



Dear Contestant,

Welcome to the exciting world of Gay Days®, the largest Gay & Lesbian Vacation Destination Event! The Miss Gay Days® Pageant will be part of the most exciting week of events, expos, and parties. We are excited the 2024 Gay Days® Orlando and the Miss Gay Days® Pageant are returning to the Doubletree Resort by Seaworld May 30<sup>th</sup> – June 2<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The Miss Gay Days® Pageant candidate application deadline is Tuesday April 30th, 2024. The pageant will be held Thursday through Saturday, June 4th – June 6th. The pageant will begin with registration and Taste of Gay Days® on Thursday, interviews and rehearsals on Friday, and the final pageant and crowning Saturday evening.

This handbook will contain all the information that you need for the pageant. Please remember to print it and bring it with you the pageant. If you have any questions not answered within the following pages, or to obtain additional information, please e-mail [pageant@GayDays.com](mailto:pageant@GayDays.com).

\*\*Prizes for the winner include:

- \$1,200 cash (\$400 paid after crowning, \$800 paid at the end of contractual obligations)
- Flight and accommodations for Gay Days® Orlando 2025.
- Flight, accommodations, and booking fee of \$125 for additional Gay Days® events, prides, and festivals (notice will be provided at least 30 days prior to booking).

Good Luck and may the creative juices flow!

Gay Days®, Inc.

[www.GayDays.com](http://www.GayDays.com)

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## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

1. Gay Days® reserves the right to make amendments to these Rules and Regulations at any time. All contestants will be notified where amended Rules and Regulations may be accessed and the date they will take effect within 48 hours of amendment.
2. Any matter not covered by these rules and regulations shall be addressed immediately and any necessary decisions will be decided by the President, Entertainment Team, or other designated representative of Gay Days®, Inc.
3. 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®. Gay Days® also reserves the right to make any determinations and decisions on how to proceed pending the results of their investigations.
4. Gay Days® will provide a Pageant Manager as your primary point of contact for the Miss GayDay® Pageant from time of registration until the crowning of Miss Gay Days® 2024. Any questions, concerns, ideas or requests should be directed to the Pageant Manager. They will report all matters to the Gay Days® Entertainment Team and assist with resolving problems, answering questions, providing direction, and ensuring that contestants have an enjoyable time.
5. Miss Gay Days® candidates must be legally born male at least 21 years of age as of May 31st, 2024. All contestants must 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.
6. All dancer(s), assistant(s), dresser(s), stylist(s), employee(s), and/or other helper(s) must be at least 18 years of age and 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.
7. The Miss Gay Days® Pageant does not discriminate against entertainers with surgical and medical enhancements, such as silicone and hormones. Physical enhancements **will not be considered** by any judge in the scoring of contestants. All Miss Gay Days® contestants must have been born male.
8. Illegal drug use, distribution, or possession by any Miss Gay Days® contestant during the pageant will not be tolerated. Any contestants found in violation of this rule will be **immediately disqualified**. This rule will remain in effect for the full year reign of the Miss Gay Days® Pageant winner. The Miss Gay Days® title will be stripped from the winner and passed to the first runner up if found in violation of this rule. Legal action may be taken.

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### **Rules & Regulations**

### **Miss Gay Days®2024**

9. Illegal drug use, distribution, or possession by any dancer(s), assistant(s), dresser(s), stylist(s), employee(s), or other helper(s) of a Miss Gay Days® contestant during the pageant will not be tolerated. The contestant whose dancer(s), assistant(s), dresser(s), stylist(s), employee(s), or other helper(s) is found in violation of this rule **will be immediately disqualified**. Legal action may be taken at the discretion of Gay Days®, Inc.
10. Any contestant who is caught in the act of stealing or tampering with another person's costumes, props, or other possessions **will be immediately disqualified**, removed from the location of the pageant and denied access to the event.
11. Any contestant whose dancer(s), assistant(s), dresser(s), stylist(s), employee(s), significant others or other helper(s) is caught in the act of stealing or tampering with another person's costumes, props, or other possessions **will be immediately disqualified**, and the individual caught stealing or tampering will be removed from the location of the pageant and denied access to the event.
12. Any contestant who is found to be intoxicated at any Gay Days® Inc. event **will be immediately disqualified**, removed from the location and denied access to the event.
13. Any dancer(s), assistant(s), dresser(s), stylist(s), employee(s), or other helper(s) of a Miss Gay Days® contestant who is found to be intoxicated at any Miss Gay Days® Pageant event will be immediately removed from the location of the pageant and denied access to the event. The contestant whose dancer(s), assistant(s), dresser(s), stylist(s), employee(s), or other helper(s) who is found to be intoxicated at any Miss Gay Days® Pageant event may be subject to scoring penalization at the discretion of the President or Entertainment Team of Gay Days®, Inc., or the Miss Gay Days® Pageant Coordinator.
14. Any contestant causing damage to any Gay Days® venue, inclusive of decorations and equipment, or any portion of the Gay Days® host hotel **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.
15. Any contestant whose dancer(s), assistant(s), dresser(s), stylist(s), employee(s), or other helper(s) is caught causing damage to any Gay Days® venue, inclusive of decorations and equipment, or any portion of the Gay Days® host hotel **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.

