



**TAYA KYLE, KEVIN O'LEARY AND AMY PURDY
JOIN CELEBRITY JUDGING PANEL FOR
THE 95th ANNIVERSARY BROADCAST OF MISS AMERICA**

Voting Now Open For "America's Choice"

The "2016 Miss America Competition" To Broadcast Live on Sunday, September 13th from Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall on the ABC Television Network

For media assets, please go to: <http://bit.ly/1P4WLPx>

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Atlantic City, NJ (August 12, 2015) – The Miss America Organization, dick clark productions and ABC announced today that wife of the late U.S. Navy SEAL "American Sniper" Chris Kyle and author, **Taya Kyle**, entrepreneur and businessman of ABC's "Shark Tank," **Kevin O'Leary** and 2014 Paralympic snowboarding bronze medalist and motivational speaker, **Amy Purdy** will be judges on the "**2016 Miss America Competition.**" They join previously announced judge and country star Brett Eldredge. The "**2016 Miss America Competition**" returns to Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 (9:00 – 11:00p.m./ET)** on the ABC Television Network. The evening will be filled with glitz and glam as 52 women compete for the coveted crown and scholarship.

For the first time in Miss America history, fans have the opportunity to cast their vote entirely on social media for **America's Choice**. The winner of America's Choice will move forward to the Top 15 in the competition. Fans can vote on both Facebook and Twitter by posting a status and/or tweet with the name of the state they are voting for and the hashtag #MissAmericaVote. Voting is now open and closes on Thursday, September 10 at 11:59PM ET.

"The Miss America Organization provides millions of dollars in annual college scholarship assistance making it the largest scholarship program for women in the United States," said Kyle. "I am honored to be a part of an organization that not only helps the contestants but their communities and children as well. The women who compete in this program contribute tens of thousands of community service hours annually and have raised over \$10 million for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and Miss America scholarships."

“The Miss America Title is a remarkable platform and an extraordinary opportunity for any woman that is awarded it,” said O’Leary. “As a judge, I’ll be looking for the woman that can best articulate how she will use this opportunity to advance a charity that will help others and/or build a business that will employ Americans, and above all use the title to encourage other young women to do the same. There is a reason that The Miss America Organization has been around since 1921 - it has helped young women make a difference for multiple generations. I’m very proud to be involved.”

“Miss America celebrates strong women who are passionate about serving as an advocate for their communities and strive to make a positive impact,” said Purdy. “I’m honored to be part of an organization with such a long and dedicated history of giving back.”

Additional hosts and judges for the “2016 Miss America Competition” will be announced in the coming weeks.

About The Judges

Taya Kyle

Taya, is the wife of “**American Sniper**” **Chris Kyle, Navy SEAL**, *New York Times* Best Selling author, subject of the 2014 film *American Sniper*, and perhaps the deadliest man to ever peer through the scope of a military rifle. She is also the *New York Times* Best Selling Author of *American Wife: A Memoir of Love, War, Faith and Renewal*. Taya serves as a strong voice within the military community and regularly speaks to audiences across the country about the challenges facing veterans, first responders and their families. She also delivers inspiring messages about the value of knowing who you are, what you believe in and standing strong for it. She’s been a guest and commentator for *ABC*, *NBC*, *Fox News*, *MSNBC*, *Good Morning America*, and *Anderson Cooper* and received widespread attention for her moving speech at the National Rifle Association’s 2013 annual meeting, establishing herself as an outspoken leader. In addition, she has published Chris’ best-selling *American Gun* and serves as executive director of the [Chris Kyle Frog Foundation](#) while raising her two children.

Kevin O’Leary

Kevin O’Leary is “Mr. Wonderful” and an investor on ABC’s Emmy Award winning “Shark Tank.” He is also an investor on ABC’s “Beyond the Tank.” He is the co-founder of SoftKey Software Products, later called the Learning Company that was sold to Mattel in 1999 for \$4.2 billion. He is the Chairman of O’Leary Funds Management LP, O’Shares ETF Investments, O’Leary Ventures and O’Leary Productions. He is a member of Boston’s 107-year-old Hamilton Trust. He is a contributor to CNBC, ABC News and Good Morning America, and an entrepreneur/investor co-host for the Discovery Channel’s “Project Earth” series that explores innovative ways man could reverse global warming implementing large-scale geo-engineering infrastructure projects. O’Leary is an active photographer, guitarist and author of three number #1 best-selling books “Cold Hard Truth,” “Men, Women and Money” and “Family, Kids and Money.” He is also the Chairman of O’Leary Fine Wines.

Amy Purdy

Amy Purdy is a multi-talented woman who beat all of the odds. At 19 she was diagnosed with Meningococcal Meningitis and was given less than a two percent chance of survival. She fought through a myriad of procedures including a kidney transplant and double-leg amputation below the knee to become the top ranked adaptive snowboarder in the U.S., a three-time World Cup Para-Snowboard winner and the 2014 Paralympic bronze medalist. She is now an advocate for the Paralympic community and co-founded Adaptive Action Sports, a non-profit organization which helps those with permanent disabilities to get involved in action sports. She has been able to share her incredible story and inspire millions through her NY Times Best Selling memoir, "On My Own Two Feet," as well as her experience on *Dancing With the Stars* and on Oprah's "The Life You Want Tour." Her career as a motivational speaker, actress, spokesperson and model have helped name her one of the most commercially successful Paralympic/adaptive athletes in the world. She is currently in the process of launching her own clothing line, The Amy Purdy Collection in partnership with Element Eden.

Tickets for "The 2016 Miss America Competition" are now on sale and can be purchased at ticketmaster.com. For more information on "The 2016 Miss America Competition," please visit Miss America Organization's website at www.missamerica.org.

For the latest news, be sure to follow Miss America on social and join the conversation by using the official hashtag for the show, #MissAmerica.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/missamerica>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/missamericaorg>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/missamericaorg>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/MissAmericaOrg>

Tumblr: <http://blog.missamerica.org/>

Google+: <https://plus.google.com/+missamerica/>

Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/missamericaorg/>

Join the Conversation: #MissAmerica

About The Miss America Organization

The Miss America Organization, a 501(c) 4 non-profit corporation, provides millions of dollars in annual college scholarship assistance making it the largest scholarship program for women in the United States. MAO is comprised of 52 licensed organizations, which includes all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico. MAO contestants contribute tens of thousands of community service hours annually and have raised over \$10 million for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and Miss America scholarships since 2007.

About dick clark productions

dick clark productions (dcp) is the world's largest producer and proprietor of televised live event entertainment programming with the "Academy of Country Music Awards," "American Country Countdown Awards," "American Music Awards," "Billboard Music

Awards," "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest," "Golden Globe Awards," "Hollywood Film Awards" and the "Streamy Awards." Weekly television programming includes "So You Think You Can Dance" from 19 Entertainment, a division of CORE Media Group and dcp; "World's Funniest" from Jukin Media and dcp; as well as "BOOM!" from Keshet DCP, the joint venture between Keshet International (KI), the global distribution and production arm of Keshet Media Group and DC Media, the parent company of dcp. dcp also owns one of the world's most unique and extensive entertainment archive libraries with more than 55 years of award-winning shows, historic programs, specials, performances and legendary programming. For additional information, visit www.dickclark.com.

Show Media Credentials

To apply for media credentials to cover "The 2016 Miss America Competition," please click [here](#) and fill out the online form.

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