

Glitz vs. Natural Pageants: The Impact on Girls

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All children's pageants are not the same. Before I started participating in pageants, I thought they were all like Toddlers and Tiaras where girls wear makeup and short, sparkly dresses! I never wanted to be a part of that and my mom would never let me! Then I learned about National American Miss, a natural pageant, where girls can be girls!

In glitz pageants, you have to act like someone you're not, wear makeup and dress up like an adult. Some girls look fake, like dolls! I didn't think they were real when I saw some of the pictures! The girls also wear swimsuits that show their bodies. That doesn't look good on little girls like me. Usually in glitz pageants, girls wear wigs and false teeth when theirs are missing. I even read their moms give them soda mixed with energy drinks and lots sugary candy to keep them awake! That's very unhealthy and sounds like they would be bouncing around everywhere! That's very negative and doesn't sound like something I want to do!

Natural pageants, like NAM, let girls act like we would on a normal day. I can show how beautiful I am without makeup. My teeth don't have to be perfect and neither does my hair. My mom says I was cute even when I had missing teeth and I'm just as pretty with naturally curly hair! My mom loves National American Miss because the judges don't look at us to see who is the prettiest. They care about us being confident, learning how to present ourselves in front of people and making friends! I'm learning positive things and I can show how talented I am by writing an essay, like this one, talking to judges in my interview and dancing on stage!

To me, pageants should be about showing your natural talent and your natural beauty that's inside you. I have learned so much and I'm no longer shy to be around people! My mom says she's thankful for NAM because I'm a different girl now (good different)! So, there's something I have to tell glitz and natural pageants: glitz pageants - shame on you; natural pageants - you're so awesome!!! To girls thinking about participating in a glitz pageant, I would say to really think about what you're doing. If you're in a natural pageant, you're doing the right thing! THANK YOU NATIONAL AMERICAN MISS!!!!!!