16. 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 Entertainment Team of Gay Days®, Inc., or the Miss Gay Days® Pageant Manager.
17. Hotel towels shall not be used for the removal of make-up. Contestants must provide their own towels for this purpose. Any contestant found in violation of this rule will be fined \$10.00 per towel and may be subject to scoring penalization at the discretion of the President or Entertainment Team of Gay Days®, Inc., or the Miss Gay Days® Pageant Manager.
18. The Miss Gay Days® Pageant will be themed. All contestants will be required to adhere to the chosen theme. The theme and all pertinent information and requirements will be communicated to all contestants who will be competing in the Miss GayDay® Pageant at Gay Days® Orlando upon their selection in accordance with the preliminary judging process.

#### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

1. Candidates must submit all the following for the application to be considered complete:
  - a. A completed Miss Gay Days® Pageant Official Application which will include:
    - i. Personal information (Stage and legal name, age, date of birth, and contact information)
    - ii. Brief personal biography
    - iii. Community involvement, accolades, and awards
    - iv. Any Social Media links (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)
    - v. Responses to two questions
    - vi. Type of talent that will be performed
    - vii. List of additional personnel and their role or relationships (dancers, assistants, dressers, stylists, employees, significant others or other helpers)
    - viii. List of sponsors
  - b. One (1) 5"x7" headshot photo in full performance digitally submitted.
  - c. One (1) 5"x7" photo of contestants as themselves digitally submitted..
  - d. Non-refundable entrance fee must be submitted online at [www.GayDays.com](http://www.GayDays.com). Cash and checks will not be accepted for the entrance fee.
    - i. Applications received by March 31<sup>st</sup> will pay a non-refundable entrance fee of \$125.
    - ii. Applications received between April 1<sup>st</sup> – April 30th will pay a non-refundable fee of \$150.
    - iii. Contestants returning from competing in Miss Gay Days® 2023 will be offered non-refundable entry fee of \$100.

2. Applications must be submitted by email to [Pageant@GayDays.com](mailto:Pageant@GayDays.com) in one single email.
  - a. Subject of email must include contestant stage name and Miss Gay Days® 2024 Pageant Application
  - b. Body of email must include date payment was made and the following attachments:
    - i. Application as one (1) multi-page PDF document
    - ii. Required photos as individual files
    - iii. Proof of on-line payment as one (1) single page PDF document

3. Applications and entrance fees are due by 10:00 pm EST on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.
4. By signing and submitting an application, candidates attest that they have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Miss Gay Days® 2024 Pageant.

#### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

1. The Doubletree Resort Orlando by Seaworld is the official host hotel for the 34th Anniversary celebration of Gay Days® Orlando 2024 and the Miss Gay Days® 2024 Pageant. The hotel is located at: 10100 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32821.
2. Reservations may be made online at [www.GayDays.com](http://www.GayDays.com) or by calling 888-942-9329.
3. It is *not required, but highly recommended* that all Miss Gay Days® 2024 Pageant contestants secure accommodations at The Doubletree Resort by Seaworld for the duration of the pageant. Contestants are responsible for the payment for their lodging accommodations.
  - a. Those not staying at the host hotel are required to be present for check-in, pageant meetings, and all pageant events and competitions.
  - b. 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).
4. Gay Days® will not provide travel accommodations for the Miss Gay Days® Pageant. Contestants are responsible for scheduling and payment for their own airfare or other transportation to the Miss Gay Days® Pageant. They are also responsible for any and all transportation expenses before, during, and after the Miss Gay Days® Pageant.

