



Dear Contestant,

Welcome to the exciting world of Miss Gay USofA Newcomer! To those of you who have competed at the National level previously, we are happy to have you back competing with us for another year! If this is your first National Pageant, we'd like to welcome you and hope you have a wonderful experience!

Preliminary Night competition for this year's pageant will be held on Monday, July 30, 2018, Tuesday, July 31, 2018 and Wednesday, August 1, 2018. Final Night competition will be held on Thursday, August 2, 2018. Refer to the schedule of events included within this handbook for specific information.

This is your contestant handbook. Please read over the contents of this handbook carefully. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding the National Pageant that you do not find answered here. Good luck and most importantly, have fun! We are excited to welcome you to Dallas, Texas!

Sincerely,

Darryl Neumann, National Promoter

And

Domita Sanchez, Miss Gay USofA Newcomer 2017



RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Miss Gay USofA Newcomer contestants must be born male. Contestants must be 21 years of age or older on or before Monday, July 30, 2018. All participants should be prepared to present valid, Government-issued photo identification at Contestant Registration. Contestants may not compete until identification is presented.
2. Contestants may not have held a State or Regional Title (whether won or appointed) or have been a National Finalist as a female impersonator in any division of USofA Pageants or any division of the following major Nationally-franchised National Pageant Systems: Miss Gay America, Continental, Entertainer of the Year, All American Goddess, MBU and Miss Black America.
3. Contestants may not have appeared on any drag-based reality television series.
4. Contestants may not enter Miss Gay USofA Newcomer following the third year anniversary of their first entry into the Miss Gay USofA Newcomer System.
5. Judging for preliminary competition will be on a total points accumulated system. Final night will be scored using the standard USofA comparative scoring system. Ties will be broken in favor of the contestant with the highest talent score.
6. Contestants will be judged in the following categories: Personal Interview, Talent and Fashion (Evening Gown).
7. Talent presentations will be limited to seven (7) minutes. Prop set-up and removal time will be limited to five (5) minutes total. Talent presentations will be timed at rehearsals. Contestants with presentations longer than seven (7) minutes will be subject to an administrative point deduction.
8. Any type of talent presentation is acceptable except those which may cause injury to any person present or which may cause damage to the venue. No GLITTER, FIRE or LIQUIDS of any kind, including WATER, may be used in any talent presentation. No LIVE ANIMALS or REPTILES may be used during any talent presentation. No SMOKE/FOG MACHINES may be used. Audio files may be either burned on a CD-R or submitted via a USB flash drive in MP3 format. Video files MUST be submitted via a USB flash drive in MP4 format. For more specific information regarding Talent presentation music, see the section on "Talent Phase of Competition" where the categories of competition are defined.
9. The use of or dispensing of any illegal drugs or marijuana is not tolerated at USofA Pageants. If you or any member of your team is caught violating this rule, you will be immediately disqualified and removed from the pageant venue/host hotel.
10. Stealing or damaging another person's property is not tolerated at USofA Pageants. If you or any member of your team is caught violating this rule, you will be immediately disqualified and removed from the pageant venue/host hotel.
11. USofA Pageants does not discriminate against entertainers whose bodies contain silicone and those who use hormones. The use of silicone and/or hormones will not be considered by any judge during the competition. Nudity, semi-nudity and the use of pasties is not allowed by any contestant, former or entertainer at any USofA pageant or sanctioned event.
12. Any contestant who is not at the appropriate place at the specified time will be subject to an administrative point deduction.
13. The winner of the pageant will be required to sign a contract with the National Promoter. Failure to sign the contract could result in forfeiture of the title. The contract is very specific and must be adhered to without fail to avoid any violations which could ultimately result in forfeiture of the title.
14. Any finalist in the top 5 not remaining on stage for the entire crowning process and photos afterward will forfeit their placement in the pageant and any prize money due for that placement.
15. Within seven (7) days of winning the pageant, the new National Titleholder must have and

maintain a valid email address, cellular telephone and Facebook page for the entire length of the reign.

16. Within thirty (30) days of winning the pageant, the new National Titleholder must attend a photo shoot and submit to the National Promoter one (1) official crown shot promo and one (1) other promo photo (with or without crown).

17. Any contestant who has qualified to compete at the 2018 Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant as the winner or first alternate of their qualifying preliminary and fails to attend the National Pageant will be banned within ALL divisions of USofA Pageants and any other National Pageant System that upholds the USofA Banned Contestant Policy for a period of at least one (1) full year. They will be required to return their entire preliminary prize package including reimbursement in full of any cash prize money to the Promoter who awarded it. They will also owe an administrative fee to the National Promoter of \$250.00.

18. The National Promoter, on behalf of USofA Pageants, reserves the right to make any decision concerning any matter not covered by these Rules and Regulations.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Our host hotel for this year's National Pageant is the MCM Elegante Hotel, located at 2330 West Northwest Highway (near the intersection of Interstate Highway 35 and Northwest Highway). It is three miles from Dallas Love Field Airport and approximately 10-15 minutes away from our venue (during periods of light traffic), the Round-Up Saloon. This is the same host hotel as we had last year in Dallas. Some of you may remember this hotel as the new host hotel for the Miss Gay UsofA, UsofA At-Large & UsofA Classic Pageants held in Dallas.

