

FU^BZION *presents...*



*2022 B&G Pride Pageant
Official Contestants' Handbook*

2022 Mr. & Miss BG Pride Pageant Contestants' Handbook

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Mr. & Miss BG Pride Pageant hosted by BG FuZion! Thank you so much for registering to compete in the Mr. or Miss BG Pride Pageant! Winning the crown is not only a great honor, but also a great responsibility, for you will be the King and/or Queen who represents our community for the next year. **This year is even more important to establish our continuity and since we take another step toward inclusivity with our community's inaugural Mr. BG Pride Pageant.** Our First Mr. BG Pride will be remembered in perpetuity.

To assist you in preparing the most competitive pageant program possible, this handbook contains guidelines, policies and procedures, and all the details (logistics, eligibility, fees, theme, itinerary, music, categories, judging, prizes and other rules & expectations). Please carefully study this information. A clear understanding and adherence to the expectations and judging criteria will choose our winners.

MR. & MISS BG PRIDE QUALIFICATIONS

Mr. and Miss BG Pride are community service roles and the King and Queen must serve as representatives for the entire community. They must be able to meet the public, speak extemporaneously and represent our region with pride and charm. Although they must connect to the LGBTQ+ public, they must also exhibit the proper professionalism, respect and dignity needed to be effective in the general public. Most importantly, they must be committed to finding ways to address the pageant theme (Unity in the Community) and their platforms.

CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY

MISS BG PRIDE – All contestants for Miss BG Pride must personify a female. This includes drag queens, female impersonators, female entertainers, cis females, and all other female-presenting performers.

MR. BG PRIDE – All contestants for Mr. BG Pride must personify a male. This includes drag kings, male impersonators, male entertainers, cis males, and all other male-presenting performers.

ALL BG PRIDE PAGEANTS – All contestants must be ages 18+ to compete. The BG Pride Pageant system does not discriminate against cis-gender contestants or contestants who use hormones, silicone and/or any body-modifications so long as those contestants personify their desired title.

LOGISTICS

ENTRY FEE, DEADLINES, PAPERWORK

\$50.00 Early Bird Registration Fee

through September 14

\$75.00 Pageant Entry Fee

September 14-24

Sept. 24 Deadline – for all Registration Forms and Entry Fees paid in full, no late fees accepted.

All contestants must submit a professional headshot with black background with their registration.

Contestants who fail to submit a headshot, completed Registration Form and full Entry Fee by the deadline will be subjected to Ranking and/or Administrative Point Deductions for the Personal Interview Category.

DATE and TIME

All pageant activities will occur at
Xclaim! Center
502 College St.
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Saturday, October 1 at 7:00pm*

** in case of high amount of participation,
the pageant may be divided into two days*

PRIZE PACKAGE: Worth over \$600 – Title, crown, sash and the following prizes:

\$300 Cash (\$150 night of pageant, \$150 next year at step down), Two (2) bookings at BG FuZion, Community Events

PAGEANT ITINERARY

MR. & MISS BG PRIDE PAGEANT – Saturday, October 1

12:30p Check-In, Registration, Orientation

1:15p Judges Interview Contestants

Contestants dismissed after last completed interview.

The building will be open and accessible to contestants who wish to stay.

5:30p Contestant Call Time for Public Pageant

6:30p Doors Open to Public

7:00p Public Pageant Begins

MUSIC

All music must be submitted to the Pageant Director no later than the Registration Deadline: September 24.

Tracks are required to be high-quality and only in **mp3** or **wav** file formats. Contestants are encouraged to submit files via email (info@bgfuzion.com) but may submit a flash drive or high-quality CD instead (*if using a CD, please submit an extra copy in case of damage*). Either should be clearly labelled with the contestant's name. Flash drive or CD should only contain tracks for this pageant.

ALL Tracks used (via email, flash drive or CD) **MUST be labelled as follows:**

1. *PERFORMER NAME PRESENTATION*
2. *PERFORMER NAME TALENT*
3. *PERFORMER NAME CROWNING NUMBER – used in you are crowned*

Contestants who do not submit music by the deadline or fail to submit it properly will be subjected to one Ranking Deduction per judge or equivalent Administrative Point Deductions for both Presentation and Talent Categories.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

No fire, no liquids, no glitter and no confetti are allowed. Use of any of these materials will result in Ranking Deduction or equivalent Administrative Points Deduction and/or disqualification from the Pageant.

