



Welcome to this exciting pageant system. The Very Special Miss Louisiana will be an experience of a lifetime.

The Very Special Miss Louisiana pageant is a fundraiser for the non-profit TARC. We want to make girls and young ladies with special needs dreams come true.

This competition puts its contestants on a memorable path; it will leave you with a memories and friendships that will last a life time. This will be a once in a life time experience.

We ask that you give this pageant a try and set all your fears aside. We want you to give yourself a chance to try something different. To try and do something some people may say you could not do. We, with the Very Miss Louisiana pageant think you can do and be whatever your heart desires.

11 years ago dear friends of mine, were expecting their 3rd child. They had two amazing little boys and were expecting a girl. I was so excited because my daughter had been involved in pageants all her life and I couldn't wait to do the same with their daughter. I had a little queens banner made and purchased a little pageant dress. On the day their daughter was born I went to the hospital with gifts in hand. Once they placed her in my arms I knew right away she had Down syndrome. I felt so bad for my friends. Their daughter wouldn't experience the things my daughter had. But I was so wrong. Since then I have watched her grow into a beautiful little girl full of life and her parents let her do anything she wants to try and encourages her that she can do it all. She takes dance, and she is a pee wee cheerleader. I have always wanted her to wear that little pageant dress I gave her when she was born and she is the reason behind this pageant. I want to give girls an opportunity to be all they can be!

Robin Abrams, Director

VERY SPECIAL MISS LOUISIANA

Please read all the information provided. We are looking forward to meeting each of you and your families at our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual pageant.

# **Very Special Miss Louisiana**

A FUNDRAISER FOR TARC, A CHAPTER OF THE ARC

Friday & Saturday January 20 & 21, 2017

**Kick off Party Friday Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> Mezzanine Event Hall**

308 S Cate St, Hammond, LA 70403

**Pageant Saturday Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>**

Oak Tree Church N. I-12 Service Rd. -

Hammond, LA 70403

**ENTRY FEE only \$25.00**

**Door Admissions Fee \$6.00**

**(Contestants/Parents/Guardians free)**

**Specialty Awards:**

**Fashion, Prettiest Eyes and Prettiest Hair**

**Photogenic \$5 to enter (one photo only)**

*Entry Fee Payment*

Make Checks/Money orders payable to **TARC**

**DEADLINE ENTRY FOR COMPETITON IN THE PAGEANT: January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**MAIL IN ENTRY FORM TO**

**(PAGES 5-8)**

**Very Special Miss Louisiana**

**1905 West Thomas Street Suite D Box # 182**

**Hammond, Louisiana 70401-2901**

QUESTIONS EMAIL:robintabrams@gmail.com

985-507-1985

**Competition Eligibility Requirements:**

To be eligible to participate in the Very Special Little Miss Louisiana each contestant must be a young lady between the ages of 0 months-23 years and reside in Louisiana. Also Ms. Division 24-40.

The contestants must have an intellectual disability, a cognitive delay, or a development disability, that is, functional limitations in both general learning and adaptive skills.

A person is considered to have an intellectual disability for purposes of determining her eligibility to participate if that person satisfies any one of the following requirements:

The person has been identified by an agency or professional as having an intellectual disability as determined by their localities; or

The person has a cognitive delay, as determined by standardized measures such as intelligent quotient or "IQ" testing or other measures that are generally accepted within the professional community in that

Accredited Program's nation as being a reliable measurement of the existence of a cognitive delay; or

The person has a closely related developmental disability. A "closely related developmental disability" means having functional limitations in both general learning (such as IQ) and in adaptive skills (such as in recreation, work, independent living, self-direction, or self-care).

However, persons whose functional limitations are based solely on a physical, behavioral, or emotional disability, or a specific learning or sensory disability, are not eligible to participate.

The Very Special Miss Louisiana Pageant will be held Friday & Saturday January 20 & 21, 2017. This competition is for girls and young ladies 0 months to 23 years and must have a special need.