ALL QUALIFIED CONTESTANTS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO RESIDE IN THE LOCAL AREA, ARE REQUIRED TO STAY AT THE HOST HOTEL DURING THE NIGHTS THAT THE PAGEANT IS ONGOING (TUES, WED AND THURS). THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.

The hotel is now accepting reservations for this year's National Pageant. Contestants are advised to check with their promoter if a hotel room at Nationals was part of their prize package, to avoid duplicating any room reservations. If a hotel room is included in your prize package, your promoter has been instructed to reserve that room for you, unless you have had direct contact with your promoter and other specific arrangements have been made. Any additional rooms that are needed to house your team/entourage are your responsibility to secure. To reserve a room, you should go to our website at www.missgayusofanewcomer.com and click on the "Host Hotel" tab at the top of the home page. Once on the Host Hotel page, there will be a link to click which will take you to the host hotel's Reservation System. The box where our Group Code goes will already be populated. Our discounted nightly room rate is \$85.00 plus tax for a standard room with either one king bed or two double beds. Poolside cabana suites are available at a higher price of \$130.00 plus tax per night. Be sure to select the appropriate room type to insure your nightly room rate matches the type of room you are wanting to reserve. Selecting other room types may cause the nightly room rate to go up. The discounted nightly room rate is available for arrivals as early as Saturday, July 28, 2018 for those of you who may want to arrive prior to the pageant starting. For those of you who may want to stay a couple of days after the pageant to enjoy Dallas, the discounted nightly room rate is valid for stays through Saturday, August 4, 2018.

A major credit card or debit card is required to book hotel room(s). No charges or authorizations will be placed on the card prior to the date of arrival. If the credit card used to guarantee the reservation is to be used as the method of payment for the room(s), the credit card must be presented at check-in to be swiped. If you intend to pay for any room(s) with a credit card that **WILL NOT** be present at check-in to be swiped, you must contact the hotel at (214)351-4477 and request a Credit Card Authorization Form. They will send you the form which will need to be completed and faxed back to the hotel. That authorizes the hotel to place room charges on a credit card without the credit card having to be presented at check-in. Hotel rooms that are being paid by a third party's credit/debit card must have a Credit Card Authorization Form on file with the reservation. Without this form being on file, the hotel will refuse to check the guest into the room until an alternate method of payment is received. The host hotel also does not accept pre-paid/reloadable debit cards or Visa/MasterCard "Gift" cards as method of payment for rooms. The deadline to reserve rooms within our group block and be assured to receive the negotiated nightly room rate of \$85.00 plus tax is **Friday, July 13, 2018**.

If you encounter any difficulty in reserving rooms online via the link provided on our website, you may call the hotel directly (weekdays between 9am-4:30pm) and ask for Lisa Carpenter in the Sales Office. Lisa will make your reservation for you.



MCM Elegante Hotel 2330 West Northwest Highway, Dallas, TX (214)351-4477
For more photos and information about our host hotel, go online to our website:
www.missgayusofanewcomer.com

HOTEL TOWELS AND LINENS

It is **VERY IMPORTANT** to remember to bring plenty of towels/rags from home to use in removing your make-up, body paint, bronzer or any other type of temporary makeup/markings you place on your body. It ruins the hotel's wash rags, hand towels and bath towels when you use them to remove these

items from your body. It also ruins the hotel's bed linens when you get into bed without first removing these items completely from your body. Contestants will be required to purchase any of the hotel's towels or bed linens ruined and will also lose administrative points for each ruined item. This also applies to any of your dancers who will be wearing make-up, body paint, bronzer or any other type of temporary markings on their body, which could ruin the hotel's towels or bed linens.

HOTEL SECURITY

Our host hotel has rules and policies which all guests must adhere to in order to be allowed to stay in the hotel. You must be mindful that our group is not large enough to completely sell out the hotel, so there will be other guests staying in the hotel that are not a part of our pageant. You must respect the privacy of other guests. The hotel is aware that members of our group will be returning in the early morning hours each night and no loud music or noise disturbances, slamming doors, arguing, fighting or people running around inside the hallways (or outside on the grounds) will be tolerated. The hotel will not allow people to congregate in the lobby area or the restaurant/lounge area after hours. The hotel does employ security guards who will enforce the hotel's rules and policies. Contestants will be held fully responsible for the actions of all members of their respective teams while they are on the hotel premises, whether they are guests at the hotel or not. This includes dancers, prop personnel and any other people on your team. You are responsible for monitoring their behavior and correcting any problems before these individuals become involved in a situation that turns into a reportable issue. I will be in contact with the hotel's management each day to receive any reports they have on any inappropriate behavior on behalf of any pageant participants or guests. Additionally, the hotel management reserves the right to inspect each guest room on a daily basis, whether or not there is a "do not disturb" sign displayed on the door and whether or not there is anyone in the room at the time the inspection is conducted. These inspections will be conducted specifically to make sure no damage is occurring to the hotel room, that there is no smoking occurring in designated "non-smoking" rooms, that there are no unauthorized pets being kept in a guest room and that no illegal activity is ongoing. There is to be NO prop building, painting/decorating inside a hotel room or on the parking lot. Oversized props may not be stored inside a hotel room or in any hotel hallways. Pool hours MUST be adhered to. Any contestant with team members caught in the pool by Security after hours is subject to being removed from the hotel. Any serious infraction of the MCM Elegante's guest rules and policies will result in the contestant and their team being evicted from the host hotel without a refund. If this happens, the contestant will also be disqualified from the pageant. DO NOT risk getting disqualified from the pageant because of the actions or behavior of your team of people. You've come too far and spent too much money to be sent home because the people you brought with you can't act like responsible adults.

