



Davidson High School
Azalea Trail Information
2025-2026



- ◆ The Azalea Trail Maids serve as ambassadors for the city of Mobile. They meet dignitaries, greet visitors, appear at public events, and travel the country representing Mobile. They are selected through an interview process (one at school and one at the county level). Overall, fifty girls from the county will be chosen to serve on the court during their senior year of high school.
- ◆ The requirements to interview for Azalea Trail are as follows:
 - 3.0 minimum unweighted GPA from ninth and tenth grades
 - No suspensions during high school years
 - Good moral character (This includes a positive and age-appropriate social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, and Instagram.)
 - Must not have excessive absences
- ◆ We will have official sign-ups will start TODAY and run through SEPTEMBER 1ST. ALL COMPLETED PACKETS FOR AZALEA TRAIL MAID CANDIDATES ARE DUE NO LATER THAN 3:00 P.M. ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 30th.
- ◆ You will be informed if you are eligible to interview by Friday, August 30th.
- ◆ SCHOOL INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 4th from 1:00-4:00.
- ◆ You must include a wallet-size photo with your application. This will not be returned. Some people think you should wear the same color in the picture as the dress color you would like if you are chosen. Some people think you should wear the same outfit you plan to wear to the interview.... You decide.
- ◆ You should email Mrs. Cowan at mcowan@mcps.com to request the fillable application and Color Preference sheet. These forms must be typed and printed. All signatures on the other documents MUST BE WET SIGNATURES and MUST BE THE SIGNATURE OF A PARENT/GUARDIAN. You cannot forge their signatures for them.

◆ ALL PIECES OF THE AZALEA TRAIL MAID PACKET AND YOUR PHOTOS ARE DUE ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 30th BY 3:00 P.M. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!!!!

- ◆ The school interview will last three-five minutes, and the judges will be from outside of school. I make sure ahead of time that no judge knows any of the girls interviewing. You will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Scholastics—20%
 - Delivery & presentation—20%
 - Personal appearance— 20%
 - Knowledge of Mobile history and attractions—20%
 - Knowledge of current events—20%
- ◆ The Mobile Jaycees determine how many candidates we can send to county interviews based on our school population. This will determine how many girls will be selected from school interviews. The school can send this number of candidates and one alternate. At the orientation meeting, held the week of county interviews, the alternate will receive a letter stating whether she can interview or not. If the alternate does not get an interview immediately, she will have to wait until the weekend of interviews to see if a spot opens.

- ◆ The Trail Maids dress in antebellum style dresses that are made for each individual girl. The dresses cost anywhere from \$3,500 to \$5,000 depending on how detailed you want to make it. If you have friends or relatives that want to help with the cost of the dress—let them! This money will have to be paid within approximately two months of selection, but there are no other major expenses throughout the year... just a lot of fundraising! ☺

Helpful Suggestions—Preparation begins now!

1. Visit the historical places around Mobile this summer with family or friends. You can do driving tours, walking tours, or just go to specific spots when you have free time. (Mobile's Welcome Center inside the Mobile History Museum has lots of brochures!) The more times you go to these places, the more you learn! Many of our museums and cultural centers have small fees or none at all. Go to new restaurants and see what our city has to offer. Make your interview great by throwing in some first-hand experience with Mobile!
2. There are several interview coaches in the area that conduct workshops for small fees. Here are a few:
 - Teri Kearns—phone: 476-6768 or 423-2001; E-mail: oursisterscloset@comcast.net.
 - Wendy Lipham—phone: 709-8100; E-mail: wlipham@aol.com
 - Allison Miller—www.maidbymiller.com; E-mail: maidbymiller@gmail.com
3. Get your community service hours in and collect documentation for them. You have time off this summer... Use it to your advantage! Here are some ideas for possible volunteer service:
 - Volunteer Mobile (433-4456)
 - Mobile Carnival Museum (432-3324)
 - Camp SMILE (see Mrs. Finch in the Special Education department)
 - Contact some of the historical homes/museums in the area: sometimes they let teens help out or serve as tour guides.
4. Get into the habit of checking the news everyday. How you get your news (online, TV, newspaper, text) does not matter; just stay up to date.
5. Start looking for a good interview suit/dress. This will probably not come from the Junior Department. Get something that looks appropriate and flattering on you for this type of interview.
6. If you are serious about doing this, and you think you meet all the qualifications, get on a dressmaker's list as soon as they will take names. Here are the names and numbers of some dressmakers from years past:

• Pam McCrae (490-0778)	• Suzanna Yates (510-1769)
• Eula Blackmon Penderson (232-7998)	• Heidi Herrington (656-2132)
• Rita Monroe (599-0965)	• Ouida Jackson (633-7538)
• Judy Cleveland (661-5894)	• Bettina Kelson (656-5174)
• Susan Cheney (666-8790)	• Lori Hines (865-6361)
• Judy Copeland (661-5894)	• Mayline Bonner (666-3131)
• Ann Corl/Lark Esposito (591-7695)	• Connie Wilkinson (454-2465)
• Lark Esposito/Ann Corl (895-4537)	• Janet Hollinghead (645-0897)
• Anna Marie Phelps (479-8811)	

These are old numbers from previous years, so they may not have the same number now. You can also ask "Old Maids" and past nominees for their dressmakers' numbers as well.

7. The study guides I will post have been passed down by girls throughout the years. As you are studying, you may find mistakes, so be aware. Political leaders change, so you will have to alter some items. If you need clarification, check with other girls, me, or the internet.
8. Good luck, and may the queen be from Davidson!

Mrs. Cowan
Azalea Trail Sponsor

