



Mr. Gay Days® Leather 2024
Official Contest Handbook
As of (3/22/2024)

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Welcome!

Dear Contestant,

Welcome to the exciting world of Gay Days®, the world's #1 Gay & Lesbian Vacation Destination Event! The Mr. Gay Days® Leather contest will take place alongside an exciting weekend of events, expos, and parties. Gay Days® Orlando and the Mr. Gay Days® Leather contest will take place at DoubleTree by Hilton at SeaWorld Orlando, May 30th through June 2nd, 2024.

This handbook will contain all the information that you need for the contest. If you have any questions not answered within the following pages or if you need additional information, please e-mail Leather@GayDays.com and reference the 2024 Mr. Gay Days® Leather Contest.

Best of Luck!

Charles Cantrell, Gay Days® Leather Executive
Producer
Aaron Sanford-Wetherell, Gay Days® Leather Producer
Jeffrey Wayne, Gay Days® Leather Producer

Overview

Gay Days® reserves the right to make amendments to the Contest Handbook at any time. All contestants will be notified where the amended Contest Handbook may be accessed and the date, they will take effect within 48 hours of amendment. Any matter not covered by this Contest Handbook shall be addressed immediately and any necessary decisions will be decided by Executive and Creative Directors, or another designated representative of Gay Days®, Inc.

Rules & Regulations

Contestant Eligibility

Mr. Gay Days® Leather contestants must:

1. Identify as male,
2. Be at least 21 years of age as of May 30th, 2024.
3. Be a resident of North America,
4. Possess a valid government issued ID, such as a Driver's License or passport, issued in their own name, which shall be presented at time of on-site registration to show proof of age.

Contestant Expectations

The winner of Mr. Gay Days® Leather is expected to represent the Gay Days® brand to the best of his ability. That would include:

1. Representing Gay Days® at various events throughout his title year,
2. Competing at IML 2024 in Chicago, IL
3. Maintaining regular social media postings to your followers
4. Supporting a non-profit of your choice.

Contestant Handler Eligibility

Each contestant is allowed one handler. This person must:

1. Be at least 18 years of age as of May 30th, 2024
2. Possess a valid government issued ID, such as a Driver's License or passport.

Contestant Etiquette

1. Complete honesty and full disclosure are expected from all contestants. Any affiliations, issues, or concerns that could reflect poorly on the individual candidates and Gay Days® must be divulged to Gay Days® immediately. Gay Days® reserves the right to investigate any claims regarding any contestant that could be potentially damaging to the reputation of both the contestant and Gay Days®, Inc. Gay Days® also reserves the right to make any determinations and decisions on how to proceed pending the results of their investigations.
2. Any contestant causing damage to any Gay Days® venue, inclusive of decorations and equipment, or any portion of the Doubletree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld will be immediately disqualified and may be subject to legal action. If legal action is pursued, Gay Days® will assist the venue and any owner of damaged property with any prosecution.
3. Any contestant who is caught in the act of stealing or tampering with another person's gear, or possessions will be immediately disqualified, removed from the location of the contest, and denied access to the event.
4. Gay Days® and the Doubletree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld have a strict policy against public nudity. Contestants may not expose their genitalia during any part of the weekend.

Contestant Handler Etiquette

1. Any contestant handler who is caught in the act of stealing or tampering with another person's costumes, props, or other possessions will be removed from the location of the contests and denied access to the event. The contestant whose handler is found in violation of this rule will be immediately disqualified.
2. Any contestant handler who is caught causing damage to any Gay Days® venue, including decorations, equipment, or any portion of the Doubletree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld will be removed from the location of the contest and denied access to the event. The contestant whose handler is found in violation of this rule will be immediately disqualified. If legal action is pursued, Gay Days® will assist the venue and any owner of damaged property with any prosecution.

Policy on Drugs

1. Gay Days® does not tolerate the use, distribution, or possession of illegal drugs by any contestant during the contest. Any contestants found in violation of this rule will be immediately disqualified. Likewise, Gay Days® will not tolerate the use, distribution, or possession of illegal drugs by any Mr. Gay Days® Leather contestant handler. The contestant whose handler is found in violation of this rule will be immediately disqualified. Legal action may be taken at the discretion of Gay Days®, Inc.
2. This policy will remain in effect for the winner of Mr. Gay Days® Leather 2024 during his title year. If he is found in violation of this policy, the Mr. Gay Days® Leather title will be stripped from the winner and passed to the first runner up.
3. Legal action may be taken at the discretion of Gay Days®, Inc.