PAGEANT VENUE

The venue for this year's competition will be the Round-Up Saloon located at 3912 Cedar Springs Road. Be sure to check the schedule of events as some daytime events will be held at the host hotel during preliminary competition.

GROUPS FOR PRELIMINARY COMPETITION

Preliminary competition on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will be done in four (6) contestant groups. During Registration on Monday morning, July 30, 2018, you will draw your contestant number. Your contestant group will be assigned based on your contestant number. You will compete in each of the three categories on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday based on what group you are assigned to. If you are not happy with your contestant number or the group you draw into, or if you wish to compete in the categories in a specific order (in order to compete in a specific category on a specific day), you will be allowed to trade numbers with another contestant during Registration prior to having your contestant number officially recorded. Once the pageant staff officially records your pageant number, you may not change your contestant number, your group, or the order in which you compete during the preliminary competition.

REGISTRATION, MEETINGS AND REHEARSALS

Because of the logistics associated with organizing and producing a pageant of this size, all contestants are expected to arrive for all meetings and rehearsals approximately 10-15 minutes before the scheduled start time and are expected to have with them any materials or items they are required to bring. Contestants who arrive for a meeting, call time or rehearsal **after** the scheduled start time will be considered late and are subject to an administrative point deduction as a penalty. Registration for the Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant will be held at 9:30am on Monday, July 30, 2018 at the host hotel. At Registration, after staff and VIP introductions and a brief organizational meeting, contestants will draw their contestant number, receive their contestant ID Badge and will be able to purchase discounted Passes to the 4-night event for every member of their team. Be sure to bring your Government-issued photo identification with you to Registration. The staff will need to scan a copy of your ID.

ID BADGES/DANCER PASSES

At registration, each contestant will be required to purchase a Backstage Helper/Assistant ID Badge. The only exception to this is if your Promoter is acting as your Backstage Helper/Assistant on each night of the pageant and will be the only person needing access to the dressing room to help you. If your Promoter is your backstage helper, but you will have any other person who will need access to you while you are backstage (such as a hairdresser, etc.) you will be required to purchase a Backstage Helper/Assistant ID Badge. This ID Badge is similar to the 4-night Dancer Passes except this specific ID Badge authorizes the bearer to accompany the contestant into the dressing area. The Backstage Helper/Assistant must present their ID Badge to be scanned in order to be allowed into the venue each night.

Contestants, dancers and backstage helpers must present their ID Badge to be scanned in order to be allowed into the venue each night. Dancer passes are non-refundable if lost and will not be replaced. Regular door cover will be charged for anyone who loses their dancer pass.

ADMISSIONS

Promoters do not have to pay admission to enter the venue on any night of competition, provided

they are wearing their Promoter ID Badge. For those who do not have a permanent Promoter name badge, temporary ID Badges will be available. Contestants do not have to pay admission to enter the venue on any night of competition, provided they are in possession of their Contestant ID Badge. Everyone else is required to either have a valid pre-paid 4-night pass or pay the door admission on each night of the competition to enter the venue. This includes backstage helpers, dancers, prop personnel, managers, husbands, lovers, friends, family members and all other supporters.

TEXAS STATE LAW REQUIRES ANYONE ENTERING A NIGHTCLUB WHERE ALCOHOL IS SOLD OR SERVED MUST BE IN POSSESSION OF A VALID GOVERNMENT-ISSUED PHOTO ID. ALL PERSONS ENTERING THE PRELIMINARY NIGHT VENUE MUST ADHERE TO THIS LAW. AGAIN, IT IS TEXAS STATE LAW, NOT THE POLICY OF THE VENUE. THIS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED. PERSONS WITHOUT A VALID GOVERNMENT-ISSUED PHOTO ID WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE VENUE. PLEASE INSURE THAT ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR TEAM HAVE A VALID GOVERNMENT-ISSUED PHOTO ID.

THE ROUND-UP SALOON, OUR VENUE, IS A 21 & UP ESTABLISHMENT. NO ONE UNDER THE AGE OF 21 WILL BE ALLOWED INSIDE. If you have a dancer who is under the age of 21, that person must be declared during Registration to the club's management. They will then allow the underage person into the club for a few minutes to dance for you, then they will be escorted out of the club.

General Admission for preliminary night competition on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights is **\$15.00** per person each night. General Admission for final night on Thursday is **\$25.00** per person.

There are no reserved seats or tables available. A section of reserved seating will be available each night for Promoters, reigning USofA National Royalty, former Miss Gay USofA Newcomer National Titleholders and VIP Guests of the National Promoter and Reigning National Titleholder. Only these persons will be permitted to sit in this area. Contestants will not be permitted to sit with their promoters inside this VIP area.

At Registration, contestants may purchase a 4-night discounted pass for each member of their team, including dancers, assistants and prop personnel. These passes are good for an admission on each of the preliminary nights and on final night. After Registration, these discounted passes will no longer be available. These passes will be sold for **\$50.00** each. This is a \$20.00 savings over paying the door admission on each night of the Pageant. Cash, MasterCard and Visa will be accepted at Registration. Sorry, we do not accept American Express, pre-paid debit cards, gift cards or any other type of credit card. These 4-night discounted passes are only available for contestants to purchase during Registration.