PERSONAL INTERVIEW – 10% of Final Score (100 Points)

- Judges will conduct SHORT interviews with contestants immediately following registration, before the public pageant.
- Contestants shall NOT interview in drag! Interview dress will be out of drag in business casual style – as for an office or business job interview. Dress as you would to represent our community at a business or planning meeting or other non-performance event.
- Questions will include basic personal history, platform, community involvement and others basic to an employment interview. No other direction or information will be given to contestants before the pageant. The judges wish to see the "real" you without memorized preparation.
- Criteria for Judging:
 - 1-20 points: Confidence – eye contact, comfort, smile
 - 1-20 points: Speaking Ability – communicative, clarity, content, message
 - 1-20 points: Professional Appearance – neat, clean, appropriate
 - 1-20 points: Platform Appropriateness – relates to theme, represents LGBTQ+ issues
 - 1-20 points: Overall Effectiveness as Representative of 2022 Mr. and/or Miss BG Pride and the LGBTQ+ Community.
- Contestants who fail to submit a headshot, completed Registration Form and full Entry Fee by the deadline will be subjected to Ranking and/or Administrative Point Deductions for the Personal Interview Category.

CREATIVE PRESENTATION – 30% of Final Score (300 Points)

- For the first category of the public pageant, each contestant will provide their own music to lip synch and model a costume inspired by the **pageant theme: “Unity in the Community: what WE can do in ’22!”** This may be reflected by combining different styles, colors, fabrics, or more creatively!
- This is a full-stage category with a white cyc background with colored lighting. The mid-stage curtain will be closed, and contestants will cue backstage curtain operators when to open the curtains for their Creative Presentation. Curtain operators will automatically close the mid-stage curtain after each contestant has finished their introduction in the onstage microphone before the next competitor.
- Time Limit: 4 minutes maximum. No additional time is given for set-up or tear-down of props and/or backgrounds.
- Props and/or backgrounds may be used and will be judged if used.
- Contestants will be introduced ONLY by their contestant number or order for this category.
- AFTER Creative Presentation performance, each contestant will introduce themselves using an onstage microphone and MUST say the following:
 1. Contestant Number,
 2. Contestant Name and
 3. Contestant’s Explanation of how their costume was inspired by and/or represents the pageant theme.
- Contestants are not allowed to have onstage or backstage assistants during this category. All assistants must leave the backstage at “Places” call before the Pageant begins.
- Criteria for judging:
 - 6-65 points: Creativity – Creativity, Music Selection and appropriateness
 - 6-65 points: Presentation – Modeling Ability, Choreography, Movement
 - 6-65 points: Public Speaking – Speaking Ability, Audience Impact/Interaction
 - 6-65 points: Appearance – Costume Fit, Make-Up, Hair
 - 6-40 points: Overall Effectiveness of Introduction, Costume and Presentation
- Contestants who go over the time limit or whose assistant(s) remain(s) backstage after “Places,” or who failed to submit music properly by the deadline will receive one Ranking Deduction per judge or the equivalent Administrative Point Deductions.

TALENT PERFORMANCE – 40% of Final Score (400 Points)

- For the second category of the public pageant, each contestant will provide their own music and present any talent of their choice as long as it will not cause injury or harm to themselves, the audience, any person, or to the venue. Lip-synch, dance, live vocals, live instrumentals, character performance, and more are all acceptable talents. For pianists, a keyboard may be used, but a real piano cannot be placed on the Xclaim! Center stage. Contestants may use up to three cordless microphones if indicated on the Registration Form.
- This is a full-stage category with a white cyc background with colored lighting. One AC outlet is available Up Stage Center. The mid-stage curtain will be closed before each contestant is introduced, and contestants will cue backstage curtain operators when to open the curtains for their Talent Performance. Curtain operators will automatically close the mid-stage curtain after each contestant has completed their Talent Performance before the next competitor.
- Time Limit: 4 minutes performance, plus 2 minutes for set-up and 2 minutes for strike, for a total of 8 minutes. If minimal or no set-up/strike are required, contestants may use 1 minute from both set-up and strike to increase their Talent Performance length. However, NO Talent Performance can be longer than 6 minutes, even with no set-up/strike.
- Any props or backgrounds used will be judged for appearance, appropriateness and effectiveness and require prior approval from the Pageant Director and a clear plan for load-in, load-out and off-stage storage. The stage has a 7’ clearance at the upstage entrances, top & mid-deck split and at proscenium.

