



Miss Gay New Orleans LA USofA

An Official Preliminary to Miss Gay Louisiana USofA

Dear Contestant,

As the Promoter, it gives me great pride to welcome you all to the exciting world of USofA Pageants and the Miss Gay New Orleans LA USofA 2023 Pageant. To those of you who have competed in this system in previous years, welcome back. If this is your first year, USofA Pageants and I would like to welcome you to the USofA Family.

This year's pageants will be part of the most exciting year in pageantry ever. The Miss Gay New Orleans LA USofA pageant will be held November 16, 2022 in New Orleans at OZ New Orleans Night Club. This handbook is designed to help you make the most of your trip. Please make sure to read it while you prepare to compete. Do not forget to bring it with you to New Orleans.

If you have any questions that you don't find answered here please check out the USofA Pageants website or contact Promoters.

Good Luck and most of all have fun,
Persana Shoulders ~ Promoter

- RULES AND REGULATIONS -

1. For Miss Gay USofA contestants must be males at least 21 years of age and able to show proof of age. There will be no exceptions to this rule.
2. Judging will be scored using the standard USofA comparative scoring system. Any ties will be broken by the contestant with the highest talent score.
3. Contestants will be judged in the following categories:
 - Personal Interview
 - Talent
 - Evening Gown
4. Talent presentation will be limited to seven (7) minutes. Prop setup and knock down time will be limited to five (5) minutes total. Talent presentation will be timed at rehearsals. Presentations over seven (7) minutes will have administrative points deducted. ***No special timing will be given.***
5. Any type of talent presentation is acceptable, except those which may cause injury to the audience or any other person. No glitter, fire, or liquid (water, paint, fog juice, etc) may be used in any talent presentation. No live animals or reptiles may be used in a talent presentation. Music must be turned in on Flash Drive. You should have your talent number named as ContestantName_Talent and your crown number on ContestantName_Crown on the same Flash Drive. Do not place any other music on this drive. ***If you bring CD it will be ripped to MP3 for use on laptop dj software. We cannot promise quality.***
6. The use of, or dispensing of illegal drugs or marijuana will not be tolerated while a contestant is participating in any USofA Pageants. Immediate disqualification will result for those that break this rule.
7. Any contestant that is not in the appointed place at the appointed time will lose administrative points.
8. Any contestant, contestant's dancer(s), helper(s), etc. who is caught in the act of stealing or tampering with another person's possessions ***will be immediately disqualified*** and removed from the location of the pageant.
9. The Official Miss Gay USofA Pageants do not discriminate against entertainers with silicone and/or hormones. The use of silicone and/or hormones ***will not be considered*** by any judge in the scoring of contestants.
10. USofA Pageants reserves the right to make any decision concerning any matter not covered by these rules and regulations.
11. All Miss Gay New Orleans LA USofA pageant winners will be required to sign a contract with OZ New Orleans before ***any*** prize money is paid. Failure to sign the contract will mean forfeiture of the title. The contract is enclosed. Please review it so that you are familiar with it.
12. Any contestant not staying on stage for the entire crowning and picture taking will forfeit their placement and prize money.
13. Within 7 days of winning the contest, all titleholders must have and maintain an e-mail address and cell phone for the entire length of their reign.

14. Any contestant, who has qualified to attend The Louisiana USofA State Pageant and fails to attend, may not compete in any Louisiana USofA Pageants preliminary until they have paid back all prizes, a \$125 fine to the State Promoter, and waited at least one year.

- ACCOMMODATIONS -

ALL contestants, for the Miss Gay New Orleans LA USofA Pageants held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 may secure accommodations at their choosing.

Recommendation:

**The Frenchmen Hotel
417 Frenchmen St
New Orleans, LA 70116
Phone: (504) 945-5453**

- GENERAL INFORMATION -

It is **very important** to remember to bring plenty of towels from home to remove your make-up. Any contestant that uses the hotel towels to remove make-up will be fined **per towel** and lose administrative points **per towel**, so bring your own.

Remember to print this handbook out and bring it with you to the Pageant. It has all of the information that you will need

I would like to mention a point that I want every contestant to take to heart. We all gather once a year to select a new Miss Gay New Orleans LA USofA. The staff and I want your trip to be a pleasant experience. I would like to state that damage to the Host Bar, Host Hotel, or Venue will not be tolerated. I want everyone to understand that I will help the Host Bar, Host Hotel, and Venue prosecute any person or persons causing any damage. Let's have a good, fun, and safe time!