OFFICIAL JEWELER

Larry Moore, aka Lucinda Holliday, the owner of Made For A Queen Jewelry Company, is the Official Jeweler of the Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant. Lucinda has been making and selling jewelry for the past 15-plus years. Lucinda proudly provides our National Titleholder with an original, fully-embellished, crystal rhinestone bucket-style crown and matching earring set. Lucinda's staff will be present at the venue each night selling jewelry as well as other important items such as make-up, lashes, colored contacts, hair accessories and other miscellaneous supplies. Lucinda's staff will also be set up on the second floor at the host hotel during the Personal Interview phase of competition on

each preliminary day.

OFFICIAL VIDEOGRAPHER

Versage Holt has been commissioned to videotape all four nights of competition this year and produce a DVD of our National Pageant. Versage has been videotaping pageants for numerous years and has produced professional quality DVD's of National Pageants for USofA Pageants as well as other Nationally-franchised Pageant Systems.

NO VIDEOTAPING OR LIVE BROADCASTING DURING THE PAGEANT

Due to legal purposes, there will be **NO BROADCASTING LIVE AND NO VIDEOTAPING** of the pageant by individuals present at the pageant. If a member of the pageant staff or venue security notices anyone broadcasting live or videotaping any portion of the pageant, they will be asked to stop immediately. Anyone caught violating this rule a second time will be removed from the venue without any refund of admission paid. If anyone removed from the venue for violating this rule is in possession of a 4-night pass or a Backstage Helper/Assistant ID Badge that can be tracked back to a specific contestant, that contestant is subject to an administrative point deduction.

VENDORS

Due to limited space at our venue, unauthorized vendors will not be allowed to display merchandise or sell any items to participants and visitors to the Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant.

OPENING PRODUCTION / PRESENTATION OF CONTESTANTS

The theme for the 2018 National Pageant, as selected by our reigning National Titleholder, Domita Sanchez, is **"Goldilocks and her Bears"**. The opening production will feature Domita, selected backup dancers, former USofA Newcomer National Titleholders and the members of the reigning USofA National Court. The presentation of contestants will occur immediately following the opening production. Contestants may wear for the presentation of contestants any outfit of choice as long as the outfit is made to look like it is created out of **RED AND BLACK FLANNEL**. Jewelry must match or accentuate the outfit that is worn. Hats may be worn as long as they match the outfit or compliment the overall look. No handheld props or over-the-top hairdos are allowed. Due to space limitations on the Round Up Saloon's dance floor and due to the fact that we are again the largest division of USofA with upwards of 50 contestants who have qualified to compete, please refrain from wearing anything with a long train. Remember, this is not a creative costume category. Your outfit of choice should allow you to move freely and walk at a normal gait without any difficulty. No escorts for contestants will be allowed during the presentation of contestants. Presentation of contestants is not a scored category of competition and therefore does not affect the final outcome of the pageant. However, there is an award which will be given for the contestant who has the best presentation outfit that follows the guidelines. Contestants needing further clarification on the guidelines for your presentation outfit should contact Domita at (515)351-7247.

PERSONAL INTERVIEW PHASE OF COMPETITION

Each contestant will be interviewed individually by the judging panel. The purpose of the Personal Interview in the USofA Newcomer System is to allow the judges some insight into the character of each contestant. During the interview, judges are also afforded the opportunity to evaluate each contestant's basic qualities, such as general intelligence, ability to communicate clearly and concisely, attitude, composure, etc. The contestant should know and be able to answer questions regarding the USofA Newcomer System. The judges may also gather information about a contestant's personal or professional life. The basic nature of the Personal Interview is intended to be casual and relaxed conversation between the contestant and judging panel. Points are not deducted based on whether a contestant interviews dressed as a male or female. However, the suggested attire for the Personal Interview is what the contestant would wear to a professional job interview.

FASHION (EVENING GOWN) PHASE OF COMPETITION

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 their very best. The USofA System has traditionally rewarded contestants in each division 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 also often rewarded evening gowns that feature a lot of embellishments, such as rhinestones, beading, etc., as well as hair and accessories which would best be described as "high drag". These types of gowns are still appropriate for this phase of competition. Couture gowns are also appropriate for this phase of competition, however, contestants are cautioned this is **NOT** a "creative evening wear" category and gowns that could be considered costumes should be avoided. We also discourage gowns that are so heavily embellished that the contestant cannot model them elegantly due to the weight of the gown. Our judges are asked to educate themselves about current fashion trends and styles. Contestants should be aware that a gown, while beautiful, may appear to be of a style that is outdated and therefore may not score as well as those that do follow current fashion trends. Further, a gown with few or no embellishments (rhinestones, etc.) is able to score just as well or better than a fully-embellished gown as long as the overall look (hair, make-up, accessories, shoes, modeling, poise and fit of the gown) makes the contestant look their very best.

Each contestant will be required to complete and submit an evening gown description card that describes the gown they will wear during preliminary competition and final night competition. If the contestant chooses to wear a different gown on final night, an additional evening gown description card will be submitted. Blank evening gown description cards will be provided by the pageant staff. These cards will be collected from you in the dressing room.

When you arrive at the venue for evening gown competition on preliminary night, you should be ready to get dressed with your hair and make-up already complete. Time is very limited before evening gown competition begins on preliminary nights. The dressing room will not be accessible early enough to give you time to get "in face" at the venue.

