



MURPHY HIGH SCHOOL 2020 – 2021 Azalea Trail Maid Information

Application Process:

- Application packets are sent to the school in September.
- Schools hold interviews and choose girls based on census numbers, which vary from year to year.
- County interviews are held in November for the 100 girls chosen from school interviews.
- The official letters are mailed Sunday night following interviews, but they can take 3-4 days to arrive.
- The Queen's Reception takes place the weekend after interviews. During this reception, girls receive their colors, and the Queen, First, and Second Lady-in Waiting are announced.

Alternates:

- Schools are allowed to send one alternate.
- If there are not 100 total girls for county interviews, alternates are called to fill those spots.
- The alternate call list is organized by GPA, highest to lowest.
- Alternates should be on call the entire selection weekend in case someone does not show up for their given interview time.

Scoring:

- Girls are scored on five categories in both school and county interviews.
- Each category is worth 20 points for a max score of 100 from each judge (for school and county interviews).
- Grades scores are tabulated prior to interviews based solely on official transcripts.
- All other category scores are given by the three judges.
- Scores are totaled and the top 50 scores are chosen as Mobile Azalea Trail Maids.

Category	What's Included?	Examples / Tips to Prepare
Appearance 20 points	Outfit, make-up, confidence/ how you carry yourself.	-A nice dress, pants, a skirt, a suit, flats, or heels -Practice walking into the room confidently and not nervous or scared.
Delivery & Presentation 20 points	The way you answer questions, including those you don't know the answer to. These questions can come from your resume as well.	-Practicing answering questions not just learning the information. -How are you going to handle the situation if you don't know the answer to a question?
Local History & Attractions 20 points	Mobile history to include: Mardi Gras, Mobile Azalea Trail Maids, Mobile Azalea trail; attractions in Mobile, restaurants, festivals, etc.	-Can you name some historic cemeteries in Mobile? -Name local and state representatives. -If I were a visitor coming to Mobile, what are some things you could recommend doing? (Try and find unique answers for these questions that everyone else may not think about)
Current Events 20 points	Big news stories, political topics and events, major catastrophes, controversial issues	-How do you think bullying at your school could be better handled? -How do you think the new Mobile Bay Bridge will impact Mobile & Baldwin County?
Scholastic 20 points	Grades from your freshman and sophomore years will be used for your grade score.	-Transcripts are submitted from school.

County Interviews:

- County interviews are conducted with three out of town judges and last at least three minutes but no more than four minutes.
- The Mobile Jaycees have no part in the selection process.

Financial Information:

- Dresses START at around \$3,000 + fabric
- You will also be responsible for trip assessments and generally there are three trips.

Fundraising:

- There are generally between 2-3 fundraisers each year and participation is mandatory.
- The number of fundraisers and specific obligations can change from year to year.

School Eligibility:

- Junior girls with a minimum “unweighted” GPA of 3.0 at the conclusion of their sophomore year, who have had NO suspensions or serious discipline referrals.

School Requirements:

- Five-minute interview with a panel of three judges
- \$20 nonrefundable application fee
- Completed application turned in by the deadline. Application must be typed. (Application available at <https://www.mhspanthers.com/azaleatrail>). No late applications will be accepted.
- Turn in teacher recommendation forms by the deadline. No late recommendations will be accepted.
- Wallet sized headshot (will not be returned)

General Timeline: (subject to change)

- September 3rd: School applications, teacher recommendations, wallet-sized headshot, \$20 application fee due.
- September 10th: SCHOOL INTERVIEWS WILL TAKE PLACE from 9:00am – 12noon in the Murphy High School Library, rm. 135
- September 10th: -Based on school interview scores, Murphy will select the top scoring girls to go to county interviews.
-County Selectees will be posted at mhspanthers.com by 6:00pm that evening.
-Selectees should commit to meeting for ATM Boot Camp EVERY Tuesday and Thursday after school, 2:35pm-4:00pm, from September 15th – October 30th.
- September: 100 girls will be chosen from all over the county to attend county interviews. (Based on interview scores, the top 50 will be chosen as the **2020 – 2021 Mobile Azalea Trail Maids!!!**)
- October TBA: Meeting of the 100. County interview times will be issued at this meeting.
- November 7th & 8th: County interviews will be held at USA Alumni Hall
- November 15th: Queen’s Reception
- November TBA: Parent Meeting, 6:30pm, The Grounds

For more information, visit <https://www.mhspanthers.com/azaleatrail>
see Mrs. Kent in the library (Room 135),
or email ckent@mcps.com

What can I do to prepare?

