



Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated ~ Beta Iota Zeta Chapter

Presents

Bloomington-Normal Miss Juneteenth Pageant

“Igniting the Spirit of Juneteenth... Past, Present & Empowering the Future”

The Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Beta Iota Zeta Chapter is honored to present our first year of the 2026 Miss Juneteenth Pageant. The Juneteenth Pageant empowers young ladies, ages 9-18, through unique leadership-focused experience. To help build confidence, self-esteem, etiquette, and highlight the African American culture, community and provide an understanding of the history of Juneteenth.

The pageant will feature two age groups. Contestants ages 9-13 will compete for the title of *Little Miss Juneteenth*; and contestants ages 14 – 18 will compete for the title of *Miss Juneteenth*. Each contestant will receive a certificate acknowledging her outstanding accomplishments and participation in the pageant. We would like to welcome you as you begin your journey toward the crown.

Applications will be made available via the Juneteenth website, <https://www.bn-juneteenth.org/>

We will have four sessions for the young ladies to attend to assist them in their preparation for the Pageant that will take place on Saturday, June 13th at 3:00 p.m. at Illinois State University Capen Auditorium (*Edwards Hall, 186-206 S University St, Normal, IL 61761*). We will present the winners of the Miss Juneteenth Pageant at our Juneteenth Celebration at Miller Park, June 20th. Each contestant will compete for up to \$1300 in cash prizes and gifts.

In addition to the prizes, Miss Juneteenth and Little Miss Juneteenth along with their court will be prominently featured at the Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 20, 2026. During your year-long reign, you are expected to promote positive images through school appearances and community events, and serve as a great source of pride to our youth, striving to realize their potential as future leaders.

ELIGIBILITY

Contestants must meet the following requirements:

- Must be between the ages of 9 and 18 as of June 13, 2026, for the following age divisions:
 - *Little Miss Juneteenth Division: Ages 9–13*
 - *Miss Juneteenth Division: Ages 14–18*
- Must reside in the Bloomington–Normal area
- Must have an interest in celebrating and honoring African American history, culture, and the legacy of Juneteenth
- Must attend at least three of the scheduled pageant preparation sessions and complete all assigned activities
- Must agree to serve throughout the year in their role as Little Miss Juneteenth or Miss Juneteenth, participating in city-sponsored events and community appearances, including but not limited to parades and other events as requested
- Must complete and sign required documents:
 - Contestant Application
 - Photo Use Form
 - Release Statement
 - Miss Juneteenth & Little Miss Juneteenth Titleholder Agreement





Pageant Rules and Responsibilities

As a pageant contestant, each contestant will set positive examples of the hopes and dreams of our ancestors and are expected to conduct themselves in a way that will bring honor and pride to our community. Each contestant is expected to honor herself by not engaging in activities that would bring shame to herself or the title of Miss Juneteenth or Little Miss Juneteenth.

Workshop sessions will be held on the following days::

May 6, 2026

May 13, 2026

June 3, 2026

June 6, 2026

Each contestant must attend 3 of the 4 sessions, the fourth session is optional for those who desire extra assistance or to allow additional sessions to ensure they meet the required three sessions.



April 6, 2026

Welcome to the 2026 Bloomington-Normal Miss Juneteenth Pageant

“Igniting the Spirit of Juneteenth... Past, Present & Empowering the Future”

We are excited to officially invite you to participate in this year's celebration under our powerful and nostalgic theme: *“Igniting the Spirit of Juneteenth... Past, Present & Empowering the Future”*

Song: “This Girl is on Fire,” by Alicia Keys

This year, we ignite the Spirit of Freedom through expressions of confidence, culture, leadership, and legacy. We will be honored to have you as part of the 2026 Miss & Little Miss Juneteenth legacy. You are helping to make history as this is the first year of the Bloomington-Normal Miss Juneteenth Pageant! As a contestant, you are not only competing for a crown — you are stepping into a role of visibility, influence, and community impact. We welcome you on your journey to the crown!

Please review the full information below carefully to prepare for pageant weekend.

Pageant Details

Location: ***Illinois State University Capen Auditorium***, Edwards Hall 186-206 S. University St, Normal, IL 61761

Date: Saturday, June 13, 2026

Time: 3:00pm

The 2026 Miss Juneteenth and Little Miss Juneteenth will be presented and officially crowned at the Juneteenth Celebration at Miller Park along with their court on June 20, 2026.

Important Dates:

Workshop/Practice Sessions:

May 6, 2026 - Bloomington Public Library - Community Room 1 @ 5:00pm

May 13, 2026 - Bloomington Public Library - Community Room 2 @ 5:00pm

June 3, 2026 - Bloomington Public Library - Community Room 1 @ 5:00pm

June 6, 2026 - Bloomington Public Library - Community Room 1 @ 5:00pm

Pageant Presentation:

June 13, 2026 - Illinois State University Capen Auditorium - Edwards Hall, 186-206 S University St, Normal, IL 61761

Crowning Ceremony:

June 20, 2026 – Miller Park



Official Miss Juneteenth/Little Miss Juneteenth Contestant Roles & Responsibilities

As a 2026 contestant, you are expected to:

- Represent the Miss Juneteenth/Little Miss Juneteenth pageant with pride and integrity
- Promote community involvement and service
- Demonstrate leadership and professionalism
- Support fellow contestants with sisterhood and positivity
- Attend required workshops/rehearsals and appearances
- Uphold the values of Miss Juneteenth/Little Miss Juneteenth

Preparation Checklist:

What to do to prepare for the pageant weekend:

- **Attire**
 - Professional interview attire
 - Business Casual attire: *Opening - Personal style*
 - Cultural attire
 - Formal attire
- **Prepare for professional interview**
- **Prepare for impromptu/on-stage question**
- **Organize your calendar to secure timely participation**

This year's production will be unforgettable and will ignite the gift that is within. We encourage each contestant to step fully into their confidence, creativity, and calling. *Enjoy the Journey to the Crown!*

If you have any questions, please contact the pageant coordinator Mrs. Willie Holton Halbert at (309) 287-1954.