0-11 months	9-11 years
12-23 months	12- 14 years
2-3 years	15-17 years
4-5 years	18-23 years
6-8 years	24-40 years

## **Contestant Services**

Special escorts will be provided for each contestant the day of the pageant as well as hair and makeup artists to make sure every young lady feel extra special. We want all contestants to feel like a Queen. Saturday we will have a Meet & Greet party where we will have a fun magical time with food and drinks provided. This will give each contestant the opportunity to meet their escorts and our staff in hopes to provide a smooth transition & familiarity the day of the pageant. Contestants also will have a chance to practice on stage at this time. All contestants will receive a tiara and a Very Special Miss Louisiana t-shirt. There will be a Queen, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each division.

## **Wardrobe for contestants**

All contestants are required to wear a formal dress of some kind. We have a few pageant dress rental shops that are willing to donate the use of their dresses. You may choose to bring your own dress as well. We have included pictures of dresses to give you an idea.



Please note these are just examples. Please select your style of choice.

**Contestant Bio**

**(PRINTED HANDWRITING MUST BE LEGIBLE)**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Nickname** \_\_\_\_\_

**Age** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Favorite Hobby** \_\_\_\_\_

**Favorite Food** \_\_\_\_\_

**Favorite TV Show** \_\_\_\_\_

**Favorite Animal** \_\_\_\_\_

**What would you like the judges to know about you?**

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**What do you hope to gain from this pageant experience?**

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**MUST FILL OUT ALL INFORMATION (*office use*)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_ Disability: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need a hair and makeup artist (we provide this service free of charge)

YES \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

By submitting this application, I understand that Pageant staff, volunteers, and/or venue location will not be held responsible for damages, theft or injury to individuals or their belongings before, during or after event.

I give permission for my child's name, likeness and pictures to be used for marketing, sale of commercial products or services, TARC promotional needs, Very Special Miss Louisiana.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt size: Circle one (contestants will receive a complimentary shirt)

Youth: Small Medium Large X Large

Adult: Small Medium Large X Large

Health Information

Please list the following: Dietary Restrictions, Disorders (i.e. Seizures), Physical Limitations, Allergies, etc. Feel free to include a list of medications/or Physician information at your discretion. Nurses will be onsite the day of the event.

Lined area for writing health information.

Does the contestant require a mobility device? YES or NO (i.e. wheelchair)  
If Yes, please indicate type \_\_\_\_\_

**MOBILITY DEVICES ARE NOT PROVIDED BY THE VERY SPECIAL MISS LA. PAGEANT**

**Very Special Miss Louisiana Pageant/ and or TARC Release and Indemnity Agreement**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, in consideration of permission to participate as a contestant in the Very Special Miss Louisiana Pageant/ and or TARC, hereby, for myself and my personal representatives, heirs and next of kin, RELEASES, WAIVE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE the Very Special Miss Louisiana Pageant/ and or TARC, its Officers, Directors, Judges, and any other person, firm, individual, or corporation charged and chargeable with responsibility or liability, their heirs, administrators, executors, successors, and assigns, hereafter referred to as the "releases," from any liability to me, my personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin for all loss or damage, and any claim, demand, action, or right of action, arising from or because of any injury to my person or property or death, whether caused by the negligence of the releases or otherwise, while I am competing in and/or in any other manner participating in any activity related or affiliated with or related to the Very Special Miss Louisiana Pageant/ and or TARC.

I agree to indemnify the releases and each of them from any loss, liability, damage or cost the releases may incur due to my presence at the Very Special Miss Louisiana Pageant/ and or TARC while participating in any activity affiliated with or related to the Very Special Miss Louisiana Pageant/ and or TARC whether caused by the negligence of the releases or otherwise. I further release the releases from any claim whatsoever on account of first aid, treatment or services rendered to me during participation in the Very Special Miss Louisiana Pageant/ and or TARC.

I agree that this release, waiver, and indemnity agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of Louisiana and that if any portion of the agreement is held invalid, it is agreed that the remainder will, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect. I further state I have carefully read the above release and know the contents of the release and sign the release as my own free act. This release contains the entire agreement between the parties to this agreement, and the terms of the release are contractual and not a mere recital.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature if Contestant is less than 18 years of age

**Entry forms must be postmarked no later than January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017**





**985) 662-3877**

1819 SW Railroad Avenue

Hammond, Louisiana

70403