

Miss 
Edwardsburg

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WALKING TECHNIQUE

1. **ALWAYS LOOK OUT AT THE AUDIENCE:**
 - a. **SCAN THE AUDIENCE;** do not stare at one person or place with your eyes. This will help to avoid seeing the whites of your eyes (showing the judges that you are nervous.)
 - b. **LOOK AT THE JUDGES;** make eye contact (briefly) with each judge as you are walking across the stage. **DO NOT** stare them down!
 2. **ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK YOUR ESCORT:**
 - a. If you are being escorted, **ALWAYS** acknowledge him/her –**SMILE & NOD OR SAY THANK YOU** it's up to you (what feels genuine and comfortable)
 3. **BREATHE AND RELAX!**
 - a. Your walk should look like you are gliding smoothly, across the stage at a comfortable pace (**slow but steady and natural**)
 4. **DO NOT LOOK AT YOUR FEET OR THE FLOOR:**
 - a. Make yourself familiar with the stage and get comfortable with where your markings (X's) are. (**This shows that you are prepared, confident, and comfortable**)
 5. **YOUR BODY SHOULD BE SLIGHTLY TURNED TOWARD THE AUDIENCE:**
 - a. When walking across the stage (in the Y – WALK or T- WALK portion) during the pageant; turn your body (**slightly**) toward the audience. This must look smooth and comfortable to the judges and audience. (**Not forced and uncomfortable**)
Practice is the only way to achieve this goal – this is part of your preparation!!
PAGENTRY IS 90% PREPERATION.....10% JUDGES PREFERENCE!
 6. **DON'T FORGET TO MOVE YOUR ARMS WHEN WALKING:**
 - a. Arm movement should be a **NATURAL SWING** movement with your shoulders back and your back straight; (don't forget to turn slightly toward the audience as well).
 7. **WALK IN A STRAIGHT LINE AND DO NOT BOUNCE:**
 - a. When walking in a straight line; place one foot directly in front of the other with the "inside" ball of your foot falling on the **LINE**. (I'll explain during our walking workshop practice).
 - b. When walking **NEVER** add a cheerleading type bounce to your walk. (This does not look like you are walking with grace and elegance).
 8. **WHEN STOPPED DO NOT LOCK YOUR LEGS:**
 - a. With practice you should be comfortable with (1) foot at (12:00) and the other foot between (9:00 or 10:00) **if your right foot is forward OR at (2:00 or 3:00) if your left foot is forward.**
 - b. Right side of stage (**right**) foot forward; Left side of stage (**left**) foot forward.
 9. **WHEN TURNING (OR PIVOTING) ON EACH SIDE OF THE STAGE:**
 - a. If starting from stopped position with your (**right**) foot forward
 1. **TAKE A STEP FORWARD** with your (**right**) foot then your (**left**) foot. **THEN PIVOT AROUND** (now you should be facing the back of the stage) **SLIDE YOUR (left) foot** into your right foot to finish your pivot sequence. **Repeat the same moves–Just reverse it for the left foot forward!**
 10. **DO NOT CROSS OVER WHEN YOU ARE WALKING FORWARD:**
 - a. **ALWAYS** lead off with the foot that is forward.
When (**right**) foot is forward **LEAD WITH THE RIGHT FOOT** and when the (**left**) foot is forward – **LEAD WITH YOUR (LEFT) FOOT.**
- ***Smile, have fun with friends and remember to practice everyday! *****

INTERVIEW TECHNIQUE

(This is very important to prepare you for the pageant)

1. **PRACTICE ANSWERING QUESTIONS (OUT LOUD) TO SOMEONE:**
 - a. **TRUST ME** – It sounds a lot better in your head than it does when you're actually saying it out loud to everyone.
 - b. **THIS DOES NOT INDICATE THAT YOU SHOULD MEMORIZE ANSWERS** to standard pageant questions and recite them to the judges in your interview
 - c. **BE PREPARED DO NOT SOUND REHEARSED!!** – This is important to remember, the judges are very experienced and they can recognize when you have rehearsed your answers.
 - d. **THINKING ON YOUR FEET** – This is a major part of Miss Edwardsburg, Mr. Edwardsburg and our Court of Honor's role in the upcoming year ahead. This comes with **CONFIDENCE AND EXPERIENCE**. The more you **practice** – the better you will perform and the better you perform the more confident you will become with yourself!
 2. **BE PROUD OF WHO YOU ARE AND BE YOURSELF!**
 - a. **DON'T TRY TO BE SOMEONE ELSE;** Be the best YOU you can be and remember to practice, prepare, and be positive about who you are.
 - b. **DO NOT COMPARE YOURSELF TO OTHERS** – If you start to worry about the girl next to you, you lose focus and the only success that you have achieved is to beat yourself! **Let her be her – and you be you** (be confident in your hard work that you have done to prepare yourself!)
 3. **BE HONEST**