For More Information or questions contact:

Willie Holton Halbert, Pageant Coordinator, (309) 287-1954

Chemberly Harris, Pageant Co-Coordinator, (216) 570-0549



Judging Criteria:

Miss Juneteenth and Little Miss Juneteenth contestants will be judged based on the following criteria across six (6) categories.

The Miss Juneteenth Pageant will open with a choreographed routine featuring all the contestants. Each contestant will introduce herself, deliver her impact statement and share her future professional career goals.

Category 1 - Confidence & Communication - 35 Points

Each contestant will be evaluated on communication, professionalism, and personality during an interview prior to the Pageant performance. Judges will score confidence, depth and ability to articulate thoughts clearly. Contestants will learn skills to refine confidence, public speaking, interviewing, and etiquette skills. Each contestant will have the opportunity on stage to showcase her authenticity and values while highlighting individual strengths.

Attire: Business/ Professional Attire

Category 2 - Opening statement & presentation - 15 Points

Each contestant will develop her own personal statement or motto of life that will be presented at the opening of the Pageant. Judges will score creativity and presentation to be given in 2 mins or less. Each contestant will take part in an individual and a group expression presentation focused on the Pageant theme.

Attire: Business Casual Attire

Category 3 - Cultural Expression - 15 Points

Each contestant will model a creative reflection representing the spirit of Juneteenth. Judges will score originality of outfit, poise and confidence in their presentation and ability to command the stage.

Attire: Creative reflection of your heritage, legacy, and/or African Culture

Category 4 - Community & Civic Engagement - 10 Points

Each contestant will complete a community service project (food bank, cards for nursing homes, clean up a street, or volunteer at a city government office). We will focus on the golden rule: "Do unto others as you would have them to do unto you". Contestants will receive a full score upon completion of community service project.

Attire: Business Casual Attire

Category 5 - Cultural Knowledge - 20 Points

Each contestant will write a 300-word essay on the topic, Igniting the Spirit of Juneteenth... From the Past, Present & Empowering the Future". The essay will reflect the significance Juneteenth has had on the local community. Contestants must submit their essay by June 3, 2026 to the Pageant Coordinator, Willie Holton Halbert (dime54@aol.com). Judges will score ability to communicate the significance of culture and history in a powerful way,

Attire: Not applicable

Category 6 - Overall Presentation – 20 Points

How well does the young lady present herself on stage from begin to end. **On Stage Question** — Will be judged on their confidence, content of their response, voice tone, clarity and eye contact.

Attire: Formal Attire

Each contestant has the opportunity to earn up to a total of 100 points. The contestant with the highest score in each division will be crowned Miss Little Juneteenth and Miss Juneteenth respectively.

A panel of five (5) judges will be selected from the community who will judge each contestant.



Miss Juneteenth & Little Miss Juneteenth Awards

Miss Juneteenth Awards:

Miss Juneteenth will receive the following:

- Crown
- Sash
- Gift Basket
- Cash Award of \$500

Miss Juneteenth 1st Runner up will receive the following:

- Sash
- Gift Basket
- Cash Award of \$150

Miss Juneteenth 2nd Runner up will receive the following;

- Sash
- Gift Basket
- Cash Award of \$100

Best in Interview - \$25 Cash Award – The contestant who receives the highest score for her interview

Best in Cultural Expression - \$25 – The contestant who receives the highest score for her cultural attire

Best in Public Speaking - \$25 – The contestant who receives the highest score for her on-stage question response

Miss Congeniality - \$25 – The contestant will be selected by her peers in the Pageant. The Pageant contestants will select a young lady who exemplifies kindness, friendliness, a welcoming spirit and a positive attitude. The ideal Miss Congeniality will uplift others, promote unity and be respectful to all.

Community Service Spirit Award - \$25 - The contestant will participate in a community service project that will be selected by the Pageant coordinator. The contestant who exemplifies the true spirit of service and community involvement

Little Miss Juneteenth Awards:

Little Miss Juneteenth will receive the following:

- Crown
- Sash
- Cash Award of \$350
- Prizes valued

Little Miss Juneteenth 1st Runner up will receive the following:

- Sash
- Gift Basket valued
- Cash Award of \$150



Little Miss Juneteenth 2nd Runner up will receive the following;

Sash
Gift Basket valued
Cash Award of \$100

Best in Interview - \$25 Cash Award – The contestant who receives the highest score for her interview.

Best in Cultural Expression - \$25 – The contestant who receives the highest score for her cultural attire

Best in Public Speaking - \$25 – The contest who receives the highest score for her on-stage question response

Miss Congeniality - \$25 –The contestant will be selected by her peers in the Pageant. The Pageant contestants will select a young lady who exemplifies kindness, friendliness, a welcoming spirit and a positive attitude. The ideal Miss Congeniality will uplift others, promote unity and be respectful to all.

Community Service Spirit Award - \$25 - The contestant will participate in a community service project that will be selected by the Pageant coordinator. The contestant who exemplifies the true spirit of service and community involvement