Policy on Alcohol

1. Any contestant who is found to be grossly intoxicated at any Gay Days®, Inc. event will be immediately disqualified, removed from the location, and denied access to the event. Contestants are welcomed to enjoy social drinking and should be responsible with beverage consumption.
2. Any contestant handler who is found to be grossly intoxicated at any Gay Days® event will be immediately removed from the location and from the Contest and denied access to the event. The contestant whose handler is found to be intoxicated at any Mr. Gay Days® Leather Contest event may be subject to scoring penalization at the discretion of the Owner or Producers of Gay Days®, Inc.

Contest Policies & Information

Production Manager

Gay Days® will provide a Leather Competition Manager as your primary point of contact for the Mr. Gay Days® Leather Contest from time of registration until the end of contest. Any questions, concerns, ideas, or requests should be directed to Jeffrey Wayne, Competition Manager via email: Leather@GayDays.com.

Contestant Application

Candidates will be considered official contestants when:

1. The Mr. Gay Days® Leather Application has been submitted online,
2. The \$75 Entrance Fee has been paid on <http://www.GayDays.com/>, (unless this fee has been waived by entering a qualified preliminary event) and,
3. Your entry email has been submitted to Leather@GayDays.com including the following:
 - a) Subject Line with your contestant stage name followed by "2023 Mr. Gay Days® Leather Contestant Application,
 - b) A PDF of your completed application
 - c) A promotional photo in full leather formal attire. Must be a minimum resolution of 300dpi, and
 - d) Proof of online payment.

Applications and entrance fees are due by 10:00 pm EST on Wednesday, May 29th, 2024. By signing and submitting an application, candidates attest that they have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Mr. Gay Days® Leather Contest.

Accommodations

The DoubleTree by Hilton at SeaWorld is the official host hotel for Gay Days® Orlando 2024. Reservations can only be made online at <http://www.GayDays.com/>. Please note that the host hotel sells out extremely fast.

It is not required, but highly encouraged that all Mr. Gay Days® Leather contestants secure accommodations at the DoubleTree by Hilton at SeaWorld for the duration of the Contest. Contestants are responsible for the payment for their lodging accommodations.

1. Those not staying at the host hotel are required to be present for check-in, contest meetings, events, and contests.

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2. Contestants not staying at the host hotel will also receive one parking pass for parking at the host hotel (based on availability of parking spaces).
3. Gay Days® will not provide travel accommodations for the Mr. Gay Days® Leather Contest. Contestants are responsible for scheduling and payment for their own airfare or other transportation to the Mr. Gay Days® Leather Contest. They are also responsible for any and all transportation expenses before, during, and after the Mr. Gay Days® Contest.

Schedule

A finalized schedule will be made available to contestants at least one week prior to the start of Gay Days®. Below is a tentative schedule as of now.

Thursday, May 30th

- 4:00PM-7:00PM Contestants Host at the Expo
- 8:00PM: Taste of Gay Days® (Optional)
- 9:00PM: Mr. Gay Days® Leather Staff & Contestant Meeting (Required)

Friday, 31st

- 12:00PM-3:00PM Contestant Interviews
- 4PM-7:00PM Contestants Host Karaoke
- 7:30PM Contestants Appearance at Porn Bingo
- 7:00PM-10:00PM Contestants Host Country Night at the Pavilion

Saturday, June 1st

- 10:00AM-2:00PM Contestants Host at the Expo
- 2:00PM: Mr. Gay Days® Leather Rehearsal (Required)
- 5:00PM Miss Gay Days® appearance

Sunday, June 2nd

- 1:00PM Mr. Gay Days Leather Competition
- 5:00PM Boots Beer and Bears Victory Party

*All times are subject to change. If unavailable to attend a required event, the Mr. Gay Days® Production Manager must be notified in advance. Administration points can be deducted if agreed upon by Gay Days® Leather Contest Manager, Producer, or Gay Days® Management.

Judging

There will be an odd number of judges on the panel, who are active members of the leather and LGBTQ community. The Mr. Gay Days® Leather contest utilizes the Olympic Scoring System. In this system, the highest and lowest scores in each event are dropped and the remaining scores are added to make a Contestant's total score for that category. The scores for each category are added together to make your total score. In the event of a tie, scores that were dropped will be added back to determine the winner.

Following the end of the contest, a Contestant's scores will be provided to him upon request. On the scoring sheets provided, Judges will be identified by numbers (which will not be revealed to you and will be randomized between categories), not their names.

Score allocation will be as follows:

A. Personal Interview, 30%

Each contestant will be interviewed by our panel of judges prior to the contest. Questions may range from your personal history, occupation, life experience and social affiliations, to personal and political opinions about current events topics, etc. Judges' questions often cover knowledge of the leather community; its leaders and history; and the Contestant's contributions and/or leadership in the leather community.

