

Sophia Dominguez-Heithoff
Miss Teen USA 2017

Sophia Dominguez-Heithoff is the 35th Miss Teen USA and the second young woman from Missouri to win the title.

Sophia's mother who is German, and father who is Mexican, wanted their daughter to have a strong multicultural name that translates in many different languages. Sophia is proud of her true international heritage (she is also Irish), especially her Hispanic roots, and hopes to inspire other Mexican American children to pursue their dreams.

The Kansas City native graduated from high school a year early to begin her undergraduate studies at the University of Kansas. Through her civic engagement experiences and passion for policymaking, Sophia is pursuing a degree in Political Science and Ethics with plans to attend law school. Sophia would like to work towards justice for minorities and inspire other women to become strong leaders in politics.

Growing up alongside a close family member with Down syndrome, Sophia saw firsthand the positive effects that consistent and quality care can provide those who are disabled. She has since dedicated her time and efforts to Best Buddies, The Down Syndrome Guild, and Vocational Services, Inc., among other organizations. Sophia's vigorous ambition to create positive change for people with developmental disabilities led her to work alongside Missouri state legislators to develop policies that can provide these individuals with the best care. In recognition of her research and efforts, Sophia was awarded the Gold Award, the highest achievement within Girl Scouts of the USA.

Sophia loves all sports and rooting for her hometown team, the Kansas City Chiefs and now, the JayHawks at KU.