



pride  
winston-salem

**Pride Winston -Salem  
Pageants Handbook  
2026-2027**

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Hello contestants!

On behalf of the Board of Directors for Pride Winston-Salem – Welcome!

Thank you for participating in the Pride Winston-Salem Pageant.

You are about to embark on a journey like no other.

You follow in the footsteps of some very talented entertainers who have competed and reigned beautifully for the title of Mr., Miss & Miss Trans Pride Winston-Salem.

This year we have added the opportunity to be the first ever Mx. Pride Winston-Salem.

If you capture the title, you will become a member of an elite group.

You will also become a member of a much larger family- Pride Winston-Salem.

As a titleholder, you have a very important role in representing Pride Winston-Salem and the LGBTQIA Community. This title requires titleholders to engage the community, be a leader, and do the work; remembering that Pride Winston-Salem is a year-round organization that keeps a full schedule of events. Your poise and grace while representing Pride Winston-Salem not only reflect upon you as an entertainer, but also on our organization and community.

Pride Winston-Salem is fortunate to have an established and organized pageant event that is inclusive, entertaining, & very competitive. ***So, bring your A game!***

Our panel of judges looks forward to seeing what you have to bring to the stage and your community.

Best of luck to everyone!

The Pride Winston-Salem

Pride Winston-Salem is a 501(c)3 non-profit managed by volunteers.



## Pageant Details

Participants in the Mr., Miss, Miss Trans & Mx. Pride Winston-Salem (Pride WS) pageant must be a resident of North Carolina, live or work regularly within a 40-mile radius of zip code 27101 – Winston-Salem. (PWS Board President and Vice President will consider contestants outside of this range)

Winner of Mr., Miss, Miss Trans or Mx. Pride Winston-Salem cannot currently hold another “Pride” during their reign.

Other pageantry system titles, bar titles etc. are permissible if they do not interfere with your Pride WS reign responsibilities.

Eligible contestants should identify with the LGBTQIA+ community – as this title will be won by someone who will represent the community.

Those competing for Miss Trans Pride must be someone who identifies as a Trans Woman in daily life.

Those competing for the title of Mx.Pride Winston-Salem should identify outside the gender binary/ gender nonconforming on or off stage (ie: nonbinary,,gender-fluid, agender, etc.) .

Any and all genders and gender presentations are eligible to compete.

Once you have chosen your division (Mr.,Miss, Miss Trans or Mx.) you MUST stay in that division for the entirety of the competition.

## PAGEANT UPDATE

In the event there is only a single contestant for a title, Pride WS will forgo that title and move forward with only titles there are enough participants to have a competition for.



## Registration

**Contestants competing for Mr., Miss, Miss Trans & Mx. Pride Winston-Salem are required to attend registration on the day of the pageant.**

**Registration will start at 11am.**

During this time Pride Winston-Salem's pageant coordinator will be introduced, all rules and responsibilities will be reviewed with contestants, contestants can pay any remaining registration and/or dancer fees, return completed paperwork and contestants will draw their pageant numbers.

Each contestant is allowed only one (1) Dresser  
Dancer fee is half the general admission cost per dancer.

***A NON- REFUNDABLE \$50 REGISTRATION FEE  
IS DUE AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION***

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## EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF TITLE HOLDERS

- Represents Pride Winston-Salem effectively and responsibly, while adhering to the bylaws of Pride Winston-Salem.
- Titleholders are NOT allowed to hold nor compete for another “Pride” title while reigning for Pride Winston-Salem.
- Other pageantry system titles, bar titles etc. are permissible if they do not interfere with your Pride WS reign responsibilities.
- **Titleholders are NOT to participate in gossip, slander, or disparaging conversations of any kind during their reign.**
- **No Exceptions! This also includes ALL social media platforms.**
- Attend and perform at the Pride WS kickoff party, festival, and after party following the festival.
- Titleholders will also ride in the Pride WS Parade the morning of the festival. May also be asked to take part in additional events at the request of the President or Vice President of Pride Winston-Salem.
- Attend no less than (5) Pride Winston-Salem functions and fundraisers during your reign or at the specific request of the Board of Directors.
- These events may be in a performance capacity (Brunches & Drag Shows) or in the capacity of a Community Ambassador during other LGBTQIA+ community events etc.
- At these events you may be asked to sell raffle tickets or pass out literature for another Pride WS event.