- Before starting their Talent Performance, contestants will be introduced by their number, name and tag line.
- Contestants are allowed one or two assistants to move props, help with costumes or serve as back-up dancers. Assistants will be allowed backstage after their competitor completes their Creative Presentation and the mid-stage curtains close. Any assistants used onstage will be judged for effectiveness, costumes, and appropriateness. Their costumes should coordinate and support you, not fight for attention. At least one assistant must leave the backstage after strike following your Talent Performance. Only one may stay for the next category.
- The highest score in Talent Performance will break any ties. A tie for Talent Performance will be broken by the highest score in Creative Presentation.
- Criteria for judging:
 - 11-100 points: Talent – Talent Ability and Selection, Music Selection or Ambient Appropriateness
 - 11-100 points: Presentation – Choreography/Movement/Presentation, Use of Props/Backgrounds/ Assistants or Choice NOT to use them
 - 11-100 points: Appearance – Costume Selection, Fit & Effectiveness, Make-Up, Hair
 - 11-100 points: Impact – Audience Impact/Interaction, Overall Effectiveness of Talent Performance.
- Contestants who go over the time limit or whose assistant(s) violate time allowed backstage or who failed to submit music properly by the deadline will receive one Ranking Deduction per judge or the equivalent Administrative Point Deductions.

FORMAL WEAR – 10% of Final Score (100 Points)

- For the third category of the public pageant, one at a time, in order, each contestant will model full-length formal wear of any color, style or fashion. Mr. Contestants must wear a suit, and Miss Contestants must wear an evening gown.
- This is a half-stage category with the black mid-stage curtains as background, so black is discouraged as the main color for Formal Wear.
- Music is provided and no time limit is given. Contestants are encouraged to walk with the beat of the music.
- Backgrounds are not allowed. Hand props may be used but only if they accessorize or complete the Formal Wear.
- Before entering for Formal Wear, contestants will be introduced by their number, name and tag line.
- Backstage curtain openers will open curtains to reveal the next competitor and close the curtain immediately after they step forward to model. As contestants model, the MC will describe each contestant's formal wear and accessories and share their platform and a brief bio. Stage points for stops, poses and turns will be marked on the floor. After modeling, contestants will exit through the center split of the mid-stage curtain.
- One backstage assistant may be used to help change costume. Contestants will be allowed to complete costume changes onstage behind the mid-stage curtain for this category for extra space and to avoid the mid-stage & off-stage steps. Assistants will not appear onstage and never be seen by judges. They must be responsible for clearing ALL any costumes or items belonging to their contestant from the stage.
- Criteria for judging:
 - 2-25 points: Outfit – Formal Wear Selection and Fit
 - 2-25 points: Presentation – Modeling Ability, Poise, Smile
 - 2-25 points: Appearance – Make-Up, Hair, and Accessories
 - 2-25 points: Impact – Audience Impact/Interaction, Coordination of Appearance, Overall Effectiveness of Formal Wear Modeling and Presentation.
- Contestants who go over the time limit or whose assistant(s) violate time allowed backstage or who failed to submit music properly by the deadline will receive one Ranking Deduction per judge or the equivalent Administrative Point Deductions.

ONTSTAGE QUESTION – 10% of Final Score (100 Points)

- For the final category of the public pageant, using an onstage microphone, each contestant will answer the onstage question listed below and make a final closing statement to the audience. Contestants must remain in their Formal Wear for this category.
- This is a full-stage category with a white cyc background with colored lighting. All competitors will line up, in order, across the stage behind the mid-stage curtain. Backstage curtain openers will open the mid-stage curtain to reveal all contestants together.
- There is no time limit for Onstage Question or your Closing Statement. However, rushed answers may seem cavalier or uncommitted, and lengthy responses may seem unfocused or rambling. Contestants are given the question in advance in order to prepare and deliver a thoughtful and well-spoken answer.
- Onstage Question: “Why do you feel you are the best choice to be the 2022 Mr. or Miss BG Pride?”
Each contestant will answer only this question. The best answers will reflect the pageant theme, connect to your platform, and inspire judges and audience alike to choose you as our community representative.
- After answering the Onstage Question, the Moderator will ask each Contestant for their Closing Statement. In the onstage mic, each contestant must say the following:
 1. Contestant Number
 2. Contestant Name (tag line may be used before or after name if desired)
 3. Contestant's Closing Statement: a short sentence thanking everyone and/or urging them to choose you.
- After answering Onstage Question and delivering Closing Statement, each contestant will return to their place in line. After all contestants have answered the Onstage Question and their Closing Statement, backstage curtain openers will close the mid-stage curtain and contestants have completed the competition.
- Criteria for judging:
 - 2-35 points: Public Speaking – Confidence, Speaking Ability
 - 2-35 points: Content – Sincerity, Appropriateness, Reflection of Pageant Theme
 - 2-30 points: Impact – Audience Interaction, Overall Effectiveness of Answer to Onstage Question and Closing Statement

