

The mission of Ms. Wheelchair Illinois/America is to provide an opportunity of achievement for women who happen to be wheelchair users to successfully educate and advocate for the more than 52 million Americans living with disabilities.

Unlike traditional beauty pageants, Ms. Wheelchair Illinois/America is not a contest to select the most attractive individual. It is instead a competition based on advocacy, achievement, communication and presentation to select the most accomplished and articulate spokeswoman for persons with disabilities. The selected representative must be able to communicate both the needs and the accomplishments of her constituency to the general public, the business community and the legislature.



Photo Credit: Susie O Photos
(susieo@susieophotos.com)



Kimberly Brown **State Coordinator**

Kimberly Brown, Ms. Wheelchair Illinois America 2012, was born with Spina Bifida. She has been a full time wheelchair ambulator since the age of 10. Kimberly received a B.A. in Elementary Education and an M.A. in Reading from St. Xavier University, and an M.A. in School Administration from Concordia University. For over 17 years Kimberly taught for the Chicago Public School system and is currently a senior business analyst for Commonwealth Edison.

Working with today's youth is only one of Kimberly's passions. Kimberly is a nationally and internationally ranked wheelchair tennis player. She also enjoys cooking Italian family favorites, traveling to warm destinations, and spending time with family and friends. She describes herself as ambitious, fun-loving, and courageous.



*It's not what life gives
you, it's about how you
respond to it.*
-K. Brown

Contact Us:
Ms. Wheelchair Illinois

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Qualifications

- Must be a woman.
- Must use a wheelchair for 100% of her daily community mobility.
- Must be a United States citizen.
- Must be at least 21 years of age.
- Cannot have held a state title for the Ms. Wheelchair America, Inc. program in any state.
- Cannot have competed at a Ms. Wheelchair America National pageant previously.
- Must be a resident of your state for a minimum of six (6) months prior to the state pageant.
- Must be available to fulfill the requirements of a state titleholder. These include travel within your state, travel to the nation pageant and numerous public appearances.
- Must possess good communication skills.

Duties

As Ms. Wheelchair Illinois/America, the titleholder has numerous duties. These include promoting awareness of the need to eliminate architectural and attitudinal barriers and informing the able-bodied public of the achievements of the millions of people with disabilities across the state of Illinois. During her year long reign, she will have the opportunity to travel visiting advocacy groups, making public appearances and conducting radio, print ad, and TV interviews. The commitment and personal example of the titleholder serves to further the mission of Ms. Wheelchair Illinois/America.

Competition Categories

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The contestants will be judged in 3 official judging sessions:

- One-on-one private interviews in front of a panel of judges.
- Onstage interview.
- Onstage platform speech.

The Ms. Wheelchair Illinois/America judging is based upon criteria established by the Board of Directors of the Ms. Wheelchair America Program. Each judged category listed below is weighed equally.

Accomplishments

- Personal achievements/accomplishments since onset of disability only in the following areas:
 - ◇ Academic
 - ◇ Vocational
 - ◇ Personal
- Adjustments to disability

Communication Skills

- Ability to deal with media, peers, civic groups, etc.
- Public relation skills.
- Advocacy for persons with disabilities.
- Self-confidence/motivation/initiative/creativity.

Self Perception / Projection

- Poise/demeanor.
- Appropriate attire/personal presentation



Ms. Wheelchair Illinois

