

## Passing on the Crown

In October of 2017 I was crowned The Miss Missouri Job's Daughter. I joined when I was 12, and at the age of 17 I became one of the biggest representatives for my state. Job's Daughters is an organization for young women to grow and create public speaking skills and leadership skills. So when I won suddenly everyone knew my name and who I was, and it came with a pretty crown that fit just right on my head. Though the crown and title were great it wasn't about those things, it was about the girls I represented.

Through my year as Miss Missouri I traveled the state going back and forth from Kansas City over to Saint Louis. I met all kinds of girls from my state and even got to meet the other Misses from all over the world. I was able to compete in The Miss International Pageant, and I was able to make my state proud, well hopefully. I was going through the end of high school and starting college while having a part time job, I wasn't able to make it to everything but I did try. I wanted to go to every event everyone had in the state, but I couldn't and it left me feeling like I wasn't the best Miss Missouri. Yet everyone supported me through everything that I did and wanted to do with my year.

I had done so many things with my year as Miss Missouri, and yet I feel like I could've done more with it. It all lead up to that day of the 2018 Pageant where I would have to crown the next girl bringing my year to a close. I had to write remarks on my year and what I learned from it. I knew who ever won that night would've worked hard for it and would deserve it. That day there were so many girls there to compete to wear the crown next. All the girls competed in writing an essay, a test, giving back memorization work, and an interview. The whole day I watched these girls run around having fun and panicking, and in the back of my mind I knew one

of them was replacing me but also they were the reason I loved being The Miss Missouri. I may have won that pageant but those girls made me The Miss Missouri.

That brings us to that night. Girls in long dresses wondering who had won. We lined up the girls in order. They all looked beautiful and all a little nervous. I was full of emotions wishing I could keep representing these girls how I had done that past year. I had tried my best to keep in the tears as much as possible that whole day, but when they introduced me for the last time I didn't cry because of my name and title being called for the last time but because of the people who cheered and clapped for me. In that moment I knew they really did support me and I wish I could've let them know how much I appreciated them.

I sat up on stage as the girls were introduced one by one. The night moved on in a flash as it kept going. The next thing I know is my Miss Congeniality was giving her remarks, and passing on the title to another girl. That was the beginning of the new trio that would replace us. Then my Junior Miss gave her remarks. She brought tears to my eyes talking about what we've been through together that past year. Yet after her remarks she called out the new Junior Miss. The last few moments I have while they put in the scores for the stage question the top six answered. It's time for me to say my good bye to the girls as the Miss Missouri one last time.

I knew I was going to cry during my remarks. I loved being Miss Missouri with the girls. I hate to let go of the title but I can still be with the girls even though I won't be Miss Missouri any more. Those girls made my term amazing and they'll never know how thankful I am that they were there for me through the whole year. My remarks contained the thanks that I had for certain people as well as the state as a whole, and the apologizes I had for not making it to everything. How sorry I was for not making it into the top ten at Miss International, even though

I didn't want to win I wanted to represent my state and make them proud. That's all I wanted to do with my year. I hope I did that.

The time had come. I walked down the line of past Miss Missouri's. At the end was my friend Grace's mom who had to help me take off the crown since I was shaking so hard. The hot tears ran down my face. I walked back to the microphone with the envelope in hand with the name of the next girl. I opened it. I read out the name of my friend Grace. She had won and I got to crown one of my closest friends. Her mom even cried with me as we crowned her together. She deserved it with all the hard work she had put in. She'll make Missouri proud in ways I couldn't.

I love those girls and all I ever wanted to do was represent them well. The crown and title were nice to have but the real thing being Miss Missouri is something you learn from. You learn that you are there for the girls not yourself. You learn that the only thing you want to do is make your state proud. That year I did everything that I did for the girls, because without them we wouldn't have this organization in Missouri. I did it for them.