**Stay in communication with the board President and Vice- President during the year.**

**Titleholders will be provided a Pride Winston-Salem email account, be included in applicable distribution lists, invited to attend Board meetings as an advisory member (non-voting) throughout their reign, and will be given the option to become a voting member (attending as many meetings as possible is required).**

**Titleholders will assist the Pageant Coordinator with the planning of the Mr., Miss & Mx. Pride Winston-Salem Pageant for the following year.**

**Titleholders will be eligible to run for the title of Mr. & Miss Pride Winston-Salem (2) years after their reign with the approval of the President, and/or the Board of Pride WinstonSalem.**

**Pride Winston-Salem will arrange a photoshoot for the titleholders up to (90) days after crowning.**

**Titleholders are required to appear in persona with sash and crown.**

**Participation in events and public representation of your title are the most critical elements of your reign**

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## **BREACH OF AGREEMENT**

The titleholder will be considered in breach of agreement if any and/or all REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS are not met as determined by the Board of Directors of Pride WinstonSalem.

Breach of agreement will result in the following:

- Revocation of Title
- Cancellation of future bookings, appearances, and fees stated in this contract
- Return of all prizes won. (If any prize is damaged, replacement will be required)

Pride Winston-Salem reserves the right to take action if it is determined that the Titleholder is in BREACH of AGREEMENT.

## **PRIZE PACKAGE FOR PAGEANT WINNERS**

Sash and Crown

\$ 200 the night of winning the title.

\$ 200 the night of title step-down\*

2 guaranteed \$75 bookings in Pride WS Events

\*After Mid-Reign (6 months) titleholder review - conducted by the PrideWS Board}



## CATEGORIES AND SCORING

The focus of this interview will be to determine if the contestant is a suitable and worthy representative of Pride WS, similar to interviewing for a job.

Contestants will be interviewed by five (5) judges, along with the reigning titleholder in their division.

Each judge will ask at least one question, and the contestant will be given the opportunity to answer.

Any judge may also interject with a follow-up question.

Time limit – will be a minimum of 5 minutes (Not to exceed 7 minutes).

### Interview Scoring will be based on:

- **Content (Answers) -Substantial, relevant, and appropriate answers.**
- **Communication (Personality) -Effective gestures, voice tone, facial expressions.**
- **Appearance- Professional Dress – Dress for Success.**
- **Overall Impression**

**\*\*\*Judges will be looking for those who express a commitment to representing the organization**

**and to being an involved ambassador to the greater Winston-Salem LGBTQIA+ community during the interview process**

□

□

□



## PRESENTATION

This category is your chance to show your Pride!

You must choose one of the Pride Flags that best represents you as an individual. For example, the Pride Flag, the Trans Flag, etc.

Be creative! It may be delivered in the form of a clothing/modeling category, as a “mini-Talent”, or any other creative performance or form of pride.

**A TOTAL of 5 BONUS POINTS will be awarded to contestants who VISUALLY include a historical aspect of Winston-Salem as a MAJOR part of their presentation (i.e., landmarks, historical facts/events/things unique to Winston-Salem).**

Props are allowed, but set-up time and tear-down time should be limited to one (1) minute each (set-up 1 minute and break down 1 minute)

The set up and break down time is not applied to your overall time limit for the category.

Contestants must provide their own music.

There will be a brief section allowed to the contestants to do a speech to introduce themselves to the judges and expand on their presentation.

Presentation cannot exceed (3) minutes overall (speech included).

Violating the time requirement will result in an automatic (5) point deduction from each judge’s score.

Presentation Scoring will be based on:

- Content (Technical) -Substance, relevance, relates subject to Pride.
- Delivery & Speech (Artistic) -Creativity, stage presence, execution, voice tone.
- Appearance-Costuming, hair/makeup, accessories.
- Overall Impression-Rated recommendation.