CONTESTANT’S PAGEANT PLATFORM

A pageant platform is a cause that a contestant chooses to volunteer their time to either bring awareness to, raise money for, implement a helpful program, or get community involvement. Connecting more parts of your pageant packet to your platform will help underscore its importance and value.

Your pageant platform should be appropriate and should somehow connect to the pageant theme:. Although many platforms are worthy causes, the best platform choices will reflect LGBTQ+ issues and inspire community togetherness.

PAGEANT AWARDS AND CROWNING CEREMONY

After completion of Onstage Question Category, contestants are excused to backstage where they will remain until the results are tabulated and contestants are called to the stage for the Crowning Ceremony. Contestants may choose to remain in their Formal Wear for Crowning but may change if they can do so in less than 10 minutes time. The pageant will guarantee at least 10 minutes from the end of Onstage Question until the beginning of the Crowning Ceremony. Final dress for Crowning Ceremony must be formal.

Contestants will stand across the stage according to their order as awards are announced. The winner of each award will step forward to receive it and then return to their place in line. When the winner of the pageant is announced, contestants will divide evenly and stand at each side onstage, leaving the center open for the King or Queen to be crowned. All contestants and performers will remain available for photos during this time.

After the winner is announced and formally introduced, all other contestants are dismissed from the stage for the winner to perform the crowning number. No one is dismissed until after the pageant officially ends, at which times everyone except the First Alternate and winner are dismissed. The First Alternate and the winner of Mr. and/or Miss BG Pride must meet with the Pageant Director to sign the appropriate contracts and forms to certify their title. The title will not be officially certified until all forms are signed.

MR. AND MISS BG PRIDE EXPECTATIONS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

EXPECTATIONS

The 2022 Mr. and Miss BG Pride should be quality performers who are intelligent and well-spoken, and who when in costume possesses talent, dignity, poise, charm, manners, attractiveness, professionalism, respect and a sparkling personality.

RESPONSIBILITIES

As a community representative, the 2022 Mr. and Miss BG Pride must be able to meet the public, speak extemporaneously, promote their platform, and represent our region with dignity, charm and pride!

DUTIES

The 2022 Mr. and Miss BG Pride must be available for the next BG Pride Festival and continue to represent our community for the next year on committees or through advocacy & activism. The winner must attend and perform at the 2023 Mr. and/or Miss BG Pride Pageant to crown the next winner and perform their step-down.

AGREEMENTS

The 2022 Mr. and Miss BG Pride shall sign a Title Holder Agreement with the Pageant Director to certify their titles. The agreement shall clearly define all expectations and limitations including but not limited to the following items: clearly-defined payments and compensation; expenses are incurred at cost of the title holder; the title and crown are symbols that represent ideals greater than any individual; the crown belongs to the title holder only after step-down and successful completion of their reign; proper care and crown storage; representation of the pageant and title; personal challenge for growth; community service and volunteerism; communications, marketing, promotion, photography/videography and social media responsibilities and behavior expectations; comportment, behavior and personal limitations when wearing/representing the crown; quality expectations; bookings and performance expectations, exclusivity agreements; indemnification and subjection to Pageant Director decisions; merchandising agreements; and clear understanding of abdication and/or revocation of the crown and title. Contestants will be given the complete agreement for inspection after the registration deadline.

JUDGES, BALLOTS, DEDUCTIONS

JUDGES

Pageant Judges are community volunteers who deserve appreciation and respect for their hard work. Judges have been vetted for proper qualifications. All judges have committed to a common core of ethics for The BG Pride Pageant System. Judges agree to fairness and impartiality with no favoritism, respect, to pay attention, to judge only the criteria given, not to engage in cross talk, and to judge to the best of their ability as representatives of the Bowling Green community. Individuals with extremely close relationships with contestants will not be allowed to judge. See the Judges' Handbook for details about Judges' Eligibility, Instructions and Ethics.