The judges are intelligent and skilled interviewers – They will see right through a lie; If you do not know an answer to their question say "I don't know!"
 4. **ANSWER THE QUESTION – NO MORE NO LESS! (IMPORTANT!)**
 - a. **DO NOT BEAT AROUND THE BUSH** – give a clear answer to the question.
 - b. **DO NOT RAMBLE** – don't go on and on; keep your answer to the point.
 - c. **DO NOT GO INTO A TANGENT** – keep your answer (brief!)
 5. **BE PREPARED TO GIVE A BRIEF EXPLANATION –**
 - a. You may be asked to give a brief explanation of your answer.
- Sample Question:

1. (Contestant Name) "What is your favorite color?" (Answer ☺) "Blue!"
2. (Contestant Name) "What is your favorite color?"
(Answer: ☺)
"My favorite color is blue; because it reminds me of the ocean – which is my favorite place to be!"
3. (Contestant Name) "What is your favorite color!"
(Answer :)
"My favorite color is Blue, because it reminds me of my favorite place to be The Ocean-- I went to the ocean once; it was last year; it was for my brother's wedding. He married this girl that....."

*****Are you still paying attention.... (right) ...Neither are the judges!*****
.....PRACTICE PRACTICE..... PRACTICE

QUESTION SAMPLE SHEET

(For Interview and Practice!)

1. Tell me about yourself - Be specific?
2. WHO is your role model AND WHY?
3. WHAT is your idea of a perfect day – Be specific?
4. WHY do you think you should be chosen for the title of “MISS or MR. EDWARDSBURG”
5. IF you were guiding someone NEW to your community “where would you take them” AND WHY!
6. WHY is it important to be a good role model in your community AND WHY?
7. WHAT IS YOUR IDEA of being a good role model in your community AND WHY?
8. IF you could be a famous American for (1) day WHO would you choose to be AND WHY?
9. IF you had a Time Capsule WHAT would you consider important to put in it AND WHY?
10. IF you could travel back in time, name ONE Historical Moment in history you would like to travel to AND WHY!
11. WHAT do you think has been man’s BIGGEST contribution or accomplishment to the 20th Century AND WHY!
12. WHAT is your most memorable moment in time AND WHY?
13. WHAT is your most embarrassing moment in time AND WHY?
14. Tell me what you know about THE BLOSSOMTIME FESTIVAL and its history?
15. WHAT do you enjoy the most about living in a small town in Southwest Michigan and WHY?
16. WHERE do you attend school and what makes your school unique from others?
17. WHAT are your future plans upon graduation AND WHAT helped you make this decision?
18. Please tell me WHY you decided to enter this pageant; AND WHAT has been your favorite part of this experience for you?
19. WHAT would be more important to you being chosen “Miss Edwardsburg / Mr. Edwardsburg OR being chosen “Miss Congeniality / MR. Nice Guy by your peers in the pageant AND WHY?
20. What does the phrase “PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN” express to you?
21. In the future, if you were chosen “President of the United States of America” WHAT changes would you make AND WHY?
22. WHAT would be your strongest platform if you were chosen “Miss Edwardsburg / Mr. Edwardsburg” AND WHY?
23. WHEN you look back on this experience someday, what will you tell friends, family, and others it was like to compete in your community pageant AND WHY?
24. WHAT would you consider to be your favorite childhood memory AND WHY?
25. WHAT factors do you consider contribute to someone’s success or failure AND WHY?

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

1. THE JUDGES ARE JUDGING YOU NOT YOUR WARDROBE!

- a. What you wear should compliment you **not** distract their attention from you!
- b. What you wear should add to your level of confidence – Pick a wardrobe that makes you **FEEL GREAT** about yourself!