#### **PAGEANT INFORMATION**

1. Registration will take place Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm at The Doubletree Resort by Seaworld. All contestant information will be verified, copies of all participant identifications will be made, and information regarding location and time of the Mandatory Pageant Participant Meeting will be provided. Failure to attend the registration period will result in disqualification unless prior arrangements to be excused are made.

2. Music must be submitted PRIOR TO REGISTRATION via [Pageant@Gay\\_Days.com](mailto:Pageant@Gay_Days.com). Please bring a backup on USB clearly marked with contestant's name. Cassette tapes or CD's will not be accepted. Contestants who do not submit their music via EMAIL BY Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 may be subject to scoring penalization. Backup USB Thumb Drives will be returned to contestants after the crowning of Miss Gay Days® 2024. The drive should only have the contestant's talent track.
3. Performance Run Sheets must be submitted at time of registration. Contestants who do not submit their Run Sheet at time of registration may be subject to scoring penalization. The Run Sheet will provide lighting requests, and any other special requests for the contestant's performance to the Pageant Manager and technical team. All special requests will be discussed at the individual contestant's rehearsal. A determination will be made at that time by the Pageant Manager and Gay Days® Entertainment Team whether requests are able to and/or will be fulfilled. Contestant will be informed at rehearsals what decision(s) are made regarding special requests after rehearsals.
4. Each contestant will be allotted twenty (20) minutes for individual rehearsal on Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Rehearsals should be utilized for sound checks, blocking and lighting cue suggestions, familiarization with the performance space, and ensuring time restrictions can be met. Contestants should be well-organized to best utilize the limited time provided and allow for the timing of required performances.
5. Logistics for performance load-in and load-out will be included in the Mandatory Pageant Participant Rehearsal.
6. 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 pageant area, and required to pay for cleaning required and/or repair of any damage caused.

#### **MEETINGS AND EVENT ADMISSION**

1. **The Mandatory Pageant Participant Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 1:30pm.** All Contestants are required to attend. Dancers, assistants, dressers, stylists, employees and other helpers are welcome and encouraged to attend this meeting. At this meeting, the judges will be introduced (pending availability), rules and regulations will be reviewed (inclusive of scoring and possible score penalties), pageant tickets may be purchased, and the following items will be distributed: contestant badges, backstage and assistant passes, any updated pageant information, and contestant specific schedules with times and locations.

2. All contestants are required to attend the Annual Taste of Gay Days® Orlando Party in full performance attire. The party will be Thursday, May 30<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at the Doubletree Resort by Seaworld.
3. All dancers, assistants, dressers, stylists, employees, significant others and other helpers must pay for full-price admission to all events except where discounts may be offered. All persons entering any official Gay Days® events must have a valid government issued ID issued to that person.
4. Each contestant will be provided access to the Miss Gay Days® Pageant for themselves and one additional individual. Tickets will be distributed at the end of the Mandatory Pageant Participant Meeting.
5. Each contestant will be provided one backstage pass for each performer, up to FOUR (4), that will appear on stage with the contestant during the pageant. They will also receive one (1) assistant pass that will allow backstage access to one (1) individual for the purpose of assisting the contestant with dressing; makeup, hair, props or other needed assistance. If a contestant has more than one (1) person providing assistance, multiple persons may utilize the assistant pass but only one (1) individual will be granted backstage access at any given time. No extra assistants will be allowed in the dressing area. Any exceptions to this rule must be requested in writing prior to the opening of on-site registration. All requests will be reviewed by the Entertainment Team and Pageant Manager and granted or denied at their sole discretion.
6. All dancers, assistants, dressers, stylists, employees, significant others and other helpers must purchase pageant tickets. These passes will be available for purchase during the Mandatory Pageant Participant Meeting at the discounted rate of \$15.00 per person for all dancer(s), assistant(s), dresser(s), stylist(s), and significant others listed on the contestant application only. Contestants will not be allowed to increase the requested number of passes. Cash or credit card will be accepted for these passes.
7. Miss Gay Days® Pageant general admission tickets are available for \$20.00 per person in advance, \$30.00 per person at the door. Tickets are available for advanced purchase at [www.GayDays.com](http://www.GayDays.com), or may be purchased at the door.
8. Any misplaced, lost or stolen passes may be replaced at the full event price.

