

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Since 1972, Ms. Wheelchair America has offered an opportunity for women who are wheelchair mobile to promote their achievements, educate their communities, and advocate for others with disabilities. The organization is **not** a beauty pageant. It is an advocacy-based organization and competition that helps women see their potential, share their accomplishments and use their voice to spark change.

OUR MISSION & GOALS

The mission of Ms. Wheelchair America is to provide an opportunity of achievement for women who happen to be wheelchair users to successfully educate and advocate for the more than 61 million Americans living with disabilities. the goals of Ms. Wheelchair America are to:

- Find individuals from across the country who want to become stronger advocates.
- Increase public awareness about the accomplishments of individuals with disabilities.
- Provide an avenue for women in wheelchairs to advocate for individuals with disabilities.
- Provide a public forum to raise awareness about disabilities and remove barriers impacting the disability community.

INDEPENDENT DELEGATE CONCEPT

The Independent Delegate concept was developed so women that do not have a current program operating in their state can still become a titleholder for one year. As a titleholder, they have the chance to pick their own platform or topic to raise awareness of, travel their state, spread their message, AND compete in the National Competition!

CONNECT AND CONTACT US

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming involved with Ms. Wheelchair America, please call 616-840-0717 or send an email to Ms. Wheelchair America at: director@mswheelchairamerica.org

In addition, we invite you to connect with us on social media or contact us at our national headquarters:

P.O. Box 86

Byron Center, Michigan 49315

www.mswheelchairamerica.org



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MS. WHEELCHAIR AMERICA, INC.

“EMPOWERING WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION.”

INDEPENDENT DELEGATE PROGRAM



STATE COORDINATOR

One of the most rewarding aspects of being an Independent Delegate is that after nationals you become the state coordinator and help build the Ms. Wheelchair Program in your state. This includes holding a state competition yearly, crowning the next state titleholder and helping prepare the titleholder for her reign. The state coordinator actively publicize and promote the state program in various ways such as networking, recruiting future contestants, seeking sponsorships for your state program, etc., giving you the opportunity to empower, encourage, and mentor other women in their state.

Duties during your time as a State Coordinator include but are not limited to:

- Demonstrate a sincere commitment to the Ms. Wheelchair America organization.
- Represent the Ms. Wheelchair America organization with the highest level of integrity, professionalism, and courtesy at all times and with all individuals that you come in contact with.
- Meet with diverse groups throughout the state, like children and youth, adults, elderly, people of all races and social economic backgrounds, etc.
- Be passionate about advocating for or assisting individuals with disabilities.



TITLEHOLDER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develop a platform to raise awareness about the accomplishments of people with disabilities.
- Be a role model for all people with and without disabilities.
- Meet with school children so they can better understand persons with disabilities.
- Travel throughout your state.
- Meet with local and state political leaders.
- Find public speaking engagements, appearances, and community activities to attend.
- Represent your state at the National Competition.
- Raise funds to meet expenses of attending the National Competition and expenses accrued during your reign.
- Be responsible, be courteous, and have FUN!!

NATIONAL COMPETITION

Each year, all Ms. Wheelchair America state titleholders gather for one week at the Ms. Wheelchair America National Competition, where they build a sisterhood, hear from leaders in the disability community, attend workshops and have three judging sessions.

The contestants are judged on their accomplishments, communication skills, and advocacy skills through the following areas:

- Personal interviews
- Essays
- On stage interviews
- Platform speech presentations

The most accomplished, articulate woman with the highest total score becomes the new Ms. Wheelchair America National Titleholder. She will then become a spokeswoman for people with disabilities.

"It has been a great honor and privilege to represent the Ms. Wheelchair America Organization. My most cherished prize of all was not the crown, but the lifelong friendships I have gained. I have met the most amazing people, and their impact on my life is immeasurable. I am so grateful for the sisterhood that I heard so much about before becoming involved in MWA."

Karen Roy, Independent Delegate, Ms. Wheelchair America 2019