TALENT PHASE OF COMPETITION

Talent may be any type of entertainment presentation as long as it does not create a danger or injury to either the contestant or anyone else present, or damage to the venue. No fire, glitter, dry chemicals or liquids of any kind – including water – may be used in your talent presentation. No live animals or reptiles may be used in your talent presentation. No smoke/fog machines may be used in your talent presentation. Talent presentation is limited to seven (7) minutes in length. Prop set-up and removal is limited to five (5) minutes total. There is no restriction in the number of persons who participate in your talent presentation. You should be prepared at Registration on Monday morning, July 30, 2018, to inform pageant staff the exact number of back-up dancers and prop personnel you will have. Each person must pay the door admission or be in possession of a valid “dancer pass” in order to be allowed to enter the venue. Back up dancers will have a separate dressing area and are not allowed in the contestant dressing area at any time.

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Music for talent presentations must be burned on a CD-R (as track #1) and the CD-R clearly marked with the contestant’s name. Audio files may also be submitted on a USB Flash Drive in MP3 format. Video files must be submitted on a USB Flash Drive in MP4 format. If USB Flash Drives are submitted, the flash drive must be new with the talent presentation and a crowning number as the only files contained on the drive. No music on cassette tapes, iPods, smart phones or any other device will be accepted. Contestants are advised to make a back-up copy of their talent music and bring it to the pageant as a safety precaution. Talent music for your preliminary talent competition will be collected by pageant staff at talent rehearsal on the day of your preliminary talent competition. Your talent music will be played in its entirety during talent rehearsal in order to allow the pageant staff to make sure your music plays on the venue’s sound system. You will not receive your preliminary night talent music back until after the winner is crowned on final night, so be sure to have extra copies to use during rehearsals with your team during your spare time. Your talent music CD-R or USB Flash Drive will be included in the packet with your comment sheets and preliminary scores. If you will be using the same CD-R or USB Flash Drive for your final night talent presentation, all you have to do is notify pageant staff. If you will be changing your talent music on final night, you must bring the new CD-R or USB Flash Drive with you to the opening production rehearsal on Thursday, August 2, 2018 after the conclusion of the contestant brunch & preliminary awards reception. That will be your only opportunity to change your talent music for final night. Again, your talent music must be burned on a CD-R on track #1 and a crowning number must be burned on track #2. Audio files will also be accepted on a USB Flash Drive in MP3 format. Video files MUST be submitted on a USB Flash Drive in MP4 format. If you do not change your talent music from preliminary night to final night, your CD-R

you turned in for preliminary competition must have a crowning number burned on track #2. Likewise, your USB Flash Drive, if you choose to submit that, will need a crowning number in a second file.

NEW SINCE 2014: Talent presentations that contain racial slurs or excessively vulgar, obscene or insulting language should be avoided. The judging panel will consider the content of your talent presentation when scoring it.

TALENT PROPS

Any props used must be free-standing and may not damage the polished wood dance floor. Props that require rigging, or those being hung or suspended from something above the stage, or being hung or affixed to the curtains, etc., are not allowed. If you will be using props for your preliminary night talent presentation, you must bring those props with you to the Round-Up at your assigned talent rehearsal time on the afternoon of your preliminary talent competition. There will be a designated prop storage area at the Round-Up. Props may only be stored at the Round-Up on the day of the contestant's talent competition. Contestants must secure storage for your props at all other times. Depending on the size of your props, they may be required to remain outside until it is your turn to go onstage. Then, they can be brought in through a service door which leads directly into the backstage area. You will not have time to construct or build your prop once it reaches the backstage area prior to placing it on the stage. Your props will need to be able to be carried through a standard sized doorway intact as much as possible. You need to insure you have enough people assigned to move your prop into the club and placing it on the stage prior to your talent presentation. These people should also be available to remove your prop from the stage and carry it back to the designated prop storage area where it will remain until the conclusion of competition on that preliminary night. Pageant staff will be on hand to assist your people in this effort, but will not solely move your prop on and off stage for you. Pageant staff will not, under any circumstances, be responsible for any damage to props while assisting a contestant or their team. Electricity is available, but you are required to notify pageant staff during rehearsal in the afternoon if you will need access to an electrical outlet during your talent presentation. You will also need to bring with you an adequate number of extension cords in order to supply electrical power to your prop. Neither the Round-Up or pageant staff is responsible for furnishing you with an extension cord(s). The management of the Round-Up will notify the pageant director if any props are left at the club overnight. The contestant who used the props will be identified and that contestant will receive an administrative point deduction.

FINAL NIGHT TALENT REHEARSAL

There will be a limited time in the schedule after the final night opening production rehearsal for sound checks, lighting cues, and brief blocking/marking of talent presentations for those contestants who believe they may have made the top 12 and wish to do so. Be sure you and your team are organized at this time in order to take advantage of this opportunity. Contestants will not be allowed to rehearse their entire final night talent presentation on stage and no contestant's music will be played during this time. The CD-R you submitted will be checked later in the afternoon to be sure it plays on the venue's sound system and to time the presentation, if you changed your music. You will be notified by pageant staff if there are any problems encountered when your CD-R was tested.

