

Katie Swauger crowned 2019 Miss Rain Day

By Natasha Heinz Jul 30, 2019

1 of 2



Loren Schroyer (Miss Rain Day 2018) crowns Katie Swauger, the Miss Rain Day 2019.

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This week Katie Swauger of Carmichaels was passed the 2019 Miss Rain Day crown by one of her friends and biggest supporters, Lauren Schroyer.

Schroyer was actually the one who told Swauger she had what it takes to receive the title and seeing Schroyer win last year at the pageant inspired Swauger to go for it.

"She told me that I should do it and that she saw the potential in me," Swauger, 16, daughter of Judy and Kenneth Swauger, said. "Also, my family and my dance teacher told me that, too."

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Even with such a large squad of supporters, Swauger's anxiety was in full force on Sunday, July 28, during the 41st annual Miss Rain Day Scholarship Pageant, which took place in the Waynesburg Central High School auditorium.

"It was very very nerve racking to me because it was my first pageant and I was really not expecting to win, but I had faith in myself," Swauger said. "The two other contestants are so good, so it was very close for all three of us."

Swauger's competitors were first runner-up Remmey Lohr, 16, of Carmichaels, and second runner-up Paytyn Neighbors, 15, of Greensboro.

In addition to the Miss Rain Day title, Swauger also won five other awards: the Remo C. Bertugli Memorial Award, Rain Maker Award, Scholastic Achievement Award, Top Talent Award and Top Evening Gown Award.

She also shared the Top Sportswear Award with Lohr, who earned the Bryn Patton Smile Award, the Pageantry Spirit Award, Miss Photogenic and the Top Interview Award.

Neighbors won the John O'Hara Award and Miss Personality.

"Even if I didn't win, I would still have loved it because I had a great experience," Swauger said.

She practiced her interview skills the most, looking up questions on her phone and trying to answer them. She also worked on the talent portion quite a bit and had the dance routine choreographed by her teacher, Farrah Doman. Though, performing onstage was the easiest part of the competition.

"It was a jazz acrobatic routine and I've been dancing since I was 3, so I don't really have stage fright to dance in front of people," Swauger said. "That's the part that I am most comfortable with."

Although Swauger said she is still soaking in the win, she already had to perform her duties during Rain Day, going around meeting people and taking pictures.

"I'm a very outgoing person, I like to talk to new people, so I really liked that," she said, adding she also went onstage to perform with kids. "Sometimes I feel like a celebrity to them. It's so cute, though, I love it."

That was only the beginning, however, and Swauger is looking forward to performing her duties, mainly when it comes to community service.

"Whenever I was just a contestant running for this position, I actually did a lot of community service with Lauren Schroyer Miss Rain Day 2018 and I love doing it," she said. "It makes me feel good in my heart helping other people and it makes me feel like a good person, too."

Swauger's favorite project so far was her predecessor's Meals on Wheels efforts because seeing people's expressions when they received the meals made her heart happy.

Swauger will be a junior at Carmichaels Area Junior Senior High School this year and plans to become a cosmetologist after she graduates.

"I'm going to look for a beauty school in Pittsburgh somewhere and after I get that degree, I'm going to try to go to a college for business, so I can start my own business," she said.

She said being 2019 Miss Rain Day will help with her career because she will have the opportunity to talk to people and get better communication skills. For now, though, it's time to wrap her head around her new title and get to work.

"I'm really excited to start my new journey," she said.

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