

COMMUNITY

Fourteen seek title of 2026 Distinguished Young Woman



#1 Maddy Gilliam



#2 Trinity Lambert



#3 Allee Flanders



#4 Adrianna Allen



#5 Addison Hampton



#6 Madalyn Campbell



#7 Jayla Phillips (Carter County)



#8 Brecken McCarty



#9 Lilly Dickerson (Bath County)



#10 Megan Glover



#11 Ari Hunt



#12 Matiah Gregory



#13 Ryleigh Stevens



#14 Kyndall Ratliff



Emcee - Alexander Hamilton



Emcee - Sterling Coleman

The Rowan County Distinguished Young Women (formerly Junior Miss) Scholarship program is one of Kentucky's longest running programs and is celebrating 62 years on Monday, June 2. The 2026 scholarship program is sponsored by the Morehead Woman's Club with scholarships being provided by other individual and community donations. The on stage performance will begin at 6 p.m. in Button Auditorium on the campus of Morehead State University. Senior girls must participate representing the county in which they reside. This year in addi-

tion to the Rowan County title, their program will also include a title for senior girls also representing Bath and Carter Counties. Rowan County Chair, Deveney Redwine, and the production crew including Ash Gilliam, Susette Redwine, and talented choreographer, Billie Johnson, have been working hard on this year's program. According to Lucy Moore, Kentucky DYW/Junior Miss Regional Director and former Rowan County Chairperson, "Many participants leave the program with scholarships to help them with their college educations, but all of them walk away with friendships, life skills, and increased self-confidence. Our community is phenomenal with their support, because they know that 100% of their donations go directly to scholarships for this year's participants." On the night of the program participants are judged in the categories

of talent, 20%; fitness, 15%; and self-expression, 15%. However, half of the judging is completed prior to the evening performance when participants are evaluated on judges' interview, 25%, and scholastic achievement, 25%. After helping out backstage for several years, Sterling Coleman and Alexander Hamilton (RC-SHS senior) will be right at home on stage this year serving as the Masters of Ceremonies. Mia Carver (2025 DYW of Rowan County and Kentucky's 2nd runner up) will be returning to help with the production and congratulate the 2026 winner. Each participant invited a friend to serve as her "Little Sister" for the program. These girls will be helping the participants at dress rehearsal, introducing talent, making a special presentation during the program, and selling programs. The "Little Sisters" this year in the order you will

meet them are Raylee Withrow, Breanna Garcia, Kyra Richardson, Bryleigh Carroll, Trinity Leon, Allie Fannin, Abigail Raines, Keleigh Littleton, Lydia Messer, Reagan Eldridge, Bennett Thomas, Mya Hall, Jocelyn Arcos, and Keona Moore. Tickets are \$7 if purchased in advance from any participant, but \$10 if purchased at the door on the night of the program. Participants having the most tickets purchased in advance in her name will receive a gift donated by the local volunteers. The program will be videotaped professionally by Something Mohr Production Company and photographed professionally by Jim Cundiff. Order forms are available for purchase of these. Be sure to check out the Junior Miss Online Auction that begins accepting bids online for a wide variety of items on Memorial Day weekend. There is something for everyone, but bidding

closes on Sunday, June 1. Contact Tami Buttry, Ginny Laux, or Emily Middleton if you are not on this group. The participants hoping to advance to the Kentucky Distinguished Young Women program held in January (which is why this is the "2026" program) in order of ap-

pearance are Maddy Gilliam, Trinity Lambert, Allee Flanders, Adrianna Allen, Addison Hampton, Madalyn Campbell, Jayla Phillips (Carter County), Brecken McCarty, Lilly Dickerson (Bath County), Megan Glover, Ani Hurt, Matiah Gregory, Ryleigh Stevens, and Kyndall Ratliff.

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**CONTACT US**

- 606-610-0021
- [hannah.sivils@casagateway.org](mailto:hannah.sivils@casagateway.org)

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