## PAGEANT COMPETITION

1. The Miss Gay Days® Pageant will be held at The Doubletree Resort by Seaworld. The personal interviews will take place on Friday, May 31st and are not open to the public. Remaining categories will take place on Saturday, June 1st, beginning promptly at 6:30 pm, and the audience will be open to people of all ages. Call-Time for Saturday's pageant event is 4:30 pm. All contestants, performers, and other helpers must check-in with the Pageant Manager by 4:30 pm or may be subject to penalization.
2. The stage dimensions will be 21 feet wide by 12 feet deep with a 6 feet wide by 9 feet long runway. There may or may not be additional set pieces that may require restrictions on the dimensions of costuming and/or props. Contestants will be provided with any restrictions and/or changes within 48 hours of determination and setting of those restrictions and/or changes.
3. A single dressing area will be provided for all contestants, a maximum of four (4) performers per contestant, and one (1) assistant per contestant. The dressing area will be sectioned off and each contestant will be provided with their own dressing space. If a contestant has multiple helpers or assistant, only one (1) will be allowed backstage at a time.
4. Contestants are responsible for storing, loading, and removing their props. The performance room and the dressing space will be open prior to call time to allow contestants to prepare for their performances. Props, costumes and any other items needed for the pageant 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 competition, all props and personal belongings must be removed from the venue.

## JUDGED CATEGORIES

1. **Personal Interview** – Up to 15 minutes in length. The showcase of “who you are as a person.” Contestants should interview in their gender preference. Interviews will be video recorded and posted on official Gay Days® social media sites.
2. **Themed Presentation** – The opportunity to introduce yourself in a fashion show type runway presentation. All contestants will introduce themselves to the audience.
3. **Talent** – 5-minute time limit with 2 minutes of setup and tear down times. An on-stage performance of your choice.
4. **Final On-Stage Question** – The opportunity to showcase your public speaking skills.
5. **Crowning** – Not a judged category but all contestants must wear a red gown for crowning. It may be the same gown worn earlier for competition.



1. Personal Interview:

- a. Each contestant will undergo an individual interview by the Miss Gay Days® Pageant judging committee. This will afford our judges insight into the character, charisma, personality, and professional and personal lives of each contestant. It will also provide them the opportunity to evaluate basic skills and qualities such as intellect, communication capabilities, attitude, and composure.
- b. Contestants shall attend interviews in the persona of their choice.
- c. Contestants should remember that this is a professional, yet casual, interview. Attire should reflect personality while remaining relaxed, and professional. Contestants should select their clothing to allow them to be comfortable and at ease.
- d. The interview schedule and room location will be provided at the Mandatory Pageant Participant Meeting.
  - i. Personal Interviews will be scheduled for a maximum of 15 minutes.
  - ii. Each interview will be audio/video recorded. Upon conclusion of all interviews, the interview video footage will be posted on the Official Gay Days® social media sites.

2. Presentation Introduction: Pridewear

- a. Contestants must present themselves in an ensemble reflective of the Miss Gay Days® Theme. This year's theme is Tropical Pridewear. Since this year we are a land cruise we are asking the contestants to present themselves in an ensemble reflective of cruise travel.
- b. All Pridewear choices must be able to fit in a carry on bag
- c. Contestants will have an opportunity to walk the stage during rehearsals to the music provided for the category however there will not be a specific time on the track that the contestant will be doing their runway walk.
- d. Set-up time is not provided so no set props may be used.
- e. No items may be left on the stage upon exit. This includes clothing, accessories, and any items that may be dropped, thrown, or left on stage.
- f. Each contestant will conclude their runway presentation with a live greeting on the microphone.

3. Talent : Contestant Choice

- a. The complete Talent presentations shall be limited to a total of nine (9) minutes broken down as follows:
  - i. Performance – five (5) minutes
  - ii. Prop setup – two (2) minutes
  - iii. Prop removal – two (2) minutes
- b. Timing of a complete run through of the Talent presentation must be done during the rehearsal period. Performances will be penalized for exceeding time limit or for failure to provide for timing of the category.
- c. Talent is expected to be an upbeat, high energy number. Ballads are strongly discouraged and may not score as high.

