

Simpson and Russ to Represent SWOSU at Miss Oklahoma Pageants

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Sarah Simpson

Elk City and Cordell girls will represent Southwestern Oklahoma State University at the Miss Oklahoma Pageant, which is June 5-12 in Tulsa.

Sarah Simpson of Elk City won the title of Miss SWOSU last fall on the Weatherford campus and will be among 43 contestants competing for the Miss Oklahoma title, while Lacey Russ of Cordell will represent SWOSU in the Miss Oklahoma Outstanding Teen Pageant. Russ won the Miss SWOSU Outstanding Teen title this past fall and will be among 33 contestants vying for the state title.

Simpson is a junior at SWOSU majoring in business administration. She will compete in the Sigma group at Miss Oklahoma. For her talent on Thursday evening, she will sing Miley Cyrus' "The Climb."

She will also compete throughout the week in other preliminary competitions including interview on Tuesday morning, on-stage question and evening wear on Tuesday night, and swimsuit on Wednesday evening. The finals will be Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. at the Mabee Center in Tulsa. The winner of the pageant advances to the Miss America Pageant.

Simpson's platform issue is breast cancer awareness.

Lacey Russ

Russ, who will be a senior at Cordell High School, will compete in the Omega group. Her interview is on Wednesday and her active wear/evening gown competition is Thursday. Her on-stage question and talent competition is on Friday. Russ will play the piano combining the styles of Bach and Beethoven's flair in Bach's "Prelude XXI" and Beethoven's "Sonate Pathetique." Her platform is P.U.R.E. Excellence, encouraging a commitment to a lifestyle of purity.

The teen pageant finals will be held on Friday night at 7:30 p.m. at the Mabee Center.

Also accompanying Simpson to this year's pageant will be 11-year-old Andrae' Cook and 6-year-old Maggie Hooper, who are Oklahoma Stars for the Miss SWOSU Pageant. The Oklahoma Star mentoring program is designed to expose girls ages 6-11 to outstanding young women as role models. The two will appear with Miss SWOSU at the evening wear competition on Tuesday night, will lunch with Simpson on Thursday, and lunch with Miss Oklahoma on Friday.

Cook is the daughter of Doug and Kim Cook of Weatherford and attends West Elementary School in Weatherford. Hooper is the daughter of Wesley and Annie Hooper of Mountain View and is in first grade at Mountain View-Gotebo.

SWOSU's annual pageants in 2010 will be November 13 on the Weatherford campus.