

FACT SHEET MISSION STATEMENT

Distinguished Young Women is a national scholarship program that inspires high school girls to develop their full, individual potential through a fun, transformative experience that culminates in a celebratory showcase of their accomplishments.

• By encouraging continued education and providing college scholarships

• By developing self-confidence and the abilities to interview effectively, to speak in public, to perform on stage and to build interpersonal relationships

• By encouraging and showcasing excellence in academic achievement, physical fitness, on-stage performance skills, and the ability to think and communicate clearly

• By creating opportunities to beneficially inspire the lives of others. The program is a volunteer run, non-profit 501c(3) organization.

There is no fee to enter Distinguished Young Women at any level. We offer, to any interested high school junior girl, an eight-week program of rehearsals, workshops and social time that focuses on education, college admissions, volunteerism, public speaking and improved self-confidence. This culminates in a public showcase that features the young women and their achievements within the five-category Distinguished Young Women competition. At the end of the showcase, scholarships are awarded and a representative is selected to travel, all expenses paid, to the national level. This past year we awarded $6,600 in scholarships to young women. We are searching not only for the well-rounded young women who will go on to compete at the next level, but are also hoping to inspire and motivate all those who participate. Many of these young women have never been challenged to stand in front of an audience, to express themselves through a talent or performing art, or to express their personal opinions. This process pushes each young woman to “Be Your Best Self,” our national platform, and to see their individuality as a strength and asset. The confidence each girl gains lasts longer than any scholarship - this self-confidence lasts a lifetime.

JUDGING CRITERIA

INTERVIEW (25%) Each contestant participates in a 10-minute interview with a panel of five program judges. The judges evaluate her perception, analytical skills, ability to express herself, and ability in human relations.

SCHOLASTICS (25%) A separate panel of scholastic judges evaluates each contestant’s high school transcript (academic classes only), considering the level of difficulty of coursework. Scholastic test scores are also evaluated.

TALENT (20%) Each contestant performs an on-stage, individually selected and created presentation (90 seconds maximum). Evaluation is based on her appropriateness of selection, originality, technical ability, costume, and stage presence.

SELF-EXPRESSION (15%) Each contestant presents a brief speech on stage in reaction to a posed question. The contestant is evaluated on her communication skills and grace under pressure.

FITNESS (15%) An on-stage group aerobic/calisthenics routine is performed to lively, fun music in which each contestant is evaluated on the basis of her stamina, coordination and agility.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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