

# Teenager's dream is just a snap

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Make-a-Wish trip to include posing for top model photographer

Madeline Finnegan's dream of becoming a famous fashion model is about to get a big boost.

On Sunday, the Make-A-Wish Foundation is flying the 13-year-old Huntsville girl to New York to be photographed by Nigel Barker, a judge on the "America's Next Top Model" television show.

Madeline will get the royal treatment - hair, makeup, wardrobe - and come home with a modeling portfolio compiled by one of the world's best-known fashion photographers.

"It's pretty cool," she said Sunday. "I'm not really nervous now, but I'm sure when the day comes I will be."

Madeline, an eighth-grader at Hampton Cove Middle School, and her older brother Blaise, a Huntsville High senior, both have a rare blood disorder called Fanconi anemia. The disease causes bone marrow failure and often leads to leukemia.

While their health is stable for now, both will eventually need bone marrow transplants.

Their mother, Nancy Finnegan, said members of the Junior League in Huntsville told the Make-A-Wish Foundation last summer about Madeline's dream of being photographed by Barker. Things came together quickly and the whole family, including younger sister Trinity, were invited to the Big Apple for four days.

Madeline's father is Scott Finnegan, a NASA engineer.

On Wednesday morning, AEGIS Technologies in Huntsville is hosting a party where the Finnegans will learn their exact itinerary for the New York trip. The company's president and chief executive officer, Steven S. Hill, is on the Make-A-Wish Foundation Board of Directors.

Besides posing for Barker, Madeline said she wants to see "Phantom of the Opera" on Broadway and do lots of shopping.

"My friends are so excited. They've been asking me to take tons of pictures, which I will," she said.

Blaise asked the Make-A-Wish Foundation for Alabama season tickets last summer. The request didn't go through in time, but Nancy Finnegan said a foundation employee e-mailed everyone she knew begging for tickets.

Blaise, who plans to start school in Tuscaloosa this fall, wound up going to every game but the Iron Bowl.