



Wednesday, June 22, 2011
MEDIA ADVISORY
REQUEST FOR COVERAGE

Newly Crowned Miss Ohio Uses Personal Experience to Spread Important Message During National Lightning Safety Week

WHEN: June 20 – 26, 2011 is National Lightning Safety Week.

WHO: Ellen Bryan, Miss Ohio 2011, who was just crowned on June 18, has chosen Lightning Safety and Awareness as her community service platform issue because her sister was disabled from a lightning strike back in 2000. Ellen is a National Spokesperson for Lightning Safety through a partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). As Miss Ohio, Ellen is not only a role model for young people, but she is also a representative of our great state and an advocate for lightning safety and awareness.

WHAT: This is Lightning Safety Week. While lightning strikes year-round, summer is the peak season for this dangerous and deadly phenomenon. The newly crowned Miss Ohio has dedicated countless hours to this cause since her sister was debilitated by a lightning strike in 2000.

WHY: Ellen Bryan's sister, Christina, had just finished her junior year of high school. Ranked in the Top 5 in her class, she excelled in academics, choir and golf. She had a bright and promising future ahead of her when her life was changed in an instant. On June 13, 2000, while working at a golf course, Christina waited out a storm inside the clubhouse. A few minutes after the storm passed, she went outside to pick up the golf bag stands on the driving range – her last task for the day. While picking up one of the stands, a bolt of lightning struck and was so powerful that it left a 3-foot deep hole next to where she stood. Her injuries were very severe – leaving her without the ability to move or speak. Ellen Bryan, Miss Ohio 2011, is telling Christina's story for her, educating people about the dangers of lightning and hoping to help other families avoid a similar tragedy.

PHOTO/VIDEO OPPS: Miss Ohio is available for media interviews and photos. She is able to speak about Lightning Safety and Awareness, her plans for her year as Miss Ohio, preparation for the Miss America pageant and so much more.

ABOUT ELLEN BRYAN: Ellen Bryan, 22, is a graduate of Ball State University where she obtained a degree in Telecommunications with an emphasis on news. From Celina, Ohio, Ellen is the daughter of Kent and Virginia Bryan and is the youngest of three girls, Christina, 28, and Andrea, 25. Ellen enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading, writing and listening to music. Her favorite time of the year is the summer when she and her family can go boating, have campfires and soak up the sun.

ABOUT THE MISS OHIO ORGANIZATION: The Miss Ohio Scholarship Program is part of the Miss America Organization, which is one of the nation's leading achievement programs and the world's largest provider of scholarship assistance for young women. For more information about the organization, please visit its website at www.missohio.org.

MEDIA (ONLY) CONTACT: Kimberly Kanary; (440) 371-8399 (cell); KimK@missohio.org