

# Ms. Wheelchair Kansas

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

**March 9-11, 2018**

**Doubletree Hotel, Lawrence, 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 26 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 fourteen 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, including the Little Miss Wheelchair Kansas titleholder. 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.



*Deb Young*

Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2017  
Platform: Education Increases  
Independence in Communities

"I've gained so much confidence this year thanks to the amazing people I've had the opportunity to meet! I have had the adventure of a lifetime."



*Tiffany Walter*

Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2016  
Platform: Never Give Up-  
There's Always a Way

"I have experienced tremendous personal growth. This has truly been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life!"



*Carrie Sunday*

Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2015  
Platform: Changing the  
Definition of Disabled

"I have gained a sense of confidence and belonging that I hadn't even realized that I was missing. This program has, in many ways, changed my life."

## The Event



*Bridgid Schwilling*  
Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2014

"[As a titleholder] your life will be enriched; you will learn a lot; and you will be an encouragement to others!"



*Angel Shaver*  
Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2013

"MWKS opens doors across the state to share your platform. It will change your life for the better."



*Emily Evans*  
Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2012

"[MWKS] has opened up numerous doors for me. It has truly been one of the best experiences of my life!"



*Jennifer Kreutzer*  
Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2011

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

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 who is 21 years of age or older
- 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.mwheelchairkansas.org](http://www.mwheelchairkansas.org)  
[www.facebook.com/mwheelchairkansas](https://www.facebook.com/mwheelchairkansas)

Visit our website and Facebook to learn more about  
**Ms. Wheelchair Kansas** and **Little Miss Wheelchair Kansas!**



Ms. Wheelchair Kansas is affiliated with Ms. Wheelchair America and sponsored in part by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