1. Judges will be looking at the character, charisma, and personality of each contestant. It will also provide them the opportunity to evaluate basic skills and qualities such as intellect, communication capabilities, attitude, and composure.
2. Contestants should feel free to attend the interview in comfortable bar wear. Contestants should remember that this is a professional, yet casual, interview. Attire should reflect personality while remaining relaxed, and professional.
3. The interview schedule and room location will be provided at the Mandatory Contest Participant Meeting.
4. Personal Interviews will be scheduled for a maximum of 10 minutes.
5. Interviews may be audio/video recorded or livestreamed for public viewing.

B. Bar Wear, 15%

Bar wear is a chance for you to show the judges and the crowd who you are with your leather gear. This should be what you would normally wear to the bar and should represent your leather esthetic or persona.

1. Contestants will be brought on stage one by one and introduced with their contestant number and stage name. As you walk the stage, the emcee will share basic bio info with the crowd including age, current city, occupation, etc.
2. Judges will look for how well your gear fits you, your attitude and crowd appeal in leather.
3. Set-up time is not provided; no set or props may be used.
4. No items may be left on the stage upon exiting.

C. Pecs & Personality, 15%

This is time to show off a little skin while still maintaining the image of a leather man. This is not a "body contest" but rather how comfortable and confident you appear in your own skin. Wear your favorite jock and have fun!

1. Contestants will be brought on stage one by one and introduced with a more fun and personal bio to include sexual interests, position, hanky codes, etc.
2. Contestants will be asked to answer a pop question, this can be a question about leather, pop culture, gay culture, etc. Contestants will be allowed up to 90 seconds to answer the question.
3. Judging will be looking for how confident you are on stage in your jock. They will also judge your response to the question. They will not be about how correct the answer is, but how you choose to answer. Judges would prefer a correct answer; however, this is your chance to win over the crowd with your personality.
4. Set-up time is not provided; no set props may be used.
5. No items may be left on the stage upon exiting.

D. Formal Leather/Platform Speech, 20%

Impress the judges with your formal leather attire and present a platform speech on how you will use the Mr. Gay Days® Leather title to serve the community.

1. Contestants will be brought on stage one by one and introduced with their contributions to the leather and LGBT communities.
2. Contestants will have up to 90 seconds to articulate why they would like to be Mr. Gay Days® Leather title.
3. Judges will be looking for the overall appearance of each contestant in full leather including how well it fits, the contestant's attitude and overall appeal in leather. They will also judge the speech in its sincerity and personalization.
4. Set-up time is not provided; no set props may be used.
5. No items may be left on the stage upon exiting.

E. Administrative Score, 20%

This portion of the score is based upon your ability to attend all required events and interact professionally with guests and Gay Days® personnel.

1. All contestants will begin the contest with ten (10) Administrative points. Points may be gained for a maximum of twenty (20) points by attending and interacting at Official Gay Days® Orlando events throughout the weekend or removed to a minimum of zero (0) points at the discretion of Gay Days® Owners or Producers.
2. It is recommended that contestants arrive at all scheduled appointments and events at least fifteen (15) minutes early. Any contestant that arrives late to any scheduled appointment or event may be subject to scoring penalization at the discretion of the President or Creative Director of Entertainment of Gay Days®, Inc., or the Mr. Gay Days® Leather Production Manager.

The Production Manager will maintain documentation of all penalties or gained administrative points. All penalties are required to be consistent and transparent throughout the contest. The following documentation will be provided to each contestant by email within 30 days of the winning of Mr. Gay Days®2023.

- Master Score Sheet
- Judges' comments for the individual contestant
- Documentation of administrative points earned, and penalties received

Required Meetings and Events

1. Mandatory events include: Mr. Gay Days® Leather Contestant Meeting, Registration Promos, Formal Interviews, Boots, Bears & Beer Social and Miss Gay Days® Pageant Crowning.
 - a. The Leather Contestant Meeting is of extreme importance. All contestants and their handlers are required to attend. This meeting will be run by the Mr. Gay Days® Leather Production Manager. At this meeting rules and regulations will be reviewed (inclusive of scoring and possible score penalties), and the following items will be distributed: contestant badges, handler passes, updated contest information, and contestant schedules with times and locations. All contestant information will be reviewed at this time to ensure accuracy in intros and bios.

- b. All contestants will work in 30 minute shifts on Friday morning to promote the Gay Days® Leather events happening throughout the weekend. Contestants will be assigned time slots at the Leather Contestant Meeting, or the Boots bears and beer social.
 - c. All contestants are required to attend the Miss Gay Days® Pageant Crowning. Contestants are required to attend in leather attire of your choice; however, you will be introduced on stage.
2. All contestant handlers must pay admission to all events except the Mr. Gay Days® Leather Contest. This pass will be distributed at the Leather Contestant Meeting. All persons entering any Official Gay Days® events must have a valid government issued ID issued to that person.
3. Gay Days® reserves the right to require other event attendance requirements and will provide those at time of the Leather Contestant Meeting.