## **QUESTION AND ANSWER AND ON STAGE QUESTION**

**Q&A will be held as part of the Presentation segment but is judged separately.**

**Contestants will be given an opportunity to speak before the emcee proceeds. During Q&A. Contestants will select a predetermined question approved by the board of directors of Pride Winston-Salem, the emcee will then read the question out loud twice to the contestant, & the contestant will then be given the opportunity to answer the question for the judges and audience.**

### **Q&A Scoring will be based on:**

- **Content -Substance, relevant and appropriate answer.**
- **Communication-Effective gestures, voice tone, facial expressions.**
- **Overall Impression-Rated recommendation.**



## **TALENT**

**Mr. & Miss, Miss Trans & Mx. Pride Winston-Salem Talent may not exceed seven (7) minutes.**

**Contestants will be allowed a two (2) minute set up and two minute (2) breakdown time.**

**Contestants must provide their own music.**

**Violating the time limits will result in an automatic five (5) point deduction from each judge's score.**

**Props are allowed, but space will be limited to store them and set them up on stage. Fire, water, loose glitter or any other potentially dangerous or damaging substance is NOT allowed..**

**Contestants are allowed to have "DANCERS" or others in their talents.**

**Dancers and other individuals are NOT allowed in the contestants dressing area until 2 talents before.**

**Violating this rule will result in an automatic five (5) point deduction from your total talent score.**

### **Talent Scoring is based on:**

- **Entertainment Value-Impact of talent on judges and audience.**
- **Stage Presence/Performance – Comfort performing/ability and execution.**
- **Costuming/Appearance-Creativity, construction/appropriate to talent.**
- **Overall Impression-Rated recommendation.**



## SCORE BREAKDOWN

**Scoring will be based off the USofA style scoring system.  
This is a ranking system.**

**In the event of a tie, judges will choose the highest scoring talent.  
If there is a tie in talent, judges will then default to the highest scoring interview.**

**In the event of a tie in interview, judges will default to the highest scoring onstage question.**

**In the event of a tie in onstage question, judges will then default to the highest scoring presentation.**

**In the event of a tie in presentation, a new onstage question will be chosen by the judges and judges will then rank contestants based on the new question.**



The Mr., Miss, Miss Trans & Mx. Pride Winston-Salem pageant is wholly owned by Pride Winston-Salem, Inc. and is governed by the Board of Directors of Pride Winston-Salem.

At its discretion, Pride Winston-Salem will select a Pageant Coordinator who will oversee the organization and execution of the pageant and will report directly to the President and/or Vice President of Pride Winston-Salem.

Pride Winston-Salem reserves the right to make changes necessary to ensure the success of the event. Pride Winston-Salem and its Pageant Coordinator will make any and all decisions in relation to event cancellation or postponement and the resumption of the event.

This will also include reign extensions due to any local, state or Federal shutdowns that would require event cancellation or cessation of Pageant operations.

Modified prize packages and benefits will be determined by Pride Winston-Salem.



**PRIDE WINSTON-SALEM COPY**

By signing below, I agree that I am entering this pageant fairly and un-biased.

I understand the requirements set forth in the rules of each category and understand my requirements if I were to win.

I also understand that if I cannot maintain my obligations to Pride Winston-Salem, my title will be revoked, and I will be required to pay back and return any and all of my prize package.

I understand in doing so and the items are broken or in less than perfect condition, I must also cover the cost of replacing them.

I understand that if there is a revocation of title or resignation, the Board of Pride WS will determine if/who will be named as a replacement for the remaining term.

**PERFORMERS LEGAL NAME:** (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

- (SIGN) \_\_\_\_\_ (DATE) \_\_\_\_\_

(WITNESS) \_\_\_\_\_

**PERFORMERS STAGE NAME:** (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

**PRIDE WS REP.** (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

(SIGN) \_\_\_\_\_ (DATE) \_\_\_\_\_



## CONTESTANT COPY

By signing below, I agree that I am entering this pageant fairly and un-biased.

I understand the requirements set forth in the rules of each category and understand my requirements if I were to win.

I also understand that if I cannot maintain my obligations to Pride Winston-Salem, my title will be revoked, and I will be required to pay back and return any and all of my prize package.

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**PERFORMERS LEGAL NAME:** (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

-

(SIGN)

(DATE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(WITNESS)

**PERFORMERS STAGE NAME:** (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

**PRIDE WS REP.** (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

(SIGN)

(DATE)