

2020 MISS GAY TEXAS USofA PAGEANT

Contestant Handbook

August 20 - 23, 2019



Crystal Lauren

Miss Gay Texas USofA 2019



Rules and Regulations –

1. Contestants must be born male, residents of Texas, 21 years of age and be able to show proof of age.
2. Judging for preliminaries will be on a total-points accumulated system. Final night will be scored using USofA's comparative scoring system. Ties will be broken by the contestant with the highest talent score.
3. Contestants will be judged in the following categories:
 - Personal Interview
 - Evening Gown/Fashion
 - Talent
4. Talent will be limited to seven (7) minutes. Prop set up and knock down time will be limited to five (5) minutes total. Talent presentations will be timed at rehearsals. Any talent presentation over seven (7) minutes will have administrative points deducted.
5. Any type of talent presentation is acceptable except those which may cause injury to the audience or any other person. No glitter, fire of any kind, water or liquids including paint may be used in any talent presentation. No live animals or reptiles may be used in any talent presentation. Talent presentations that contain racial slurs or excessively vulgar, obscene, or insulting language should be avoided. The judges will consider the contents of talent presentations when scoring them. Music must be turned in on a CD-R. You must have your talent presentation recorded as track one (1) and your crown number recorded as track two (2). Please do not place any other music on this CD-R. No commercially recorded CD's or CD's with multiple tracks will be accepted.
6. The use of or dispensing of any illegal drugs will not be tolerated while a contestant is participating in the Miss Gay Texas USofA Pageant. Immediate disqualification will result for those who break this rule.
7. Any contestant not at their appointed place at the appointed time will lose administrative points.
8. Any contestant, contestant's dancer(s), helper(s), etc. 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 Texas USofA Pageant does not discriminate against any contestant with silicone or using hormones. The use of silicone and/or hormones will not be considered by any judge in the scoring of any contestant. Nudity and pasties will not be allowed by anyone (contestant, dancers, former titleholder, entertainment, etc.) in any portion of any preliminary or final night competition.
10. USofA Pageants, LLC reserves the right to make any decision concerning any matter not covered in these Rules and Regulations.
11. Miss Gay Texas USofA 2020 will be required to sign a contract with Texas USofA Pageants/Craig Henderson before any prize money is paid. Failure to sign the contract will mean forfeiture of the title.
12. Any contestant in the top five (5) not staying on stage for the entire crowning and picture taking will forfeit their placement and prize money.

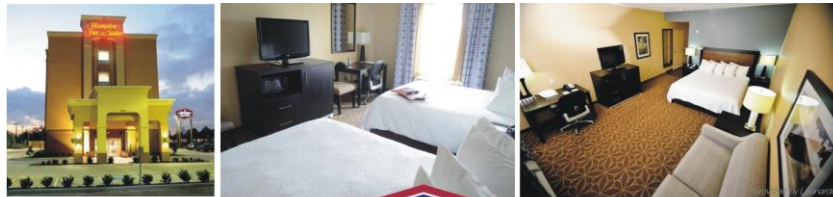
Accommodations –

ALL contestants are required to stay at the Hampton Inn & Suites Houston I 10-Central located at 5820 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77007. **Reservations must be made online** by following this link

https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/hp/reservation/book.htm?inputModule=HOTEL&ctyho cn=HOUKFHX&spec_plan=CHHMGU&arrival=20190819&departure=20190824&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT

If you have any questions concerning the host hotel their phone number is 713-869-9211.

You MUST make your reservations by August 1st. If you have not made your reservations before the deadline you will have to pay the regular room rate. No exceptions! Upon Check in there will be an additional incidental charge of \$20 per day added that will be refunded upon check-out. Cash payments will be accepted upon check-out however the hotel must retain a valid credit card during your stay.



There will be a \$100 damage deposit required to be placed on your credit card which will be refunded within 2 – 3 business days after check out. This is required to guarantee no damage is done to your hotel room by you or any of your guests.

PROMOTERS – if you plan on paying for your contestant(s) room(s) but will not be in attendance they must receive a credit card authorization from you before releasing a room to your contestant(s). You must contact the hotel to make arrangements for the credit card authorization before your contestant(s) check in.

Host Club –

This year the host club for the Mr. Gay Texas USofA is Rich's in Houston, Texas. Rich's is an 18 and over club. You **MUST PRESENT** valid identification to enter the club. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!** Rich's is located at 2401 San Jacinto, Houston, TX. The phone number of Rich's is 281-846-9985. **There is limited street parking close to Rich's. PAID PARKING** lots are across the street from the club or a block to the north of the club.

