukee. None of these pageants involved a talent portion. Shortly after winning Miss Winnepesaukee, I received a letter asking me to be in the Miss New Hampshire competition. At that time, I had just interviewed with Eastern Airlines and had been hired to be a flight attendant. I was hesitant to participate in Miss Hampshire because I had to leave for flight attendant training and I did not have a talent. My three older sisters encouraged me and reminded me it was a great opportunity. They promised that they would teach me to dance with a Fred Astaire dance book. My mother took on the role as my costume designer and I decided to do dancing through the ages because it was the bicentennial year. At the pageant, the audience loved my performance, which was huge because talent counted 40%.



What is one of your most memorable experiences during your time with the Miss NH Scholarship Program?

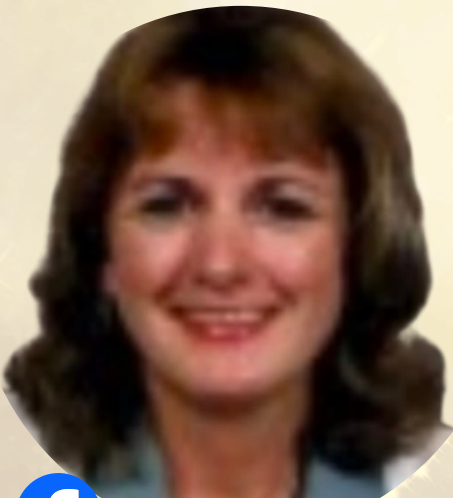
I was very shocked to win Miss New Hampshire, but it was the best experience of my life! From there I went to Atlantic City and my relatives from all over the country came to watch. My family was so excited to be a part of the experience. During the following year, my father drove me in every parade and was so proud of me.

What are you up to today ?

I have been a realtor for the Bean Group in the seacoast area of New Hampshire for 25 years. I have two wonderful children and four grandchildren, which I am enjoying.

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

I grew up on a farm and had a pure white horse that I used to ride to North Hampton Beach every day. I had a wonderful childhood! I really enjoyed being part of the Miss New Hampshire sisterhood. Being Miss New Hampshire gave me many opportunities and built my confidence.



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Local directors among “20 Outstanding Women” recognized by New Hampshire’s 95.7 WZID

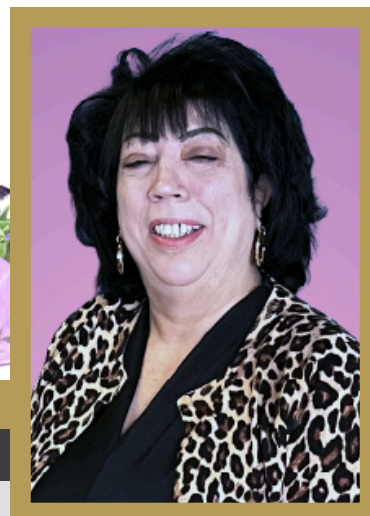
The Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Program is proud to celebrate two local directors who were recently honored by 95.7 WZID’s “20 Outstanding Women.”

Susan Young was recognized for her extraordinary commitment to community service ([read the story here](#)). For more than a decade, she has stepped up to lead scholarship programs when help was needed most, ensuring that thousands of dollars continued to support deserving young women across New Hampshire. Her tireless volunteerism, from organizing community events to supporting charitable causes, reflects her dedication to giving back.

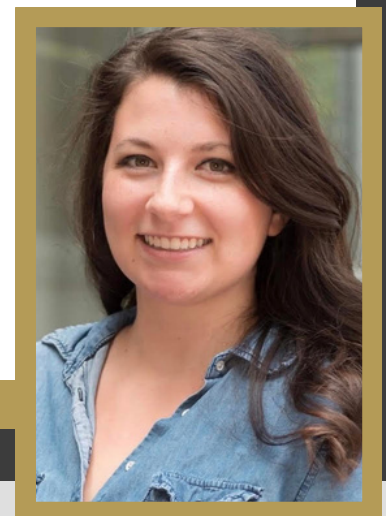
Laura Patnaude was similarly honored for her work empowering young women through scholarship and mentorship ([read the story here](#)). Her work has had a meaningful impact on participants in this program, helping them grow in confidence, leadership, and service while pursuing their educational goals.

Sue and Laura embody the mission of the Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Program. They are uplifting the next generation of women through opportunity, leadership, and community service. Their recognition as Outstanding Women highlights the powerful difference local directors make every day in the lives of young women, not only in our program, but across our state!

Congratulations!



Sue Young



Laura Patnaude



MISS NH IN THE NEWS



Listen to **Xanthi Russell**, Miss New Hampshire 2025, share her insights on leadership, confidence, and purpose in an interview on *The Passion Witch Project* podcast.



Read about **Hannah Ritchie**, current Miss Goffstown, and her volunteer partnership with Avita of Newburyport, supporting local seniors through community engagement, as highlighted by *The Daily News of Newburyport*.



Read about **Maddy Hawkes**, current Miss Greater Derry, and the release of her debut children's book "Lily and the Little Celebrations Club", which helps young readers cope with family illness, as featured in the *Eagle-Tribune*.



Read about **Natalie Oliver-Atherton**, Miss New Hampshire 1981 and Ms Senior America 2024-2025, as she reflects on her journey through the Miss America system and her path to success in a *CanvasRebel* Magazine feature.



50 / 50 Raffle



Support the Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Program and get the chance to win a cash prize!

Try your luck and enter our 50/50 raffle!
Minimum prize is **\$1,500**.

The winning ticket will be drawn **May 2** during the Miss New Hampshire 2026 Final Competition.



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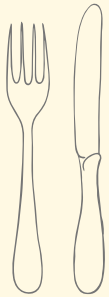


Miss 
New Hampshire
Scholarship Program

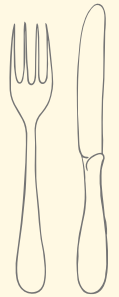
2026 Celebration Luncheon

Join us for a celebration to kick off Miss New Hampshire Week, featuring lunch, special awards, and recognition of our Miss and Teen Class of 2026!

Monday, April 27, 2026



11:00 - 1:00



*Puritan Backroom Conference Center
Manchester, NH*



**\$28 per person
Purchase tickets by
Sun, April 12th!**



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2026 State Competition Dates

Wed 4/29: Preliminary Competition

Thurs 4/30: Preliminary Competition

Fri 5/1: Miss NH's Teen Final Competition

Sat 5/2: Miss NH Final Competition

Tickets are on sale now!

Competition Tickets

Join us at Pinkerton Academy's
Stockbridge Theatre in Derry, NH!

Ticket sales are online, where you will see ticket pricing and select your seats for each show.



Live Stream

Can't join us in-person or want to watch the recorded competitions after?

Purchase access to our **live stream** and recordings you can watch from the comfort of your home.



*Celebrating 80 years in 2026!
We hope you will join us!*

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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