1. Go to as many local Mobile attractions as possible this summer.
2. Learn about your city. If you are excited about your city, it shows!
3. Be able to talk freely about Mobile and all it has to offer.
4. Know local and state leaders.
5. Know local happenings, civic events, news items.
6. Know state happenings, politics, hot topics.
7. Know national current events, controversial issues, and how they may affect Alabama, or Mobile.
8. Learn about the history of the Azalea Trail and the history of Mobile.
9. Use quizlet and search "Azalea Trail." Be mindful that not all information may be correct or up-to-date.
10. Know your favorite places in Mobile.
11. Practice answering questions in the mirror and in front of people.
12. Be yourself! Be happy! Be friendly! Don't be robotic.
13. It's more about HOW you answer the questions than necessarily getting the correct answers.
14. Start shopping for interview attire now. It may be hard to find the color(s) you want during the fall.
15. A "driving" tour of Mobile may provide first-hand information to use in the interview.
16. A visit to Mobile's Welcome Center, Fort Conde, will provide valuable information. There are a lot of brochures there on the points of interest in Mobile.
17. An appropriate dress for an interview will most likely NOT be found in the junior department. A good interview suit is a worthy investment since you will likely have several interviews in the future in which you could also wear it.
18. Typically, a photographer will take the best picture of you. Again, a photographer would be a worthy investment since you can use it again and again throughout your senior year and with other applications to college, club/organization, scholarships, sororities, etc.
19. Some think you should wear the same color in your picture as the color dress you would like to have if chosen. Others think you should wear whatever you are going to wear in the interview to make a memorable impression. The choice is yours!
20. You should read current events daily! Also, watch the local and national news. It is easiest for some people to watch the news in the morning as they are getting dressed. The 5:30 p.m. national news should give you enough information on the national scene. Podcasts are great too! Also, www.dailybeast.com (also an app), www.theskimm.com (email list and app), www.yellowhammernews.com, and www.al.com.
21. Instagram and Facebook are great resources follow Mayor Sandy Stimpson, Mobile Rundown, Favorite Restaurants, Fort Colonial of Mobile, LODA, Mobile Museum, etc.
22. Form a study group with the other girls trying out. Having a study group allows you to review the material, plan group outings to places and events around Mobile, and make new friends!

Interview Coaching (outside of school)

Mrs. Wendy Lipham | Phone: 251-709-8100 | wlipham@aol.com
Mobile History, Basic Interview Skills, Current Events, HOT seat, VIP's

Maids by Miller | www.maidbymiller.com
Interview Preparation & Consultation, Communication Skills, Mobile History, Current Events

Ashley Funk | Phone: 251-377-2732 | Call or text
Advanced interview preparation and photography

Dressmakers: (now is the time to reach out and get on a dressmaker's list!)

Ann Coral (Saraland) 251-591-7695 Betty Moyer 251-604-0949 or Stephanie Moyer 251-327-7831 (Saraland) Ouida Jackson – 633-7538 Suzanne Yates Lognion - 251- 457-2841 or 251 510-1769 (Chickasaw) Pam McRae – 666-5097	Rita Monroe 251-599-0965 (West Mobile) Judy Cleveland 251-661-5894 Cathy Coleman 251-706-3436 Janet Hollinhead 251-459-2639 Susan Cheney 251-666-8790. Tina Washington – 675-9033
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Examples of appropriate interview attire:

