

LibertyFest Pageant winners step into new roles

PATTY MILLER | THE EDMOND SUN Jul 7, 2017



Ashley Thompson, Miss Edmond LibertyFest

In its 13th year, the Miss Edmond LibertyFest Scholarship Pageant saw two young ladies rise to the top as they garnered roles that will put them on the path to compete for state titles.

A 22-year-old student attending the University of Oklahoma is the new Miss Edmond LibertyFest 2017. Ashley Thompson won the talent portion of the competition by performing a tap dance to “Shout.”

She grew up in Oklahoma City and her parents’ are Scott and Wendy Thompson.

“My grandparents, Leta Rae and Jim Thompson, both live in Edmond and I grew up with LibertyFest and attending the festivities every summer,” Thompson said.

This is her ninth year to do pageants. She entered the Teen pageant for three years and then moved up to the Miss pageant which she has entered for the past six years.

“LibertyFest is such a great pageant with a great board of directors. I am aging out this year and I knew I wanted to come back to Edmond and represent the Edmond community for my last year,” Thompson said.

Her platform is TEAM, Building better lives through Teamwork.

The swimsuit winner and the winner of Miss Frontier Country was Ali Brooks of Edmond. The third titleholder selected was Megan Gold of Edmond who will serve as Miss Bethany.

The first runner-up was Micah Ripley a University of Central Oklahoma senior and the second runner-up was Carrigan Bradley.

Miss Edmond LibertyFest Outstanding Teen



Claire Grace, Miss Edmond LibertyFest Outstanding Teen

Claire Grace is the new Miss Edmond LibertyFest's Outstanding Teen for 2017. She is a 15-year-old sophomore from Stillwater. For her talent, she performed "Vanilla Ice Cream." She also won the active wear award during the competition.

Her parents are Bert and Shelly Jacobson.

"I have been involved with the Miss America Scholarship Pageant system for a couple of years, and this local title is highly regarded in the system," Claire said. "In addition to that, Edmond LibertyFest is such an exciting time. I thought it would be fun to compete for the chance to represent one of the top patriotic celebrations in the nation."

Claire's platform or cause is "It Could Be You — Show Compassion."

Her platform reminds everyone to see each individual as a person first.

She urges people to change their own actions or be an advocate for someone with special needs who is not being shown respect.

"Pageants are so much more than what happens on stage such as interview preparation, community service, and scholarship," Claire said. "The 35 contestants at the Miss Oklahoma's Outstanding Teen 2017 competition had a combined 3.8 GPA."

Miss Frontier Country's Teen is Ashlyn Heritage who won the talent portion of the competition with a dance to "How Far You'll Go." The new Bethany's Outstanding Teen is Addie Coody. The first runner-up was Emily Faith and the second runner-up was Ava Cruchon.

"The 2017 Edmond Miss LibertyFest Pageant was June 24 at Santa Fe High School," said Edmond Miss LibertyFest Event Chair Diane Emmons.

The Miss Edmond LibertyFest scholarship pageant will sponsor both a Miss representative to Miss Oklahoma and a Teen representative to Miss Oklahoma's Outstanding Teen.

In order to compete for the Miss LibertyFest title, candidates must be at least 17 years of age and have completed their junior year of high school as of June 30, 2017. They can be no older than 24 years of age as of Dec. 31, 2017. Contestants compete in interview, on-stage question, talent, physical fitness and evening wear. The winner of the Miss LibertyFest competition receives a cash scholarship to be used towards her education as well as a choice of a tuition waiver scholarship from the universities which have donated. Included in the prize package is a year's membership and training with Brian Attebery of Results Fitness and Nutrition.

The Teen competition is for young women between the ages of 13 as of June 30, 2017 through 17 years of July 31, 2017. The Teens compete in interview, talent, evening wear/on-stage question and active wear.