- ADMISSIONS -

Contestants do not have to pay for admission to OZ New Orleans on the night of competition. Contestants will be allowed ONE (1) back stage pass for a dressing room assistant. All dressers and dressing room assistants, dancers, prop personnel, managers, lovers, etc. must pay admission to all events. All persons entering the venue **must have a valid ID**.

- Miss Gay New Orleans LA USofA Pageants admission is **\$5.00** per person that night at the door.

Passes will not be sold at registration and all dressing room assistants, dancers, prop personnel, managers, lovers, etc. **MUST** pay at the door. So please do not have them enter carrying your pageant package as they will have to stop and pay before entering.

CASH & Other PRIZES – Miss Gay New Orleans LA USofA

1st Runner Up \$150.00, Bookings with The Ladies of OZ, and Benefit Show

Winner \$300.00, Official MGNOLAUSofA - MFAQ Jewlery, bookings with The Ladies of Oz at Oz, and Benefit Show

OZ New Orleans Lounge is 18 and up. 21 to drink

Each contestant is responsible for ensuring that each person in his party has proper identification **Everyone must have a valid state issued ID for entrance into the Host Bar. No minors under 18 will be allowed in the club.** Please do not come asking for special help. Each bar owner is responsible to his state liquor board to follow the law, which includes each person having the proper identification. **All persons, will be required to be wrist banded at the door.** Judges will take into consideration the fact that persons on stage will be wearing wristbands when judged.

- MEETINGS AND REHEARSALS -

Because of the logistics associated with organizing a pageant, all contestants are expected to arrive for all meetings and rehearsals approximately ten (10) minutes before the scheduled time. Contestants who arrive for a meeting or rehearsal after the scheduled time will be penalized administrative points.

The contestant meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at OZ. At this meeting, all contestants will draw a contestant number for their perspective competition, receive their contestant ID card and receive a backstage pass.

You will be given one backstage pass for a dressing room assistant. **The backstage pass does not give entry into the club.** It will, however, allow **one** person to enter the dressing room with you to assist. No extra helpers will be allowed in the dressing area. If you have more than one assistant, only one may enter at a time and must use the same backstage pass for dressing room admission.

- PERSONAL INTERVIEW -

Each contestant will be interviewed individually by the judging panel. The purpose of the Personal Interview in the USofA system is to allow the judges some insight into the character of each contestant. During the interview, the judges are also afforded the opportunity to evaluate each contestant's basic qualities, such as intelligence, ability to communicate, attitude, composure, etc. The judges may also gather information about a contestant's professional or personal life.

The basic nature of the interview is intended to be casual and relaxed. The suggested attire for the interview is casual daywear, male or female however, each contestant should select clothing in which he feels at ease. You should dress as you would for a *professional* job interview. Your interview will be held at The Main Street Lounge after registration.

- FASHION / EVENING GOWN -

Evening gowns may be of any color or style. They must, however, be full length. The gown must fit well, the contestant must model it elegantly, and all of the elements (hair, make-up, accessories, shoes, and gown) must come together for an overall look that makes the contestant look his very best.


USofA Pageants Fashion / Evening Gown competition has traditionally rewarded contestants who bring a unique combination of evening gown, hair, make-up, accessories, modeling, and poise to the stage. **This has not changed.** The USofA System has often rewarded gowns that include lots of rhinestones, beading, etc., as well as hair and accessories that may be described as "high drag". These are still appropriate for Fashion/Evening Gown competition in the Miss Gay USofA Pageants. While couture gowns are also appropriate for the USofA Fashion / Evening Gown category, this is not creative eveningwear competition, and gowns that are costumes should be avoided.

We also discourage gowns that are so heavily embellished that the contestant cannot model them elegantly. Also, judges are asked to educate themselves about current fashion, and contestants should be aware that a gown, though beautiful, may be outdated and therefore not score as well as it might otherwise.

Further, a gown with few or even no embellishments (stones, etc.) can score just as well as a fully embellished gown if the overall look (make-up, hair, accessories, shoes, poise, fit, modeling) makes the contestant look his very best.

When you arrive at the club for Fashion / Evening Gown competition, you should be painted and ready to get dressed. Time is very limited competition night.

FASHION / EVENING GOWN DESCRIPTION CARDS

Miss Gay Louisiana USofA	
Fashion Description Card	
Contestant # _____	
Contestant Name _____	
Designer of Fashion _____	
Make Up Artist _____	
Hair Stylist _____	
Designer of Accessories _____	
Sponsors _____	

Each contestant will be required to submit an evening gown description card and will look like:

These cards will be filled out or beforehand but turned in at registration. You must fill this out and no other information may be placed on this card. We **do not** read cards for any other category.