Rehearsal

1. Rehearsal for the contest is currently scheduled for Friday afternoon. This will begin with a general overview of the contest space, dressing area, etc. Then contestants walk through the contest in order to ensure everyone is familiarized with sound, blocking, lighting cues, entrances/exits, etc.
2. Contestant handlers should attend this rehearsal.
3. Contestants should voice any concerns about the contest or discuss special performance requests at this rehearsal. Nothing may be added afterwards.

Mr. Gay Days® Leather Contest

1. The Mr. Gay Days® Leather 2024 contest will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton at SeaWorld. Contestants must check-in with the Contest Manager by 12:30 pm or may be subject to penalization.
2. Mr. Gay Days® Leather Contest tickets are available for \$35.00 per person in advance, or \$45.00 per person at the door.
3. Contestants will not be required to wear an event wristband during the contest. All other participants will be required to wear an event wristband during the entirety of the Contest. Judges will be aware of this requirement, and it will not affect scoring.
4. Glitter, confetti, fire, liquids, and live animals are strictly prohibited. Any contestant attempting to utilize any of the aforementioned will be immediately disqualified, removed from the contest area, and required to pay for cleaning required and/or repair of any damage caused.
5. There may or may not be set pieces that may require restrictions on the dimensions of clothing and/or props. Contestants will be provided with any restrictions at their rehearsal.
6. A shared dressing area will be provided for all contestants and their handlers. The dressing area will be sectioned off. Chairs and table space will be provided.
7. Contestants are responsible for storing, loading, and removing their leather. The performance room and the dressing space will be open prior to call time to allow contestants to prepare for their performances. Props, clothing, and any other items needed for the contest at this time but note Gay Days® and any of its representatives will not be responsible for any lost or damaged property left unattended. Following the contest, all props and personal belongings must be removed from the venue.

Awards & Expectations

I. Contest Winner

- a. Cash Prize: \$700.00 (*distributed in two installments, see below*)
- b. Mr. Gay Days® Leather 2024 Sash and Patch
- c. Flights and Accommodations to International Mr. Leather (IML) 2025
- d. Additional Community Donated Prizes

II. Runner Up

- a. Cash prize: \$200.00

Gay Days®®, Inc. requires the Mr. Gay Days® Leather titleholder to sign a contract with Gay Days®®, Inc. prior to the disbursement of any prize money. Refusal or failure to sign contract will result in forfeiture of title and all prize money. All contestants are expected to be familiar with the content, requirements, and obligations of the Mr. Gay Days® Leather title contained the title year.

Cash prizes will be disbursed in two installments. \$200 will be distributed upon winning the contest and signing of the contract with Gay Days®®, Inc. The remaining balance of \$500 will be distributed upon completion of the contractual obligations of the Mr. Gay Days® Leather title year, which include attendance at all booked Gay Days® travel events with potential performances, and attendance at the 2024 Mr. Gay Days® Leather Contest.

The Mr. Gay Days® Leather titleholder must control and maintain a cellular phone with active phone number and service, and an active email address for the entirety of their title year. The titleholder must be active on social media, making public content via Facebook at least once a week.

Mr. Gay Days® Leather should donate time, assistance or raise funds for a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of titleholder's choice upon approval of Gay Days®®, Inc.

The winner of Mr. Gay Days® Leather must be willing to make public appearances during their title year as well as compete in International Mister Leather.

Should the winner be unable to comply with the above tasks, be stripped of the title for any reason, or voluntarily step down, all prizes and materials (Sash, Back Patch and Medal) won as part of the contest must be returned to the Contest Manager in a timely fashion. The winner will also forfeit the second installment of the prize money.

At the time of winner's step aside at Mr. Gay Days® Leather 2025, The winner will be required to forfeit the Gay Days® Leather Sash in order to Sash the 2025 winner.

International Mister Leather 2025

Winning Mr. Gay Days® Leather gives you the opportunity to represent Gay Days® for a year. Gay Days® Inc. sponsors the winner to compete in the official International Mr. Leather contest in Chicago 2025.

Everyone who enters the IML contest, not only represents their home bar, city, state, region, or country, but also who they are as a Leatherman.

You are responsible for following all Mr. International Leather Rules and guidelines including Compete

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contestant application and profile, sponsor information, The registration fee of \$75 will be paid by Gay Days®, Inc.

Gay Days®, Inc. will provide Travel arrangements of flight and hotel in a Gay Days® approved hotel to attend IML. **Hotel will not be the Official Host hotel** of the International Mr. Leather Contest. Hotel is at the discretion of Gay Days®, Inc.