

Miss Deaf America  
2008

Miss Deaf America was one of a few rare opportunities that I grabbed dearly. Sure enough, the stay in New Orleans for Miss Deaf America impacted me greatly in many things. I learned and benefited a lot from many great Deaf young women leaders around America. We have many different opinions and leadership styles but we all share the same language, culture, and our country. We all want to make sure our Deaf community is the best place to be. Meeting new friends, old friends, attending to numberless of workshops, attending events to represent for our states, those two weeks out of my life were completely priceless. Jennifer Yost-Oritz said to us, "You have to realize that not everyone will have the chance to be here, to represent their state, and to be able to experience what Miss Deaf America Pageant have to give. You have to consider yourself lucky to be here." It hit me hard. I didn't really realize that not everyone will have the chance. I am very lucky to be able to represent Kansas, and get to go to New Orleans to be involved with Miss Deaf America. I am very glad that I was selected as Miss Deaf Kansas and am able to represent for everyone at Kansas. However, there's one thing that beat all of them and that was when I was able to stand on the stage and presented my opinions and my message to everyone. The environment is in danger and I am so glad I got a chance to send the message to the Deaf community that we must do something about it. I really appreciate your support to send me out to New Orleans to represent for your state, and I will be sure to bring my experience back with me. Thank you!

Yours,  
Tanna Jo Kolb  
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