



Dear Contestants,

First and foremost, we would like to thank you for entering the Sweet Sixteen Edition of the 2026 Charleston Pride Pageant. We wish you all the best of luck in pursuit to be the next representatives of the Charleston Pride legacy. Before all the glitz and glam, there are a few things you should know to help you prepare for the upcoming pageant.

This year we are celebrating the 16th year of Charleston Pride Pageantry. The presentation is Pride, Pride, Pride. **Presentation should showcase your best “Pride Look”. Be prepared to introduce yourself and explain why you chose your pride wear.**

All contestants MUST have proof and be at least 21 years old at the time of the pageant to compete.

Registration

- Registration will be on Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 2 PM. All contestants must attend registration at the American Theatre, 446 King Street, Charleston, South Carolina 29403. **Please be on time.** 5 points will be deducted from each late registrant.

During this time contestants will be able to tour the venue, walk the stage and do a sound check with the DJ. We will also go over the run of the pageant. **At registration**, you will prepare a brief and legible bio on the sheets provided. In your bio include interesting things about yourself and a description of your evening wear.

During this time contestants will draw numbers for the competition, if you are late you will automatically be Contestant #1 in your division.

- Call time for the pageant is 5:30 pm. Contestants will be required to check in with a Charleston Pride Board Member at the venue no later than 5:30. **Please be on time.** If you are late, 10 points will be deducted from your total score. The pageant will start promptly at 7 pm.

Dressers

- Contestants are allowed ONE dresser, (There will be NO entry fee for this person). If any additional dressers are needed, they will be required to pay the entry fee

of 15 dollars at the door. Contestants are only allowed one dresser in the dressing room at a time. If contestants are caught with more than one dresser, 5 points will be deducted from your final score.

Dancers

- If you require dancers for your talent contestant must pay \$10 per dancer. Dancers are not allowed to enter the dressing room until it is time for their talent. One act before the contestant goes out for talent. (No Exceptions)

Music

- Please email Presentation and Talent Music to Dj TrevorD at djtrevord@gmail.com.
- Music MUST be clearly labeled with your name and the category and MUST be mp3 files only with good quality.

If you do not submit Presentation Music a song will be provided by the DJ.

- Contestants must have music submitted no later than Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at midnight.

Scoring

- Contestants will have the opportunity to score a total of 250 points
- 50 Points Presentation
- 50 Points Evening Wear
- 50 Points Q&A
- 100 Points Talent

At the end of the pageant, contestants will receive score sheets and will have the opportunity to chat with judges for clarification respectfully. **You are the only person allowed to consult with the judges.**

Prize Package

- The winners will be awarded 200 dollars, a crown, and a sash the night of the pageant
- In addition, the winners will receive weekend bookings at Dudleys on Ann throughout the year of their reign. Weekend booking fee of 100 dollars (a minimum of 4 bookings throughout the year)
- Winners will receive 150 dollars upon returning to give up respective title in 2027

Contractual Obligation

To receive the complete prize package, contestants are required to:

Attend 4 Charleston Pride Events throughout their reign. One (1) Community Service Fundraiser (unpaid) and Three (3) Charleston Pride events (paid). Totaling Four (4) events. These Four (4) events may include fundraising for Charleston Pride, public appearances at pride events, Color Tours and/or titleholders may create fundraising events of their own.

- Winners will also be booked in 2026 Charleston Pride Parade and Festival.

- Please have your music prepared for your first appearance at dudleys after the pageant (1 number). The new Charleston Pride Royal Court will be performing at Dudleys on Ann, immediately following the pageant. This will be the first “official” appearance of the new Charleston Pride Royal Court.

Please send music, no later than midnight on Wednesday, September 16, 2026 to michael.maher.wheeler@gmail.com (Label Pride Pageant Winner-Mr/Ms/ or Sv).

- Contestants that do not win will still be offered future opportunities with Charleston Pride.

Conduct

- We ask that all contestants be respectful to one another before, during and after the competition. There can only be one winner. Let's all be supportive of each other.
- During the competition we ask that contestants keep alcohol consumption to minimum. You are allowed two drinks and they cannot be consumed in the dressing room.
- Please be ready for each category. If you are not ready, 5 points will be deducted from your final score.
- If you lose the competition, please be respectful of the organization, judges, and fellow contestants. Please do not go on social media diminishing any of the listed above. If you violate these requests, you will be disqualified from any future opportunities with Charleston Pride.

Once again we would like to thank you for entering the competition and we wish you all best of luck. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at michael.peaks@charlestonpride.org

Best Wishes,

Michael Peaks
Director of Entertainment