- d. Any talent performance is acceptable except where injury may be caused to the audience, performers, technicians, or any other individual or group.
  - e. Contestants may utilize up to four (4) additional individuals in their talent presentation. With the contestant, a maximum of five (5) persons may be on stage at any given time.
  - f. Set-up time is provided so props may be used. All props must be free standing and must be secure upon set-up.
  - g. No items may be left on the stage at the end of the time allotted for prop removal. This includes clothing, accessories, set props and any items that may be dropped, thrown, or left on stage.
  - h. Backstage staff will not be provided by Gay Days® to assist with the set-up or tear down of props.
4. Judges' Final Question
- a. All contestants are asked a final question from the Miss Gay Days® Pageant judges' panel. Each contestant will randomly draw a judge's name and is asked a final question by the judge.
  - b. Judges are required to submit a series of questions for approval to the Gay Days® Inc. prior to the pageant.
  - c. Questions will be related to current media hot topics and LGBT related news but are not limited to subjects relating to representing Gay Days®, Inc.
5. Social Media Posting
- a. All contestants are expected to promote themselves as well as Gay Days and the pageant.
  - b. Each media post is worth five (5) points for up to a total of 75 points.
  - c. Each contestant is responsible for verifying posts with the pageant coordinator.
  - d. Media platforms include (but are not limited to) Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
  - e. Posts made should be reflective of the Gay Days values and principles.



### Schedule of Pageant Events

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - Tuesday

10:00 PM Application Submissions Close

May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Thursday (All events will take place at The Doubletree Resort by Seaworld)

1:00PM – 1:30PM Contestant Registration & Fill Out Paperwork  
1:30PM Mandatory Contestant Meeting  
6:00PM – 10:00PM Taste of Gay Days® – Contestants are to appear in full face with a 6:30 PM call.

May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 – Friday INTERVIEWS

11:00AM – 11:15AM	Personal Interview	Contestant #1
11:20AM – 11:35AM	Personal Interview	Contestant #2
11:40AM – 11:55AM	Personal Interview	Contestant #3
12:00PM – 12:15PM	Personal Interview	Contestant #4
12:20PM – 12:35PM	Personal Interview	Contestant #5
12:40PM – 12:55PM	Personal Interview	Contestant #6
1:00PM – 1:15PM	Personal Interview	Contestant #7
1:20PM – 1:35PM	Personal Interview	Contestant #8
1:40PM – 1:55PM	Personal Interview	Contestant #9
2:00PM – 2:15PM	Personal Interview	Contestant #10

\*\* Personal Interviews are scheduled for a maximum of 15 minutes with a 5 minute break between contestants.

#### REHEARSALS

2:30PM – 2:50PM	Talent Rehearsal	Contestant #1
2:55PM – 3:15PM	Talent Rehearsal	Contestant #2
3:20PM – 3:40PM	Talent Rehearsal	Contestant #3
3:45PM – 4:05PM	Talent Rehearsal	Contestant #4
4:10PM – 4:30PM	Talent Rehearsal	Contestant #5
4:35PM – 4:55PM	Talent Rehearsal	Contestant #6
5:00PM – 5:20PM	Talent Rehearsal	Contestant #7
5:25PM – 4:45PM	Talent Rehearsal	Contestant #8
4:50PM – 5:10PM	Talent Rehearsal	Contestant #9
5:15PM – 5:35PM	Talent Rehearsal	Contestant #10

\*\* Talent Rehearsals are scheduled for a maximum of 20 minutes with a 5 minute break between rehearsals. Rehearsal time will begin and end promptly on schedule.

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 - Saturday

4:30 PM Pageant Call Time  
6:00 PM Doors Open to Public

6:30 PM Pageant & Crowning of Miss Gay Days®  
2024  
10:00 PM Pageant Commences  
TBD Miss Gay Days® 2024 Winner's Performance  
During Saturday Night Pool Party

June 2nd, 2023- Sunday

TBD Miss Gay Days® 2024 Winner's Performance  
During Mr. Gay Days® Leather 2024 Competition

*Schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the President or Entertainment Team of Gay Days®, or the Miss Gay Days® Pageant Coordinator. Any changes will be promptly communicated to contestants and made available in writing.*