Admissions –

Contestants do not have to pay admission to Rich's on any night of competition. All dressing room assistants, dancers, prop personnel, managers, lovers, etc. must pay admission to all events. The Rich's is an 18 an over club. All persons entering Rich's **MUST** have a valid ID.

- Preliminary Competition – Miss Gay Texas USofA - \$15.00 – Tue - Thur
- Final Night – Miss Gay Texas USofA - \$40.00 – Friday. Reserved seating on final night will be \$60 per seat.

You can purchase a four (4) day pass at the Contestant Registration ONLY for \$75.00. You can only purchase four (4) day passes for your **dancers and dresser**. All others must pay the normal door cover

If you desire reserved seating – you can purchase that in advance by contacting Craig Henderson at txcraigann@aol.com or by calling 713-213-7350. Final Night reserved seats will go on sale June 1, 2018

RICH'S STAGE															
Stairs															
General Admission ONLY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	General Admission ONLY
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	
	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	
	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	
	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	
85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98		

Tickets are \$60 per seat
 Contact Craig Henderson at 713-213-7350 to purchase your seats

2020 Miss Gay Texas USofA Pageant
 Featuring Crystal Lauren - Miss Gay Texas USofA 2019




Contestant Registration –

The Contestant Registration will be held on August 20th at 12:00pm (noon) at The Hampton Inns & Suites (host hotel). At this meeting, all contestants will draw a contestant number for preliminary competition and receive their pageant ID card. You must purchase a backstage pass (week long pass) for your backstage assistant. NO extra helpers will be allowed in the dressing room area. If you have more than one assistant, only one may enter the dressing room at a time and they must use the same backstage pass.

Groups –

All preliminary competition will be done in six (6) groups. When you arrive at the Contestant Registration on August 20th you will draw a contestant number. Your group will be assigned based on your contestant number. If you are not happy with the group you draw into you will be given an opportunity to trade numbers with other contestants at that time. There will be NO requests for group placements taken in advance.

With the accumulative scoring system for preliminary nights you will **not** be competing for a placement on final night against other contestants in your group. You will be competing for the best overall scores in the pageant. The top twelve (12) will be the twelve (12) highest scoring contestants regardless of the group they are placed in.

Presentation of Contestants –

The theme for the opening production (Friday) is “**THE COVEN**”. Contestants will wear **BLACK AND WHITE FASHION FORWARD WITCH’S ATTIRE**. Make it Fabulous!

Formers are “former witch queens”, “former Supremes”. They will wear all black (unless Crystal has asked a former to be a character from AHS). Texas Royalty will be witch’s and warlocks (Miss is black and white witch attire and Mr. is all black as warlocks).

Applications –

The deadline for filing your application is August 20th. Everyone should have an application filled out before you get to registration. Please fill out your application and bring it with you to the contestant registration.



Miss Gay Texas USofA Official Application

PLEASE PRINT

IN BLACK OR BLUE INK

Representing _____

Stage Name _____

Legal Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Age _____ Date Of Birth _____

E-Mail Address _____

Name of Backstage Assistant

Sponsors _____

Talent _____

Artist and Title of Talent Number

____ Live ____ Dance ____ Lip Sync ____ Props ____ # of Dancers

By my signature below, I hereby agree to release and hold harmless USofA Pageants, LLC, Craig Henderson, The Official Miss Gay Texas USofA Pageant, hereinafter referred to as the "pageant", the Preliminary Promoter, their agents, servants and employees from any liabilities and/or responsibilities whatsoever, from, associated with or arising out of my participation in the "pageant" and/or the title of Miss Gay Texas USofA, including but not limited to personal injury and/or damage to personal property regardless of whether the loss, injury and/or damage occurred before, during or after the "pageant" or any related activity.

I also hereby release myself from rights to any video taping (sound and/or video), photography (still camera or motion picture) of the "pageant". I understand that I have no rights to any of the recordings that I appear in or on or the future sales thereof. I hereby agree that my name and photographs (still or motion picture) taken of me during the "pageant" may be used for publication, promotional purposes or in any advertising publicity. By my signature below, I affirm and attest that I have read the Rules and Regulations of the "pageant" and agree to abide by the same.

Sign Legal Name

Date

Meetings and Rehearsals –

Because of the logistics of organizing a pageant this size, all contestants are expected to arrive for all meetings and rehearsals at least ten (10) minutes before the scheduled time. Contestants who arrive for a meeting or a rehearsal after the scheduled time will have administrative points deducted.

