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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Alayah Benavidez Wins the 2019 MISS TEXAS USA**® **Crown**

**Houston, TX, September 2, 2018** – **Alayah Benavidez** was crowned **MISS TEXAS USA**® **2019** on Sunday, September 2, in a competitive field of contestants from throughout Texas. Representing San Antonio, the 23-year-old, 5’8” hazel-eyed beauty is a student at the University of Texas at San Antonio and works as an Orthodontic Assistant. Through her Read the Way campaign, Alayah promotes childhood literacy and seeks to impart her love for reading to children across America.

In addition to representing the Great State of Texas in the **2019 MISS USA**® pageant, Miss Benavidez wins a prize package that includes scholarships, travel, clothing, jewelry and much more.  Hosting the show were Magen Ellis Cherry, Miss Texas USA 2007, and popular pageant emcee, Albert Soliz. Miss Texas Teen USA 2018, Brenna Flynn was a special guest.

Miss Tomball, Kirby Lindley, was named first runner-up and was also the Swimsuit Winner.  Rounding out the Top Five were second runner-up, Miss Houston, Lesha Wincher; third runner-up Miss Lone Star, Katie Scott; and fourth runner-up Miss Central South Texas, Isabella Radovan.

Other contestants selected for the top sixteen semifinalists were Miss Arlington, Rachel Hornbuckle; Miss Austin, Taylor Houston; Miss Capital of Texas, Erica Morgan; Miss Harris County, Jacqueline Davis; Miss Helotes, Morgan Pointon; Miss Kemah, Erin Wilrich; Miss Laredo, Katherine O’Connor; Miss Rio Grande Valley, Angelina Villarreal; Miss South Plains, Paris Regan; Miss Southeast Texas, Taylor Kessler, also named Most Photogenic; Miss Travis County and winner of the People’s Choice Award, Libby Hill.

The contestants’ choice for the Congeniality Award was Miss Laguna Vista, Christina Carlson.

The People’s Choice contest raised over $9,000 to be donated to the Texas Wounded Warriors Foundation.

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