BALLOTS: SCORING POINTS

Transparency and fairness in scoring are paramount priorities for the BG Pride Pageant System. Ballots for each category are divided into pre-grouped sub-categories of criteria to ensure judges adequately weigh all factors for consideration. After completing and signing their ballots, judges shall turn them over only to certified pageant staff as deemed appropriate by the auditors. Ballots are tabulated by professionally-qualified auditors who have no connection to any contestant or pageant staff member.

Five judges shall assign point values within a predetermined range for several criteria in each competition category. The contestant who receives the highest total point value in each category wins the award for that category. The contestant who receives the highest overall total point value will be crowned Mr. or Miss BG Pride.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTESTANT RANKING/SCORING DEDUCTIONS OR DISQUALIFICATIONS

The Pageant Director is responsible to ensure all contestants are following the pageant rules and expectations including time-keeping. Judges are not responsible for scoring deductions. Should deductions be appropriate, the Pageant Director must report those infractions directly to the Auditors. Any deductions given will be recorded on the master tally sheet and a summary description provided for publication and dissemination. The following behaviors may cause the Pageant Director to report rank deductions to the auditors:

- Failure to submit music on time or mislabeled will result in one rank deduction per judge for Presentation and Talent categories or the equivalent point deductions.
- Failure to arrive on time for Check-In or the evening pageant will result in one rank deduction per judge to the final score or the equivalent point deductions.
- Over time limits for Creative Presentation and/or Talent will result in one rank deduction per judge for the applicable category or the equivalent point deduction(s).
- Discourteous or unprofessional behavior may result in one rank deduction per judge to the final total or equivalent point deductions or disqualification from competition.
- Music that contains explicit lyrics will result in one rank deduction per judge for that category or the equivalent point deductions.
- Music that contains racial or ethnic slurs will result in disqualification from competition.
- Skin is allowed, but exposing too much is not; nudity will result in disqualification from competition.
- Excessive alcohol consumption by contestants or assistants will result in disqualification from competition and ejection from the premises.
- Using or distributing illegal substances by contestants or assistants will result in disqualification from competition and ejection from the premises.
- Stealing or tampering with another person's property will result in disqualification from competition and ejection from the premises.

OTHER RULES, REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The following additional rules shall be in place for the 2022 Mr. and Miss BG Pride Pageants:

- All contestants must be at least 18 years of age.
- All contestants must follow all rules, guidelines and directions included in this Pageant Packet.
- Only contestants are granted free entry to the pageant. All assistants must pay the admission fee.
- Contestants will be judged ONLY by the criteria described in each category.
- No contestant will have to perform the next category without a minimum of twelve (12) minutes from the time their last performance occurred.
- Contestant order number will be randomly generated.

- Contestants serve as representatives of The BG Pride Pageant System and are expected to promote and support the pageant with social media, word of mouth, etc. with a positive attitude.
- With the Audience Impact/Interaction being a valuable point factor for the competition, each contestant is highly encouraged to promote at least 8-10 ticket sales among their personal supporters.
- Ballots will remain confidential and be handled only by auditing staff.
- Final score sheets, personal contestant Judges' Comments Sheets, and complete audit of personal points will be transmitted to contestants with 10 days following the pageant.
- Participation in the 2022 BG Pride Pageant is voluntary. The pageant is not officially connected to any organization; and the Kentucky Fairness Alliance, Bowling Green Pride, BG FuZion, Xclaim, Inc., and the property owner are not responsible for any and all liability which may be incurred by participation or competition in the pageant.
- All decisions by the 2022 BG Pride Pageant judges and staff are final and binding.
- The 2022 BG Pride Pageant Director reserves the right to make any decisions concerning any issue not covered in these rules or Pageant Packet. All decisions will be made according to fairness.

CONCLUSION

Hopefully this 2022 Mr. & Miss BG Pride Pageant Contestants' Handbook has answered all your questions about competing in this year's pageant and will help you prepare your most competitive pageant program possible. For additional insights, please see the Official Judges' Handbook, which is available for public scrutiny.

Although this handbook was created in hopes of answering all questions, should you still have some, please reach out to the Pageant Director. Contact information can be found at the end of the handbook. Be sure to carefully examine the handbook first, since clear guidelines should be given.

BG FuZion thanks you for registering to compete and wish you all the success in winning the crown! We hope to see you reign as King or Queen of Bowling Green and continue to build a rich history of community service with Pride!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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