

Miss Santa Cruz County 2004

Beauty Pageants

10-15-03

A New Miss Santa Cruz County Will Be Crowned October 26 in Watsonville

The Santa Cruz County Scholarship Program will be held October 26th at the Henry J. Mello Center for the Performing Arts in Watsonville. Miss Santa Cruz County 2004 will be crowned at the end of the competition and will begin to prepare for her competition at the Miss California Scholarship Program in June of 2004, held in Fresno. The Miss Santa Cruz County Scholarship Program is a preliminary competition for the Miss California/Miss America Programs.

This year, contestants will have five areas of competition with scores compiled and based on 40% private interview, knowledge and platform (used to be 30%), 30% talent (used to be 40), 10% evening wear/on-stage personality, 10% physical fitness, and 10% composite score.

The Santa Cruz County Scholarship Program is an all volunteer, non-profit

organization dedicated to furthering the education of the young women in our community through scholarships. The Miss America Organization is the leading provider of scholarships for young women in the world. Each year, more than \$45 million in cash and tuition scholarship assistance is made available to the young women who compete in the system. This assistance is not just for the handful of young women who become Miss America, but is available to the over 12,000 young women who compete in the state and local competitions as well.

The Santa Cruz Program has been in existence since 1924. In the past 10 years alone almost \$70,000 in educational scholarships and prizes have been given to program participants. With no entry fee required from the contestants, the scholarship and advancement opportu-

nities for young women depend on the generosity of individuals and sponsors.

Six contestants will be competing for \$10,000 in educational scholarships on Sunday the 26th. The show will be Broadway-themed and will feature Janie Oliver, Miss Santa Cruz County 2003.

The winner will receive a \$4,000 scholarship, First Runner-up a \$1,500 scholarship, Second Runner-up an \$900 scholarship. The five non-finalists will each receive a \$400 scholarship and Miss Congeniality will receive a \$200 scholarship.

Special Awards presented this year will be: A \$500 scholarship to one of the contestants in memory of Kelly Chilcote from the Valley Heights Senior Community/Valley Convalescent Hospital. The recipient will be selected from an essay that contestants were asked to write concerning their involvement with the sick or elderly. A \$250 scholarship will also be awarded to a contestant who has the most community service, in memory of Dick Brandberg of the Aptos Lions Club.

The entertainment line-up for the event features dancers from Elaine's



Janie Oliver, Miss Santa Cruz County 2003, will perform at the October 26th event, as she passes the crown to this year's winner.

Dance Studio, Patti Macdonald and the Patti Macdonald Singers and Live Band, and much more.

No tickets will be sold at the door. Call Linda at 426-4266 for ticket information.



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Contestants

Miss Santa Cruz County 2004

Laura Bookman

Cabrillo College
Age: 19
Talent: Vocal/Piano
"Angels Touch"
Platform: Quality of Life for Senior Citizens

Ruth Gonzales

Harbor High School
Age: 17
Talent: Vocal
"Believe in Yourself"
Platform: Music and Art Education in Public Schools

Danielle Crook

University of California at Los Angeles
Age: 19
Talent: Vocal
"Adele's Laughing Song"
Platform: Music Education in the Public School System

Stacey Osborn

San Jose State University
Age: 20
Talent: Vocal
"Ain't Misbehavin' "
Platform: Prevention of Domestic Violence

Jennifer Crawford

Cabrillo College
Age: 20
Talent: Vocal
"Only Hope"
Platform: Disaster Awareness and Preparedness

Lauren Bjorgan

Cabrillo College
Age: 20
Talent: Vocal/Dance
"At Last"
Platform: Promote Youth Involvement in Volunteering