



www.ohiogaypride.com

Welcome to Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry, Ohio's most competitive pageant and Ohio's most sought-after title.

The following pages contain information that will help you be successful as you prepare to compete within Gay Pride Pageantry.

Whether you are a first-time contestant or a returning contestant, this handbook will be a very important tool for you. The handbook has been designed according to experiences of the Ohio Gay Pride Royalty and other contestants who have competed in past years, in addition to suggestions from our judges.

It is imperative that you become familiar with the rules and regulations governing Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry. The rules and regulations are included in this handbook.

We also suggest that you attend Ohio Gay Pride Preliminary Pageants and/or the State Pageant to help you become familiar with the system. The Ohio Gay Pride website is also a resource for your use and includes information regarding the history of Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry and the Ohio Gay Pride Royalty.

Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry has become a very competitive pageant system and it is important that you prepare a very competitive competition package.

Miss Ohio Gay Pride is a 3 day event. The first two days of Miss Ohio Gay Pride consists of Preliminary Competition to determine the top ten contestants. The top ten contestants, then, compete on final night. Mr. Ohio Gay Pride is a one day event and all qualified contestants will compete.

Unfortunately, there can be only one winner each year. Please do not be discouraged if you are not the winner. Instead, review your score sheets and judges' comments and prepare to come back next year with a goal and desire to be an Ohio Gay Pride Titleholder.

Rules And Regulations (Mr & Miss)

1. All contestants **MUST** be a legal resident of Ohio. Proof of residency must be provided if requested by the promoter.
2. Contestants ***must be male*** and have reached the legal age of twenty-one (21) prior to the date of the pageant. Proof of age, such as a drivers license/state issued identification card, birth certificate, etc., must be provided to the promoter of the pageant. If for any reason the promoter finds cause to investigate the age of the contestant, reasonable measures will be taken for the investigation to ensure that the contestant meets the minimum age requirement. If no validation is found, the contestant will be disqualified.
3. Judging will be based on a total points-accumulated system. In the event of a TIE, the winner will be determined by the highest **talent** score. If there is a tie in the talent scores, the tie must be broken by an onstage question involving the top 5 contestants.
4. Contestants will be judged in the following categories: Creative Evening/Formal Wear, On stage Question and Answer, & Talent. Interview is held at the state competition only.
5. The use of any illegal drugs or the dispensing of any illegal drugs will not be tolerated while the contestants are participating in Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry
6. Talent will be limited to seven (7) minutes. Prop set-up will be limited to two (2) minutes. Prop takedown will also be limited to two (2) minutes. Prop set-up and takedown times are not included in the seven- (7) minute talent time. You will have a total of eleven (11) minutes. If a contestant exceeds the time limits, they will receive a score of zero (0) for the talent category.
7. Any type of talent presentation is acceptable except those that may cause injury to you or others. **NO PYROTECHNICS** are permitted (fire, flashpots, flaming batons, etc.). The use of authentic-looking weapons is prohibited.

8. Any contestant caught in the act of stealing and/or causing damage to another contestant's property will be immediately disqualified and removed from the pageant location.
9. For the crowning ceremony: Gown (Miss) or suit (Mr.) of choice.
10. Smoking will not be permitted in the dressing areas.
11. No food or drink will be permitted in the dressing areas.
12. Each contestant will be permitted to have one (1) helper in the dressing area at any given time. All helpers will be required to have an identification card.
13. For Preliminary Pageants, each Contestant will pay an entry fee as set by the Preliminary Promoter – cash or money order only. **NO PERSONAL CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** For Miss & Mr. Ohio Gay Pride Pageant, the preliminary promoters are responsible to pay the state entry fee for their own qualified contestants.
14. Any contestant, dresser, dancers, talent performers, etc. who causes a disturbance of any kind during a preliminary pageant or at Ohio Gay Pride Preliminary Pageant will result in the disqualification of the contestant and contestant will be banned from all Ohio Gay Pride Pageants in the future. We expect all contestants and their affiliates to behave in a professional manner.
15. All qualified contestants MUST compete at the Ohio Gay Pride Pageant. Any qualified contestant who does not compete at the Ohio Gay Pride Pageant will be banned from the Ohio Gay Pride System for one (1) year and will not be permitted to be involved in any Ohio Gay Pride function or preliminary pageant held during the year. This includes functions within Mr. and Miss Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry.

