

Ms. Wheelchair Kansas

A program of achievement,
advocacy, and empowerment...

March 9-11, 2012
Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka, KS

Our Mission

The Ms. Wheelchair Kansas program annually selects one woman, who is wheelchair mobile, to successfully advocate, educate, and empower all people on a state level.

Background

In 1972 a Columbus, Ohio physician, Dr. Philip K. Wood, established Ms. Wheelchair America as a forum for the promotion of the achievements of people who are wheelchair mobile. There are active programs currently in approximately 30 states throughout the U.S. These non-profit programs are coordinated by volunteers throughout the country who are dedicated to increasing public awareness. Ms. Wheelchair Kansas was started in 2004 and has had eight dynamic titleholders ever since.

Our Program

The Ms. Wheelchair Kansas program is not a beauty contest, but rather a competition to select the most articulate, accomplished delegate who will serve as a role model and spokesperson for people with disabilities in Kansas. This woman of achievement will have the opportunity to travel throughout the state of Kansas educating the general public, business community, legislature, and others about the issues that are of importance to people with disabilities. She will share her chosen platform (or passion) with different groups, interact with the media, and serve as a role model for youth and adults alike. Her overall message will be one of promoting diversity and breaking down stereotypes against people with disabilities. Her reign will lead to an opportunity to attend the national competition where she will compete for the title of Ms. Wheelchair America.



Jennifer Krutzler

Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2011
Platform: Leading by
Example- Mom on a Mission

"This organization has changed my life and has allowed me to grow vastly both professionally and personally."



Tiffany Nickel

Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2010
Platform: Capabilities of
Those with Disabilities and
Unconditional Access

"This is the best opportunity to spread your mission, be heard by hundreds, and empower and advocate for others with disabilities."



Marie Clement

Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2009
Platform: Greater Mobility
Through Accessibility

"Ms. Wheelchair Kansas has given me many opportunities and a great experience."

The Event



Amanda Steiner
Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2008

"MWKS has given me many opportunities and a great experience."



Lorraine Cannister
Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2007

"I enjoyed having people recognize this title as one of strength and power."



Ranita Wilks
Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2006

"What a great opportunity to advocate on behalf of people with disabilities in Kansas."



JoAnne Fluke
Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2005

"I was honored to be MWKS 2005 because it made me proud to be a part of the disability community."

The competition itself is a three-day event that culminates at the crowning ceremony where the new Ms. Wheelchair Kansas is crowned. Contestants are interviewed one on one, asked a couple questions on stage, and give a short speech on their platform. They are scored based on their accomplishments, self-perception, communication, and projection skills. This event is not only a competition, but also an occasion that focuses on empowerment and disability pride. Contestants are able to network with each other and celebrate the strength of each individual.



Who Can Participate?

- be a US citizen between the ages of 21 and 60
- utilize a wheelchair for 100% of daily community mobility
- be a resident of Kansas for at least the past 6 months
- marital status is not a consideration
- have not held a title in another state
- be willing to raise money and obtain sponsors for the state and national entry fees
- be willing and able to travel throughout the state - this includes having access to reliable and easily obtained transportation
- be ready and willing to successfully advocate, educate, and empower all persons with disabilities through various opportunities over the course of the year

For More Information

Please contact: Carrie Greenwood, State Coordinator
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www.mswheelchairkansas.org



Ms. Wheelchair Kansas is affiliated with Three Rivers, Inc. and sponsored in part by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

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