



## Application

### Write your platform

The platform is your chance to show the judges that you mean business! The platform is your statement of advocacy – what you are passionate about and what lights a fire in you. If you are selected as Ms. Wheelchair Utah, it will be your main topic for speeches you will give throughout the state and, therefore, must be applicable to all abilities. This step to the application is a brief synopsis of your platform and will be reviewed by the judges. You should be clear and concise and not provide lengthy details.

#### 1. Contemplate

- ☆ What are you passionate about?
- ☆ How are you prepared to create change?
- ☆ What changes do you feel are needed?

#### 2. Write the platform

- A.** Provide a concise sentence definition of the platform by giving a specific answer to an issue you wish to address.

Creating a new reality through service

- B. Describe how women with disabilities will benefit from your platform.**

Newly disabled women struggle with feelings of uselessness and being unattractive. Through service they can learn that by putting their feelings aside and assisting others with their needs, that they are needed in their community. They will learn that giving back is what truly makes you feel beautiful again.

- C. Describe your plan for how you will create awareness for your platform.**

Laurel proposes that recreational therapists involved with rehabilitation units in hospitals provide service projects and service oriented work to newly disabled women, and anyone undergoing a drastic change with the functionality of their body.

- D. Provide a sentence for how you plan to change attitudes regarding this issue.**

It is common for women who sustain a life-style altering disability to emotionally distance themselves from society. Women who are unable to accomplish the things they once did might believe they really are useless and do not try to set goals and achieve. By providing service work early on in their newly disabled life, women will see their possibilities. As they recognize their potential they realize that they can create a new reality for themselves.

- E. Provide information on accomplishments you have made towards your platform**

Being newly disabled herself, Laurel has felt the reality of these emotions. She sat alone on her porch for months after being discharged from the hospital before volunteering at a nearby elementary school. The joys and benefits of serving were so profound that Laurel could not stop. She organized a service program at the hospital where she was a patient, founded a nonprofit organization that helps women in wheelchairs realize their potential, and kept volunteering at the elementary school.

**Your platform is the topic for your 2-3 minute speech which will be presented during the pageant.**  
**Please type and e-mail to [Meg@MsWheelchairUtah.org](mailto:Meg@MsWheelchairUtah.org)**