Cash Prizes –

Top Five Finalists –

- **4th Runner Up** **\$150.00**
- **3rd Runner Up** **\$200.00**
- **2nd Runner Up** **\$250.00**
- **1st Runner Up** **\$500.00****
- **WINNER** **\$1000.00***

ALL winners must be prepared to present an ID and a social security number when receiving prize money. All prize money will be distributed at a location announced following the crowning of Miss Gay Texas USofA 2020.

*Miss Gay Texas USofA 2020 will receive \$500.00 upon winning the title and the balance of the prize money after having completed the obligations of the title which includes being present and performing all nights of the Miss Gay Texas USofA 2021 Pageant.

** The 1st Runner Up will receive \$250 the night of the contest and \$250 at Miss Gay USofA in May of 2020

Additional Information –

For additional information regarding the Miss Gay Texas USofA 2020 Pageant contestants should contact Craig Henderson at 713-213-7350.

General Information –

It is important to remember to bring plenty of towels from home to remove your make-up. Any contestant who uses the host hotel towels to remove make-up will be fined \$10.00 per towel and lose five (5) administrative points per towel. SO please bring your own towels!

Remember to bring this handbook with you to the pageant. It has all the information you will need. I would like to mention one point I would like every contestant to take to heart. We all gather once a year to select a new Miss Gay Texas USofA. The staff and I want your week to be a pleasant experience. I would like to state that NO damage to the host hotel or the host club will be tolerated! I want everyone to understand that I will help the

host hotel or club prosecute anyone who causes damage to either place. Let's all have a good and a safe time.

Each contestant is responsible for ensuring that each person in his/her party has proper identification. **Rich's is an 18 and over club and EVERYONE must have a valid state issued ID for entrance into the host club!** All persons including contestants will be required to be wrist banded or hand stamped at the door.

Personal Interview –

Each contestant will be interviewed individually by the panel of judges. 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 personal 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 any information about the contestant's professional or personal life.

The basic nature of the interview is intended to be casual and relaxed. Each contestant should select clothing in which he/she feels at ease. You should dress as you would for a professional job interview. Your interview will be held at the host hotel. The actual room will be announced at the contestant registration.

Evening Gown/Fashion –

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.

The Miss Gay Texas USofA 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. 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, and modeling) makes the contestant look their very best.

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

Miss Gay Texas
USofA

PLEASE PRINT

 Fashion
Description
Card

Contestant # _____

Contestant Name _____

Designer of Evening Gown _____

Make Up Artist _____

Hair Stylist _____

Designer of Accessories _____

Sponsors _____

Talent –

Any type of talent presentation will be allowed as long as it does not cause danger or injury to any contestant, dancer(s) or any audience member. You may not use fire, glitter, water or liquid of any kind including paint in any talent presentation. You may not use any live animals in any talent presentation. Talent presentations that contain racial slurs or excessively vulgar, obscene or insulting language should be avoided. The judges will consider the contents of talent presentations when scoring them.

Your talent presentation is limited to seven (7) minutes. Prop set up and take down time is limited to five (5) minutes. There is no restriction on the number of people you may have in your talent presentation.

Music for your talent presentation must be recorded on a CD-R, track one (1) and clearly marked with the contestant's name only! NO CASSETTE tapes will be accepted. You are welcome to use the video wall at the back of the stage. If you choose to use a video as or with your talent please place your talent video on a flash drive recorded as an MP4 only. We will NOT accept talent music from iPhones, iPads or android phones. Contestants are advised to make a back-up copy of their talent CD-R and flash drive and bring them to the contest as a safety precaution. All talent music/video will be turned in at talent rehearsal the day of your talent competition. You will not receive this copy back until after final night. Your talent presentation should be recorded on track one (1) of your CD-R and your crown number should be recorded as track two (2). Commercial CD's or CD-R's with additional tracks will not be accepted. If using a video for your talent make sure that video file is the only file on that flash drive and is recorded as an MP4.

We have allowed a limited time for each contestant's talent presentation rehearsal. This will allow time for sound checks, blocking and lighting cues. Please make sure you are prepared for your talent rehearsal as time is limited. Each contestant MUST attend the

talent rehearsal for your group. Back up dancers will be assigned a separate dressing area. Make sure you tell the contestant coordinator at the contestant registration the exact number of dancers and prop personnel you will have. Props must be brought in at your group's talent rehearsal. You will not be allowed to bring props in at any other time. ALL props must be removed before final night rehearsal if your group is the last preliminary group to do talent.