- TALENT -

Talent may be any type of entertainment presentation as long as it does not create any danger or injury to either the contestant or anyone else. No animals or reptiles may be used in your talent presentation. You may not use fire, water or glitter in your talent presentation. Talent presentation is limited to seven (7) minutes in length. Prop setup and tear down time is limited to 5 minutes total. The venue has a small stage and may not be able to accommodate a large number of dancers. The recommendation is to have a maximum of two so that there is spacing available to move around. Music must be turned in on Flash Drive. You should have your talent number named as ContestantName_Talent and your crown number on ContestantName_Crown on the same Flash Drive. Do not place any other music on this drive. ***If you bring CD it will be ripped to MP3 for use on laptop dj software. We cannot promise quality.*** Contestants are advised to make a backup copy of their talent music and bring it to the pageant as a safety precaution. **All talent music will be turned in at talent rehearsal, the day of your talent competition.** You will not receive this drive back until after Crowning coronation. Make sure to bring a rehearsal copy. You must bring all props for your talent to your rehearsal time. You may not bring props in on the night of your Talent presentation.

We have allowed a limited time in the schedule for individual contestant rehearsal. This will allow time for sound checks, blocking and lighting cues. Be sure you are well organized for this rehearsal as time is limited. Each contestant **must** attend rehearsal for their group. This will be when your talent is timed.

Back-up entertainers will be assigned a separate dressing area, not the main dressing room. You should be prepared at the contestant meeting to tell the stage manager the exact number of back-up entertainers and prop personnel you will require.

If you will be using any props for your talent presentation, you must bring those props to the Venue at your assigned rehearsal time. You may not bring any props in at any other time. You must remove all props from the bar the same night.

All competition for the Miss Gay New Orleans LA USofA Pageant will be held on the main stage of the venue. The competition area is 8 feet wide and 8 feet deep. The ceiling height is 12 feet high.

Each contestant must secure his own storage of props at all times.

- ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

For additional information regarding the Miss Gay New Orleans LA USofA Pageant, contestants should contact Persana Shoulders at persana@ozneworleans.com or call at 225.205.4588.

- APPLICATIONS -

This year all applications must be submitted at registration.

Entry Fees are as follows:

\$100 Day of

Due to Time and Space Constraints Only the First 6 Contestants Paid with Application Completed/Submitted will be allowed to Compete.

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- CONTESTANT COORDINATOR -

This year a contestant coordinator will be assigned to assist you during the Miss Gay New Orleans LA USofA Pageants. His/Her job is to help ensure that you have a positive and enjoyable time during your pageant experience. While at the Pageant, he/she is your point of contact with New Orleans LA USofA Pageants. He/She will be available to all contestants daily during the personal interviews. If you have any questions, problems, or ideas, please direct them to him/her first. He/She will try to get your problem solved; questions answered, or point you in the right direction. He/She will be reporting to the staff daily on all matters.

PRESENTATION OF CONTESTANTS - (Miss Gay New Orleans LA USofA)

The Return of 54: Disco! Break Out those bell bottoms and disco wear! Please remember OZ stage so please limit height and weight of costume.

- SCORING -

The contestants will be scored comparatively for their scores as follows:

- Personal Interview 1 to 12 points (1st=12pts, 2nd=11pts, etc.)
- Evening Gown 1 to 12 points (1st=12pts, 2nd=11pts, etc.)
- Talent 2 to 24 points (1st=24pts, 2nd=22pts, etc.)

Maximum possible points 48 points

X 5 judges (High and Low scores dropped if 7 judges)

Subtotal 240 points

The score sheets, judges comment sheets, and talent music will be available to contestants following the crowning of each respective pageant. The finalists will receive their judges comment sheets and a copy of the master score sheet when leaving the stage at crowning. The Winner and First Alternate will receive their prize money from a predetermined location announced at registration.

- SCHEDULE OF EVENTS -

Wednesday November 16, 2022

5:00 p.m. Contestant Registration at OZ New Orleans

5:30 p.m. Talent Rehearsal immediately after Registration

6:00 p.m. Interview

8:00 p.m. Doors open to public

9:00 p.m. Contestant Check in

9:30 p.m. Pageant Begins

9:45 p.m. Presentation

10:15 p.m. Evening Gown Competition

11:00 p.m. Talent Competition

12:00 a.m. Crowning Ceremonies

*Subject to change due to number of contestants or as reserved by promoter.