

# Ms. Wheelchair Kansas

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

**March 18-20, 2022**

**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 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 seventeen 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.



### Hilary Garrett

Ms. Wheelchair Kansas '20-'21  
Platform: Find Your Voice-  
The Power of Self-Advocacy

"I've come to understand the importance of being a part of the disability community. Connecting with people who are going through similar things has been amazing."



### Andrea Romero

Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2019  
Platform: Caring for the  
Caregiver

"[MWKS] provides a stage upon which you can build awareness about the disability community and your platform, all while joining a lifetime sisterhood."



### Allison Merriam

Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2018  
Platform: Transformation of  
the Perception of Disability

"I have had the opportunity to spread the word on what is possible. Becoming MWKS is an amazing privilege and responsibility."

## The Event



*Deb Young*

Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2017

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



*Tiffany Walter*

Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2016

"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

"I have gained a sense of confidence and belonging that I hadn't even realized that I was missing."



*Bridgid Schwilling*

Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2014

"Your life will be enriched; you will learn a lot; and you will be an encouragement to others!"

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 and the Honorable Robert J. Dole.