If you feel you have made the top twelve are you will be changing your talent for final night, you must bring your talent CD-R or video flash drive and props to the final night talent rehearsal. That will be the only time you will be able to change your talent presentation. If you are using a video on final night make sure you bring a copy of your crown number on a CD-R to be turned in when you change your music at the final night rehearsal. If you feel you have made the top twelve you will only be allowed to bring your props in at the final night talent rehearsal and they must be removed following crowning that same night.

All competition will be held on the main stage of Rich's. The dimensions of the stage are 20' wide and 14' deep. There is no usable curtain so please prepare your talent accordingly. Please see the stage photo as a guide.



Because of limited space at Rich's you are only allowed to store your props at the club the day of your talent. All props must be free standing. If you are using a backdrop (other than the video wall) it must be hung that day during your talent rehearsal AND it must be removed as soon as your talent presentation has ended. All props must be able to enter through a large overhead roll up doorway. Each contestant must secure his own storage of props at all other times. Remember that Texas USofA Pageants does not provide contestants with backstage staff for prop set-up and tear down, although we will assist with your props as much as possible. The backstage staff will not, under any circumstance, be responsible for any damage to props while helping a contestant.

Scoring –

Preliminary Competition –

Scoring for preliminary nights of competition will be done accumulatively. Each judge will give each contestant a score based on his/her performance in the category without any regard to the other contestants. With this scoring system, more than one contestant in the same group may be given the same score. Scores are assigned as follows:

Personal Interview	1 to 12 points
Evening Gown	1 to 12 points
Talent	2 to 24 points

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Maximum possible points 48 points

X 5 judges (high and low scores dropped)

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Total 240 points

There will be five (5) judges all week long with two (2) judges added for final night. The twelve (12) contestants with the highest scores will become the finalists. The scoring system will select the finalists without regard to groups. It is possible that a group could have more than three finalists or even have no finalists.

Final Night Competition –

The top twelve (12) contestants with the highest accumulative scores from preliminary competition will be scored comparatively for final night as follows:

Personal Interview	1 - 12 points (carried over from preliminary)
Evening Gown	1 – 12 points
Talent	2 – 24 points

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Maximum possible points 48 points

X 5 judges (high and low scores dropped)

=====

Total 240 points

The preliminary nights score sheets and judges comment sheets and final night score sheets and judges comment sheets will be available to all contestants immediately following the crowning of Miss Gay Texas USofA 2020.

Schedule of Events –

TUESDAY – August 20, 2019

12:00 pm	Contestant Registration	Hampton Inns & Suites
2:00 pm	Talent Rehearsal – Group 3	Rich's
2:00 pm	Interview – Group 5	Hampton Inns & Suites
3:00 pm	Talent Rehearsal – Group 4	Rich's
3:00 pm	Interview – Group 6	Hampton Inns & Suites
9:00 pm	Club Opens	
9:00 pm	Contestant Check in – Groups 1 & 2	Rich's
10:00 pm	Evening Gown Competition – Groups 1 & 2	
10:15 pm	Contestant Check in – Groups 3 & 4	Rich's
11:00 pm	Talent Competition – Groups 3 & 4	

WEDNESDAY – August 21, 2019

2:00 pm	Talent Rehearsal – Group 5	Rich's
2:00 pm	Interview – Group 1	Hampton Inns & Suites
3:00 pm	Talent Rehearsal – Group 6	Rich's
3:00 pm	Interview – Group 2	Hampton Inns & Suites
9:00 pm	Club Opens	
9:00 pm	Contestant Check in – Groups 3 & 4	Rich's
10:00 pm	Evening Gown Competition – Groups 3 & 4	
10:15 pm	Contestant Check in – Groups 5 & 6	Rich's
11:00 pm	Talent Competition – Groups 5 & 6	

THURSDAY – August 22, 2019

2:00 pm	Talent Rehearsal – Group 1	Rich's
2:00 pm	Interview – Group 3	Hampton Inns & Suites
3:00 pm	Talent Rehearsal – Group 2	Rich's
3:00 pm	Interview – Group 4	Hampton Inns & Suites
9:00 pm	Club Opens	
9:00 pm	Contestant Check in – Groups 5 & 6	Rich's
10:00 pm	Evening Gown Competition – Groups 5 & 6	
10:15 pm	Contestant Check in – Groups 1 & 2	Rich's
11:00 pm	Talent Competition – Groups 1 & 2	

FRIDAY – August 23, 2019 – Final Night

12:00 (noon)	Contestant Lunch <i>Contestants, Formers, Promoters, Judges & Staff only</i>	Rich's
1:00 pm	Presentation Rehearsal – Reigning, Formers And ALL Contestants	Rich's
8:00 pm	Doors Open All Contestants and formers check in	
9:00 pm	Final Night Competition begins	Rich's



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