

Catching up with...

Mary Bauer

Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen 2007



LOCAL TITLE: Miss Malden's Outstanding Teen

TALENT: Vocal - "Popular" from Wicked

YEARS COMPETED: 3

PLATFORM: Give Hope - Promoting Support & Awareness for Children's Hospitals

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW? I received my Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Relations from Southeast Missouri State University. I am currently working to obtain my Master's Degree in Health Communication from the University of Illinois Graduate School and I serve as the Partnership Manager for Special Olympics Missouri. In August, I will marry the love of my life, Travis!

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE APPEARANCE AS MMOT? I had the honor of visiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as "Mary Poppins." I dressed up and sang to patients in the lobby entrance and waiting rooms.

WHAT WAS THE BEST PART ABOUT YOUR MAOT EXPERIENCE? I loved meeting young women from across the country that had similar goals and dreams as I did. Every teen there wanted to make a difference and be a positive example for teens everywhere.

WHO WAS YOUR FAVORITE MISS AMERICA? I feel that Miss America 2009, Katie Stam, embodies everything that it means to be an excellent Miss America. She was an extraordinary ambassador for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and our Troops, and she continues to leave a lasting impact on anyone that she meets or any organization that she gives of her time and talents to.

BEST TIP TO PREPARE FOR INTERVIEW?

Talk to as many different people as possible, build relationships, and listen and learn from others. Gain real-life experiences advocating, fundraising for, and working with your platform through service.

BEST TIP FOR FITNESS?

Maintain a healthy lifestyle all year round. Make healthy eating choices and exercise. You are an example to others all year long, not just the month before the pageant.

BEST TIP FOR TALENT?

Seek out every opportunity possible to perform your talent in front of a crowd. Perform for your family and friends, practice in front of the mirror, take advantage of every opportunity to use your talents. They are a gift to you - use them as a gift back to others.

BEST BEAUTY TIP?

Smile with all of your heart. It will always be your best accessory.



WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THIS YEAR'S CONTESTANTS? Treat every day as though you are Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen. Be a positive example for your peers, use your talents, cultivate your platform, give of your time through service, build as many relationships as possible. These experiences will help you to find the best version of yourself and to become an outstanding teen that is ready to take on this great responsibility.

Participating in the Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen Organization provided me with the confidence to address any venue, encouraged me to advocate for causes that I wholeheartedly believe in, afforded me with an even deeper love for service, and inspired me to use my talents as much as possible. All of these tools, and many more, molded me into the person I am today and prepared me for my career more than I ever thought possible.