2. INTERVIEW PREPERATION

A suit is the most professional choice with simple heels for the ladies and dress shoes for the gentlemen. (You can buy your suit or you can borrow for your interview, but if you are chosen to be part of the court you will be using this part of your wardrobe in the winter spring and summer.) **CHOOSE YOUR COLORS WISELY!**

3. DETAILS:

- a. Loud patterns are distracting
- b. Choose a style that compliments you and helps you feel confident.
- c. Be sure that your clothes **FIT YOU not too tight or too loose**, this will **not** make you feel comfortable and confident.
- d. **NO PANTY-LINES!** Ladies, please don not let the line of your undergarments show through your skirt (tacky, tacky, tacky) the solution is a non-visible thong (check it)
- e. **SKIRTS-** Should be a **minimum** of finger tip in length. Remember when you sit down your skirt will rise higher and depending on your body frame type the judges could think that you are wearing an inappropriate skirt length. **Be professional!**
- f. **YOU MUST WEAR NYLONS** – Sorry Ladies!
But once again this is a professional interview. ****This also is a required part of your Dress Code if you are chosen to be Miss Edwardsburg or on the Court of Honor.****
- g. **JEWELRY** – Your jewelry should be simple and **not** over done. It should **not** be Large and distracting; you want the judges to focus on what you are saying and not what you are wearing. It might be best to forgo wearing rings/ or watches; they are very easy to fidget with during the interview (shows nervousness). You may not even be aware that you are doing this; nervous habits are hard to break! when practicing interview questions have your interviewer pay attention to what you are doing with your hands and jewelry.
- h. **SHOES SHOULD MATCH THE HEMLINE OF THE SKIRT** – If this is not possible; then wear a neutral color (Nude). Shoes should be **close-toed** and have a heel on them.
 - a. **NO** Mary Jane type shoes and No shoes with chunky heels! **Please!**
 - b. **Glass slippers are too formal to wear for daytime interview** they are NOT a *good choice to wear with an interview suit anytime of day*
 - c. **Please do not wear slides (heels with no backs or straps)**

*****THESE ARE DRESS CODE GUIDELINES FOR ALL COURT MEMBERS!*****

- i. **MAKE-UP FOR YOUR INTERVIEW** - Do not allow your make- up to *Overpower you* – It should be worn and applied tastefully. (NOT TOO HEAVY!)

***Remember: you are not on stage yet and interview make-up is applied differently than stage make-up. The judges do pay attention to this!

- j. **NAILS** (Hands and Toes) should be well groomed. **AVOID** loud bright shades!
PRACTICE YOUR HAIRSTYLE FOR INTERVIEW – Your hair should not hang in your eyes or cover your face in any way (this is distracting) Avoid playing with your hair during the interview. You can get your hair professionally done, but remember: **YOU will have to do your own hair if/ or when you are chosen to be Miss Edwardsburg or part of the Court of Honor**

*****If you are chosen to be the Queen or part of the Court of Honor** – You will need to be able to do your make-up yourself (in a timely manner) so you might as well **START NOW!**

****You will also use this skill the rest of your life!**

THANK YOU NOTES

Before, during and after the Pageant you must take time to write THANK YOU NOTES to those who either gave you something, or were extra special to you. Here are some tips to make the process a little easier.

BE ORGANIZED: During the excitement and rush of the pageant try to remember to keep a list of everyone who helped you or gave you special support. It will make things a lot easier when it is time to write those thank you notes.

WHO DO I SAY THANKS TO? Anyone who supported you by donating cash, items, time, or support should be thanked. In other words, anyone who did something special for you or if someone made you feel special... they should be thanked.

WHAT IF I THANKED THEM IN PERSON? It is always important to thank someone when they actually give you a gift/contribution or helped you. However, it is still a courtesy to send a written thank you note.

CAN'T I JUST E-MAIL THEM? E-mail is a wonderful, fast way to send mail. However, a handwritten note is much more friendly and receptive. You can however be creative with your computer and make up personal thank you notes, just be sure to sign them in handwriting.

WHAT IS A THANK YOU NOTE? Thank you notes don't have to be a big deal. You can write a simple note thanking anyone. Be personal- mention how they helped you and why you like it.

WHEN SHOULD I DO THIS? Thank you notes should be written and sent soon after you receive the gift contribution or special attention grab some paper and envelopes, find a comfortable place, even in front of the TV. is okay and write your notes. You don't have to do them all at once. Do it over a period of time so you aren't overwhelmed.