16.If a qualified contestant does not compete at Ohio Gay Pride and was not excused from competing at Ohio Gay Pride by the state promoter, they will be required to return the \$75.00 entry fee to their preliminary promoters for reimbursement of the state entry fee that promoter has already paid to reserve the contestants slot at Miss or Mr. Ohio Gay Pride Pageant. The qualified contestant who does not compete at Ohio Gay Pride will have thirty (30) days to reimburse \$75.00 to their preliminary promoter. Failure to reimburse the preliminary promoter will result in the contestant being banned from the Ohio Gay Pride System until the entry fee is paid. Preliminary titleholders who do not compete at Ohio Gay Pride will be required to return crown or medal, all awards, and all prize money to the preliminary promoter within 30 days of the state pageant for which the contestant did not compete.

17.A preliminary promoter may choose to offer gifts, cash, benefit shows, bookings, etc. in addition to the prize package that is set for all preliminary pageants. Any additional gifts must be outlined in writing and signed by both the preliminary promoter and the contestant. If there is no signed agreement regarding additional gifts or support, the preliminary promoter is not obligated to provide additional gifts or support to the contestant who becomes qualified to compete at the Ohio Gay Pride Pageant.

ADMINISTRATIVE POINTS RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 10 points Smoking in the dressing room
- 10 points Drinking in the dressing room
- 10 points More than one dresser in the dressing room

Immediate Disqualification

Badgering or belittling any contestant, any member of the Ohio Gay Pride Preliminary or associates of the Ohio Gay Pride Preliminary Pageant, or any affiliates of Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry.

- 5 points No costume for presentation
- 10 points Tardy for line up 5 points each for Roll Call, Presentation, Creative Evening/Formal Wear, On-stage Question, and Talent
- 5 points Late for registration

INTERVIEW

**100 Points Each Judge
(State Level Only)**

This is a JOB INTERVIEW. It is very difficult to prepare for an interview. However, holding a “mock” interview with your friends or colleagues may help you feel more at ease with this process. It is most important to study the Ohio Gay Pride System prior to your interview. This interview is no different than a job interview where you would study the company for which you will be interviewing. You should know the history of Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry as well as the Ohio Gay Pride Royalty (former state titleholder) in order with respect to the year that each titleholder served. You should also know specifics of each and every category of the pageant.

The dress code for interview is “Business Casual” and you may interview as male or female. Contestants for Mr. Ohio Gay Pride will interview as male. Be sure to choose the “persona” that is going to make you feel most comfortable during your interview. Be prepared to tell the judges why you chose to come to interview as male or female. Do not come to interview in jeans and T-shirts or sweat suits. Your hair and accessories should be business-appropriate and you should be very well groomed. If you choose to interview as male, do not wear feminine fingernails or accessories. Whether you interview as male or female, your gender should be obvious to the judges. Do not leave them guessing if you are man or woman.

Humor is good during interview, but make sure that you are also conveying the idea that you are serious about this job.

When you enter the interview area, it is customary to shake hands with each judge. You should sit only when invited to do so by one of the judges – most likely, this invitation will come from the head judge.

The judges will do everything possible to make you feel comfortable during the interview process. Your answers should be clear and complete. Do not use “um” or “uhh” when speaking. Speak slow and

think about your answers to the judges' questions. Do not rush through your answers. It is better to think about your thoughts before you start speaking.

Be honest during your interview. If you do not know the answer to a particular question, tell the judges that you do not know the answer but also let them know that you will be researching that information as soon as your interview time is over. You should convey the idea that you are motivated to learn anything that you may not know.

The head judge will alert you to the end of the interview time. Before leaving the interview area, you should, again, shake hands with each judge and thank them for their time with you.

ON-STAGE QUESTION

100 Points Each Judge

Like interview, it is difficult to prepare for On-Stage Question. You may choose to “practice” by having your friends or colleagues ask questions and allowing them to critique your answers.

There is nothing wrong with taking a breath and thinking about your answer before you start speaking. As long as you do not take a long period of stage time to think about your answer, the judges will not deduct points for a short pause before you answer.

You should speak slowly and make sure that you are answering the question posed to you. Speak well and be articulate. Use proper English when answering your question. It is best to answer the question without “rambling”. The more you speak, the more possible it will be to lead yourself away from the topic of the question that has been asked. Sometimes, a short, concise answer will score better than a long, drawn-out answer.

CREATIVE EVENING/FORMAL WEAR

100 Points Each Judge

This is the most elegant category in the pageant. Your attire should be elegant but it must also have a creative flare. It can not be a costume. Beware of creativity that may lead to your attire looking more like a costume than Creative Evening/Formal Wear. Face masks are not encouraged as they tend to create the look of a costume instead of Creative Evening/Formal Wear. Hats are acceptable to this category but make sure that the hat does not cover your face. Watch the size of your hat as well. Hats that are too large may look like a costume.

Attire that is beaded or stoned is an acceptable option, but plain, fabric attire is also acceptable as long as the attire is creative and elegant. Fabrics with a unique pattern are not considered to be creative. For example, a fabric containing several multi-colored shapes does not constitute creativity. Stretch fabric is not recommended if you want to score well in this category. Stretch fabric, many times, appears to be “cheap” and may cause bunching or wrinkling in certain areas resulting in point deductions. Remember that ELEGANCE is the key to the Creative Evening/Formal Wear category.

Stones, sequins, and other objects should be attached well and should not fall off of your attire when modeling. Points will be deducted for falling stones or other falling objects during this category.

The fabric of your attire should be free of wrinkles, rips, and tears. There should be no stains or unwanted marks on the fabric. Accessories should complement the attire and should not be distracting.

Your Creative Evening Wear should be comfortable and easy for you to model. Modeling should be slow and deliberate. Make sure that your shoes are appropriate for you and that you are able to walk comfortably while modeling. Be steady on your feet as you model and try to keep from stumbling or tripping as you walk the stage.

If you wear a gown for this category, all of the customary rules of length and fit will apply. Make up should be appropriate and your hair should be clean. Watch your hairline! Updo's are not required but the style of your hair should complement the attire that you choose to model. For Mr. Ohio Gay Pride, Your attire should be masculine but creative. All expectations of length and fit apply. Accessories should complement the attire.

Props may be used for the Creative Evening/Formal Wear Category. However, no prop set up time will be allotted for this category.

Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry offers you the opportunity to wear different Creative Evening/Formal Wear attire for preliminary night and final night. It is STRONGLY encouraged that you take advantage of this opportunity. Remember that your package should make you stand out from the other contestants. If you wear the same attire on final night that you wore on preliminary night, you are NOT making yourself stand out. History has shown that our judges will deduct points for contestants wearing the same attire on preliminary night and final night.

During Miss Ohio Gay Pride Preliminary competition, the stage curtain will remain open at all times throughout this category. For Final Night of Miss Ohio Gay Pride, the curtain will open for each contestant and will close when the contestant has completed his/her on-stage question and is excused from the stage.

TALENT

200 Points Each Judge

Talent is the highest scored category of the pageant. When choosing a talent, be sure to choose something that is within your range and within your abilities. If you are not a dancer, do not choose a dancing talent for competition.

You should prepare two different talents for this competition, one talent for preliminary competition and another talent for final night. Remember that during preliminary competition, you are fighting for a spot in the top 10 and on final night, you are fighting for the crown.

While you are preparing your competition talent, make sure that your preliminary talent is strong enough to be a top 10 talent.

A “Saturday Night Solo Drag Number” will not score well in preliminary competition nor final night competition. This competition is your one opportunity to show the judges something more than your usual performance and an opportunity to show the judges what you are capable of doing.

Your talent should not contain a large amount of violence and it should not contain vulgar language or actions.

Hair and makeup should be appropriate for your talent. Your talent costume should be wrinkle free and free of stains or marks. Talent costumes should be well constructed with no holes or tears. If you have stones or other objects on your talent costume, ensure that they are applied well so that they do not fall off of your costume during your talent. Points will be deducted for “falling debris” from your talent costume.

Your talent should be entertaining and should have a beginning, a middle, and an end with climaxes in the appropriate places. It may be a good idea to perform your talent for friends or colleagues before the competition to ensure that it has entertainment value.

Prepare your talent well. Rehearsal is the key to a winning talent performance. If you have back up dancers in your talent, they should be on cue and they should appear as though they are comfortable with the talent. Everyone in the talent should appear confident with every move. Back up dancers should not be distracting but should complement YOU in the talent.

The talent that you present should be able to stand on its own and make sense to anyone seeing it. Beware of preparing a talent from a movie or musical as a judge may not understand your talent if they have not seen that particular movie or musical. Be careful of talents in which you are presenting the illusion of a character. Judges may not know the character that you are presenting which may create difficulty in the judge’s ability to score you appropriately. For example, if you choose to

create the illusion of Missy Elliot for your talent competition, a judge, who may not know anything about Missy Elliot, will have a difficult time judging you appropriately. Even well-known characters are, sometimes, risky in competitions.

Lip Sync talents should appear as though the words are coming out of your mouth. Know the cues of each phrase and be sure to finish each word. If your talent contains several voices, there should be a visible person attached to those voices. For example, if your talent contains a conversation or dialogue between you and another voice, there should be a person on stage portraying the other voice.

Do not turn your back to the judges during your lip sync.

Beware of long intro's to your talent.

Refrain from leaving the stage for costume changes, etc. If it is imperative that you leave the stage, it should be for a very short period of time and there should be some form of entertainment happening on the stage while you are off of the stage. You may lose points if you are absent from the stage for an inappropriate amount of time.

Duets that contain equal parts for both voices are not recommended. It should be clear that YOU are the main character in your talent and the focus should be on YOU.

If there is a sound in your talent CD that suggests that you should be performing a certain action, you must make sure that you are performing that very action. For example, if there is the sound of pounding in your recording, there should be a correlating action to that sound. The actions should be precise and should look as though that sound is being created by the person on stage.

Your talent CD should be clear and free of static. The sounds should be easy to hear and easy to understand. Recordings of dialogue are sometimes difficult to understand. Make sure that every word in your CD is understandable.

You may choose to use the stage curtain for your talent on Preliminary Nights and Final Night. If you do not specify your wishes to use the stage curtains for your talent, the stage curtains will remain open to allow for the maximum amount of stage area. If you choose to use the stage curtains for your talent, you will be required to have your own person to open and close the curtains for you. Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry staff or stage manager will not be available to open or close the curtains for you.

For Final Night, Your talent track must be Track 1 and your chosen crowning song must be Track 2 on that same CD.

PRESENTATION

Not Judged

Presentation is not a judged category, but there is an award given to the contestant with the best presentation. Your presentation attire should be according to the theme of the pageant. The theme is determined by the current Ohio Gay Pride titleholder and will be announced at each preliminary pageant. The theme will also be posted on the Ohio Gay Pride website.

PAGEANT INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

Registration is usually held at noon on the first day of competition for Miss Ohio Gay Pride. Registration for Mr. Ohio Gay Pride will be held at noon on the day of competition. Please refer to your Ohio Gay Pride Contestant Packet when they are available for the schedule of events for Mr. and Miss Ohio Gay Pride Pageant.

You are required to download your Ohio Gay Pride Contestant Packet from the Ohio Gay Pride Website. Packets will not be available by any other means. The contestant packets for Mr. Ohio Gay Pride will be available by July 15. The contestant packets for Miss Ohio Gay Pride will be available by September 15.

During registration for Miss Ohio Gay Pride, you will be required to purchase weekend passes for your talent dancers or those involved in your pageant package only. The price of weekend passes will be posted on the Ohio Gay Pride website along with your contestant packets. During registration for Mr. Ohio Gay Pride, you will be required to purchase admission passes for your talent dancers at regular admission price.

You will be given a dresser badge at Registration. Your dresser will get into Axis free of charge as long as they have this dresser badge when they come through the doors. If you lose your dresser badge, you will be required to purchase another badge for \$10.00

Included in your contestant packet are three forms that you must complete and bring to Registration with you. These forms include the contestant application, the release form, and the contract for Miss/Mr. Ohio Gay Pride. To make the registration process easy and quick, please have these forms completed when you come to registration.

You will be assigned a date and time for your interview. All Interviews are held at Somewhere Else Nightclub and Showbar. Interviews for Mr. Ohio Gay Pride will be held immediately following registration.

HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

There is no host hotel for Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry. Contestants may lodge anywhere they like.

PRELIMINARY COMPETITION (Miss Ohio Gay Pride)

Preliminary Competition applies to Miss Ohio Gay Pride only. Preliminary nights will begin at 7PM and will be held at Axis Nightclub. You will not be permitted into Axis until 6PM on Preliminary Nights of the contest. NO EXCEPTIONS!

The first two nights consist of the Preliminary Competition to determine the top ten contestants who will compete on final night.

All contestants will be competing in one or two of the categories each night. Contestants are categorized into two groups. Group one competes in Creative Evening Wear and On-Stage Question on the first night of competition. Group two competes in Talent the first night of the pageant. The groups “switch” on the second night of preliminary competition.

When you have completed your category on Preliminary nights, you are required to pack your belongings and take them to your vehicle immediately. This will help to create more room in the dressing area for the contestants who are still involved in the night of competition.

Tables are not reserved or sold for preliminary nights. Tables will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Preliminary Nights will usually be completed by 9:15pm.

STARS OF PRIDE SHOW (Miss Ohio Gay Pride)

This review show is held on Saturday of the Miss Ohio Gay Pride Pageant. The cast includes all of the Ohio Gay Pride Royalty for Miss and Mr. Ohio Gay Pride. The Stars of Pride show is a mandatory event for all contestants and the winners of the preliminary categories will be announced during this show.

FINAL NIGHT

Final night of competition is held on Sunday. Contestants will not be permitted into Axis until 6:30pm on Final Night.

General Admission to the pageant will be announced on the Ohio Gay Pride website and tables are available for \$45.00 which includes admission for 4.

The pageant will begin promptly at 8PM. Immediately following Presentation, the top ten contestants will be announced. Those contestants who are not in the top ten (Miss Ohio Gay Pride) are required to pack their belongings immediately and take them to their vehicles. Contestants not in the top ten are dismissed from the competition following the announcement of top ten and are not required to remain at the pageant location. Of course, those contestants are welcome to stay and enjoy the remainder of the pageant.

EXPECTATIONS OF OHIO GAY PRIDE TITLEHOLDERS

- **Ohio Gay Pride Titleholders will be responsible to work closely with the Ohio Gay Pride Promoter to ensure the continued success of the Ohio Gay Pride System.**
- **Ohio Gay Pride Titleholders will be responsible to develop preliminary pageants, recruit preliminary pageant promoters, and assist with planning preliminary pageants as needed.**
- **Ohio Gay Pride Titleholders will be responsible to have frequent contact with the Ohio Gay Pride Promoter.**
- **Ohio Gay Pride Titleholders will be required to attend all Preliminary Pageants unless otherwise excused by the Ohio Gay Pride Promoter.**
- **Ohio Gay Pride Titleholders will be responsible to have reliable transportation to all preliminary pageants and Ohio Gay Pride functions.**
- **Ohio Gay Pride Titleholders will receive appearance fee of \$75.00 for attending each preliminary pageant. This fee to be paid the night of your appearance at the preliminary pageant.**
- **Preliminary Pageant Promoters are NOT responsible for transportation or lodging expenses for Ohio Gay Pride Titleholders.**
- **Ohio Gay Pride Titleholders will be responsible to be punctual and on time for all events.**
- **Ohio Gay Pride Titleholders will be required to act in a professional manner at all times while representing the Ohio Gay Pride Pageant System.**
- **The Promoters of the Ohio Gay Pride Pageant System have the right to revoke title and crown/medal of any Ohio Gay Pride Titleholder who does not comply with the outlined responsibilities.**
- **Ohio Gay Pride Titleholders will be responsible for contacting current preliminary promoters to ensure that they will continue to hold their respective preliminary pageants**
- **Ohio Gay Pride Titleholders are responsible to uphold all of the rules and regulations of Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry.**
- **Ohio Gay Pride Titleholders will be responsible for making administrative decisions in the absence of the Ohio Gay Pride Promoter.**

DEDICATION

dedication

noun

1. complete and wholehearted fidelity

Dedication is very important to Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry. As a titleholder in this system, your success will depend upon your dedication to the system and to the family of Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry.

PRIZE PACKAGE

The prize package for Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry will be outlined in your contestant packet each year. The prize package for the winner is, intentionally, not a huge cash prize. Those who have been involved in this system in the past, understand the prize package. The owners of Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry do not offer large prize packages on the night of the pageant. Instead, Ohio Gay Pride Titleholders are rewarded throughout the year of their reign, based upon their dedication and their willingness to work for the continued success of Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry. Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry is not the right system for the entertainer who enters a pageant strictly for the prize money. We are not the least interested in having a titleholder whose main concern is the amount of money they will get if they win. We are interested in the person who is dedicated to this system and willing to work for the money and rewards that they will receive.

SCORE SHEETS

All Score Sheets will be reviewed by the Ohio Gay Pride Promoter and copies of each score sheet will be made for filing in the Ohio Gay Pride Office. Original Contestant Score Sheets will, then, be mailed to the contestant within three weeks of the pageant. Scores will be posted in the contestant dressing area at the end of the final night of competition.

Scores are calculated and confirmed by three parties throughout the entire competition.

PLEASE VISIT THE OHIO GAY PRIDE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

THEME FOR MISS OHIO GAY PRIDE 2009

PRIDE ON THE WILD SIDE

Contestants are required to wear a SIMPLE, ANIMAL PRINT, FULL LENGTH EVENING GOWN for presentation.