

# Pageants offer bigger rewards to more contestants

## If you go

- **What:** Miss Clark County pageant.
- **When:** 6:30 p.m. Jan. 10.
- **Where:** Fort Vancouver High School, 5700 E. 18th St., Vancouver.
- **Cost:** \$20.
- **Information:** [missclarkcounty.org](http://missclarkcounty.org).

## Dual events get a boost from new donors' organization

By MARY ANN ALBRIGHT  
*Columbian staff writer*

More contestants are vying for larger scholarships and cash awards at this year's Miss Clark County and Miss Clark County's Outstanding Teen pageants.

Despite the tough economy, the Miss Clark County Scholarship Organization has more money to give out at this weekend's competitions, thanks in part to the new 100 Club, a group of donors who've each contributed \$100, said Cindy Donowitz of Van-

couver, president and co-executive director of the Miss Clark County Scholarship Organization. As of the first of the year, the 100 Club had 25 members.

Last year, five women competed for the Miss Clark County crown, and five for the Miss Clark County's Outstanding Teen title. This year's Miss pageant has seven contestants ages 18 to 24, and the Teen pageant has 10 between the ages of 13 and 17.

The winner of the 60th Miss Clark County pageant will receive a \$2,500 scholarship, up from \$1,500 last year. The

young woman given the fourth Miss Clark County's Outstanding Teen title will receive a \$500 cash award, compared to \$350 last year. In total, Miss contestants will receive \$14,550 in scholarships, up from \$9,600 in 2008. Teen contestants will receive \$1,550, compared to \$950 last year.

The Miss tuition dollars include some institutional scholarships from Clark College, Washington State University Vancouver, the International Air and Hospitality Academy and Century 21 Cascade Pacific. Most of those are repeat donors, although this is the first year WSUV has offered an award,

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- Pageant contestant photos.

## If you go

- **What:** Miss Clark County's Outstanding Teen pageant.
- **When:** 1:30 p.m. Jan. 10.
- **Where:** Fort Vancouver High School, 5700 E. 18th St., Vancouver.
- **Cost:** \$15.
- **Information:** [missclarkcounty.org](http://missclarkcounty.org).

# Miss Clark County contestants

# Miss Clark County Outstanding Teen contestants



Nichole Carrithers



Megan Howard



Angie Lewis



Jen Lubanovici



Shelby Madsen



Samantha Noakes



Christina Orefice

## Pageants:

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Donowitz said. Though pageant participation is up this year, there weren't enough contestants to award the Miss Greater Vancouver and Miss Greater Vancouver's Outstanding Teen titles. This means less representation at the statewide Miss Washington and Miss Washington's Outstanding Teen pageants but fewer winners to divide prizes among, Donowitz said.

The statewide winners will move on to compete for the Miss America crown and Miss America's Outstanding Teen honors. Local Miss and Teen contestants have competed for the national titles in the past, although none have won to date, Donowitz said.

But this is a new year and a new opportunity for the Miss Clark County Scholarship Organization, which is trying to highlight the college tuition dollars it awards and downplay the beauty pageant aspects of the competitions.

"We're not really trying to promote

it as a beauty pageant," Donowitz said. "We want to change the perception in the community to this being about articulate, educated young women looking to become professionals."

Both the Miss and Teen pageants address inner and outer beauty. Miss contestants are judged on talent, evening gowns, personal interviews, on-stage interviews and lifestyle and physical fitness, for which they compete in

swimsuits. Each has a community service platform as well.

Teen contestants follow the same format as their Miss counterparts, although they don't compete in swimsuits. Instead, to display their physical fitness, the younger women wear appropriate attire for whatever activity they do to stay healthy, whether that's a dance leotard or a T-shirt and running shorts.

The theme for both pageants this year is disco, which will carry through the open dance numbers. Songs will include '70s hits such as "September" and "Stayin' Alive."

"We wanted it to be fun for the girls, to have upbeat music," Donowitz said.

**"We want to change the perception in the community to this being about articulate, educated young women looking to become professionals."**

**Cindy Donowitz**

PRESIDENT AND CO-EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR OF THE MISS CLARK COUNTY  
SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION



Melissa Coughtry



Raeanne Edwards



Ashley Fleck



Amanda Imsirovic



Simaran Kaur



Lauren Marshall



Jenna Nelmark



Alyssa Pallister



Sierra Sampson



Erin Seekins

**MARY ANN ALBRIGHT:** maryann.albright@columbian.com, 360-735-4507.