STAGE DIMENSIONS & INFORMATION

Competition for the Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant will be held on the main dance floor of the Round-Up Saloon. The competition area is 18 feet wide by 15 feet deep. The ceiling height is 9 feet high. There are ceiling fans directly over the dance floor which may be on during the pageant. If you will need these fans turned off during your talent competition, please advise pageant staff during talent rehearsal in the afternoon.

PROGRAM ADVERTISING

This year, Sheldon McMeekan will again produce the Official Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant 2018 Commemorative Program. This professional publication will be distributed during each night of the National Pageant in Dallas, TX. Advertisements from contestants, promoters, entertainers, businesses and individuals who are interested in reaching a wide audience with their advertising will be incorporated within this program. It will feature a slick, glossy cover and four color processes. Included in this handbook, you will find an order form for program advertising. If you wish to advertise in the program, you must return the order form and advertisement accompanied by your payment by July 12, 2018. Completed advertisements should be sized at 8 ¾" X 11 ¼" to allow for full bleed. Please contact Sheldon for a spec sheet for proper page setup to insure your advertisement stays intact after cropping occurs. Camera ready artwork is preferred, but layout and typesetting services are available at a nominal charge. Photographs submitted must be no larger than 8 ½" X 11". Photographs you send for publication in the program must include a release from the copyright holder allowing publication of the photograph(s). Photographs without the accompanying release will not be published. The preferred method of submission is via electronic mail. Photographs will be scanned then reduced or enlarged to fit your ad. Enlarging a photograph may cause some distortion, so please send original photographs. Glossy photographs scan the best. Photographs and logos should be bright and clear and void of dark backgrounds, if possible. Do not send photographs of nude or partially nude people, as they will not be published. Please mail all photographs, logos and camera-ready advertisements between two pieces of cardboard to prevent creasing. If you wish, USofA Pageants will do your page layout using supplied text and desired photos. Please type or clearly print all text you wish to be incorporated in your advertisement on a separate piece of paper. All type, logos and photographs will be printed in full color. Location of your advertisement in the program, other than the center spread or inside covers will be at the discretion of USofA Pageants. They will try to give a left page or right page location, if requested. However, the final decision will be left up to USofA Pageants. If you wish the center spread or inside covers, they are sold on a first come, first paid basis. Please be aware that all submitted copy, photographs, etc., become the property of USofA Pageants and will not be returned. Also you must sign and date the order form. If you do not sign and date the order form, we will not print your advertisement in the program and your money will be returned. You must enclose your payment in full with your submission. Payment must be made by Money Order, Certified or Cashier's Check, payable to SHELDON MCMEEKAN, or by credit card. PayPal is also accepted. No personal or business checks accepted. There will be no refunds of any kind for changed or cancelled advertising once it has been accepted by USofA Pageants. There will be a charge for any advertisement that requires changes after it has reached USofA Pageants. If you are submitting camera-ready advertising, please save as a .pdf file with 300 DPI minimum.

REMEMBER, PROGRAM ADVERTISEMENT MUST BE SUBMITTED BY JULY 12, 2018!

Sheldon McMeekan
860 N. McQueen Rd Unit #1156
Chandler, AZ 85225
(480)516-7126
programs@usofa.org

**Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant
Program Advertising Rates & Order Form**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Pageant(s) _____

Company _____

| | |
|--|----------|
| Center Page (2 Page Spread) 17" X 11" Full Color | \$225.00 |
| Back Outside Cover 8 ½" X 11" Full Color | \$175.00 |
| Inside Front Cover 8 ½" X 11" Full Color | \$150.00 |
| Inside Back Cover 8 ½" X 11" Full Color | \$150.00 |
| Full Page(s) 8 ½" X 11" Full Color, Per Page | \$100.00 |
| Half Page(s) 8 ½" X 5 ½" Full Color, Per Half Page | \$ 60.00 |

Layout Charge (Any Ad that is not sent "Camera Ready") \$ 35.00

Total Amount Due: _____

Payment **MUST** accompany this order form. Payment **MUST** be in the form of Money Order, Certified, or Cashier's Check or credit card. No personal or business checks accepted. Make all payments to: Sheldon McMeekan.

ADVERTISING RELEASE

By my signature below, I release USofA Pageants, their agents, servants and employees from my liability and/or other responsibility whatsoever resulting from, associated with or arising out of my advertisement in the Official Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant Commemorative Program Book. I hereby agree to release Publisher of any liability for errors in composition, text, layout, and photographs in the program. I hereby agree that for the monies given to Publisher, I will receive advertising in the size ordered from this form in Program to be sold and/or distributed at the 2018 Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant at such times and places set forth by USofA Pageants. I agree that no refunds for changed, altered or canceled advertisements will be given once this order is placed with Publisher. I agree that Publisher has the right to refuse any advertisement in Program from ANY person or company for any reason that Publisher sees fit. I further agree that no other agreements, written or implied, are given under this agreement. Advertisement will not be accepted unless this order form is signed, dated and submitted along with desired advertising.

DATE _____ SIGNATURE _____

PAGEANT SCORING

Scoring for preliminary competition on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will be done on a cumulative scoring system. Each judge will give each contestant a score based on his performance in the category without regard to any other contestant. With this scoring system, more than one contestant may be given the same score. Scores are assigned as follows for preliminary competition:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Personal Interview | 1 to 12 Points |
| Evening Gown | 1 to 12 Points |
| Talent | 2 to 24 Points |
| Maximum possible points per Judge | 48 Points |
| | <u>X5 Judges</u> (High & Low scores dropped) |
| Total | 240 Points |

Seven highly qualified judges will sit on the panel throughout the pageant. The twelve contestants with the highest total scores after all preliminary competition is completed will become the finalists. This scoring system will select finalists without regard to group placements. It is possible that a contestant can win group awards in more than one category and not be a top 12 finalist. It is also possible that a contestant can be a top 12 finalist after not having won any preliminary group awards.

On final night, Thursday, August 2, 2018, the top 12 finalists will be judged comparatively in Evening Gown and Talent categories with the high and low scores dropped in both categories and the finalist's Personal Interview accumulative score carried over from preliminary competition.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Personal Interview | 1 to 12 Points (total category scores carried over) |
| Evening Gown | 1 to 12 Points |
| Talent | 2 to 24 Points |
| Maximum possible points per Judge | 48 Points |
| | <u>X5 Judges</u> |
| Total Possible Points | 240 Points |

Packets containing the preliminary Master Tally Sheet along with individual judges comment sheets and talent music will be available to contestants at the venue on final night immediately following the crowning of the winner. The top 12 finalists will receive both a preliminary competition packet and a final night competition packet (containing the Master Tally Sheet of the final night scores, their individual final night judges comment sheets and their final night talent music) also immediately after crowning. The preliminary and final night scores will be posted on the Miss Gay USofA Newcomer National website within 24 hours of the completion of the pageant. The winner will receive their cash prize money after the pageant in the pageant office at the host hotel. The first, second, third and fourth alternates will receive their cash prize money at the venue at the conclusion of the pageant. The entire top 5 must remain on stage for photographs after the crowning ceremony. Any member of the top 5 who does not remain on stage until dismissed for photographs will forfeit their placement in the top 5 and any cash money they are due to receive for said placement.

PAGEANT DIRECTOR

The Pageant Director is responsible for the overall direction of the pageant. He will over-see all pageant staff to insure the contest runs smoothly overall. He will be in charge of the daily talent rehearsals during preliminary competition and the opening production rehearsal/potential top 12 finalist talent run-throughs on the afternoon of final night. The Pageant Director for the 2018 Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant is **David Bridgman**.

CONTESTANT COORDINATOR

USofA Pageants will provide a Contestant Coordinator to assist you during the pageant. His job is to help insure you have a positive and enjoyable pageant experience. During the pageant, he is your point of contact with USofA Pageants. If you have any questions, issues or problems, please direct them to him first. He will be responsible to answer your questions, assist you with your issues and suggest possible solutions to any problems you may have. He will be available to all contestants during the Personal Interview phase of competition on preliminary days at the host hotel. If he is unable to assist you, he will make the appropriate member of the pageant staff aware of the issue/situation. He will report to the Pageant Director each day on all matters. The Contestant Coordinator for the 2018 Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant is **Sheldon McMeekan**.

STAGE MANAGER / PROMOTER LIAISON

This staff member has two main jobs, one during the daytime hours and one each night of the competition. During the day this staff member will serve as a "Promoter Liaison" for any contestants who's promoters are not present at the National Pageant to assist them. He will make sure in the absence of their promoter that the contestant is checked on daily and is okay. Each night at the pageant, he will be in charge of seeing that contestants (and entertainers) are prepared and ready to get on and off stage as easily as possible and will work closely with the Pageant Director to insure the program each night runs smoothly and efficiently. If a clean-up of the performance area is needed, he will either coordinate that with the venue staff or take care of it on his own. The Stage Manager / Promoter Liaison for the 2018 Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant is **Andy Lewis**.

DRESSING ROOM SUPERVISOR

The Dressing Room Supervisor's job is to maintain a professional dressing area for the contestants and entertainers to dress and prepare for their presentations on stage each night. This staff member will be in charge of dressing room security and will have the authority to restrict entrance of any unauthorized person into the dressing room. This staff member will closely monitor the "only one backstage helper per contestant" rule to insure it is not being abused and will have the authority to remove any unnecessary persons from the dressing room. He will work closely with the Contestant Coordinator to keep contestants and entertainers in the dressing room updated on the progress of the pageant each night. The Dressing Room Supervisor for the 2018 Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant is **Richard Martin, JR., AKA: Giselle Bevon Ashton**.

CONTESTANT ASSISTANT

This staff member will assist/escort contestants through the crowd inside the venue from the dressing room to the backstage area prior to the individual modeling of their evening gown and if necessary due to type of costume, etc., before a contestant's talent presentation. In years past, contestants were forced to walk through the crowd without any type of assistance from the Pageant Staff to get from the dressing room to the backstage area. Patrons of the club are aware the contestants must go through the crowd to get from the dressing room to the backstage area. It is hoped that the presence of this staff member will be helpful to the contestants, alleviating any problems as the contestant makes their way through the crowd. The Contestant Assistant for the 2018 Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant is **Matt Flores**.

JUDGING PANEL

The following individuals are all highly qualified to judge a National Pageant. The National Promoter has selected them to comprise his judging panel for this year's competition. All of them are very familiar with the scoring System used by USofA Pageants as well as the rules and regulations that govern a USofA National Pageant. They are your distinguished panel of Judges:

Phalon Mazzaratie Steele of Phoenix, AZ. Miss Gay USofA Newcomer 2010.

Arianna Evans of Las Vegas, NV. Miss Gay USofA Newcomer 2011.

Ka'Aliyah McKim Diamond of San Antonio, TX. Miss Gay USofA Newcomer 2012.

Tonica E. Cavalli of San Antonio, TX. Miss Gay USofA Newcomer 2013.

Kira Daniels of Phoenix, AZ. Miss Gay USofA Newcomer 2014.

Mari Jane of Des Moines, IA. Miss Gay USofA Newcomer 2015.

Vanity St. James of Tucson, AZ. Miss Gay USofA Newcomer 2016.

PRIZE PACKAGES

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Best Presentation Outfit (Selected by a VIP Panel) | Plaque |
| Most Beautiful (Selected by the Judges Panel) | Plaque |
| Miss Congeniality (Selected by the Contestants) | Plaque |
| Best Non-Finalist (Contestant in 13 TH Place Overall) | Plaque |
| Overall Interview Winner | Plaque and \$50 Cash |
| Final Night Evening Gown Category Award | Plaque and \$50 Cash |
| Final Night Talent Category Award | Plaque and \$50 Cash |
| The Fourth Alternate will receive: | Plaque and \$250.00 Cash |

The Third Alternate will receive: Plaque and \$500.00 Cash
The Second Alternate will receive: Plaque and \$750.00 Cash
The First Alternate will receive: Plaque and \$1,000.00 Cash
The WINNER will receive: Plaque and \$2,500.00 Cash

In addition to the above cash prize, the WINNER will receive:

Crystal Rhinestone Crown (custom-designed exclusively for the Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant)
Embroidered Sash
Jewelry Prize Package
Electronics Prize Package
Set of Luggage

GROUP ASSIGNMENTS FOR PRELIMINARY COMPETITION

Monday, July 30, 2018

Interview: Groups #1 and #2. Evening Gown: Groups #3 and #4. Talent: Groups #5 and #6.

Tuesday, July 31, 2018

Interview: Groups #5 and #6. Evening Gown: Groups #1 and #2. Talent: Groups #3 and #4.

Wednesday, August 1, 2018

Interview: Groups #3 and #4. Evening Gown: Groups #5 and #6. Talent: Groups #1 and #2.

CONTESTANT APPLICATION

A contestant application is included on the last page of this handbook. The application must be printed out, completed and brought to Registration on Monday morning, July 30, 2018. Please **PRINT LEGIBLY** when completing your application. Completed applications will be collected and contestant photo identification will be copied when you arrive at Registration. Please be sure you arrive at Registration with your completed application and also your valid government-issued photo identification in hand.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding information contained in this contestant handbook, or if there is something that is not addressed to your satisfaction in this contestant handbook, please do the following: Check out the National Website at www.missgayusofanewcomer.com FIRST, then, if you still need an answer or clarification, email the National Promoter at dneumann@usofa.org. Please be as specific as possible in your email regarding the information you're soliciting.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS – Preliminary Days/Nights

MONDAY, JULY 30, 2018

| | | |
|---------|---|---|
| 9:30AM | Mandatory Pre-Registration & Contestant Check-In (Must Bring Completed Contestant Application & Photo ID) | MCM Elegante Hotel - Water Front Ballroom |
| 10:00AM | Contestant Registration | MCM Elegante Hotel – Water Front Ballroom |
| 2:00PM | Personal Interview, Groups #1 and #2 (Roll will be called for both groups at 2:00PM) After Interview, Groups #1 and #2 will be off for the rest of the day/night. | MCM Elegante Hotel – King George Ballroom |
| 2:00PM | Talent Rehearsal, Groups #5 and #6 (Roll will be called for both groups at 2:00PM) | Round-Up Saloon |
| 8:00PM | Doors open to the public Check-in for Groups #3 and #4 who have Gown competition tonight. | Round-Up Saloon |
| 9:00PM | Preliminary Night #1 Begins Check-in for Groups #5 and #6 who have Talent competition tonight. | Round-Up Saloon |

TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2018

| | | |
|--------|---|---|
| 2:00PM | Personal Interview, Groups #5 and #6 (Roll will be called for both groups at 2:00PM) After Interview, Groups #5 and #6 will be off for the rest of the day/night. | MCM Elegante Hotel – King George Ballroom |
| 2:00PM | Talent Rehearsal, Groups #3 and #4 (Roll will be called for both groups at 2:00PM) | Round-Up Saloon |
| 8:00PM | Doors open to the public Check-in for Groups #1 and #2 who have Gown competition tonight. | Round-Up Saloon |
| 9:00PM | Preliminary Night #2 Begins Check-in for Groups #3 and #4 who have Talent competition tonight. | Round-Up Saloon |

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2018

| | | |
|--------|---|---|
| 2:00PM | Personal Interview, Groups #3 and #4 (Roll will be called for both groups at 2:00PM) After Interview, Groups #3 and #4 will be off for the rest of the day/night. | MCM Elegante Hotel – King George Ballroom |
| 2:00PM | Talent Rehearsal, Groups #1 and #2 (Roll will be called for both groups at 2:00PM) | Round-Up Saloon |
| 8:00PM | Doors open to the public Check-in for Groups #5 and #6 who have Gown competition tonight. | Round-Up Saloon |
| 9:00PM | Preliminary Night #2 Begins Check-in for Groups #1 and #2 who have Talent competition tonight. | Round-Up Saloon |

NOTE: Our venue, the Round Up Saloon, opens to the public each day at 2:00pm. If you are required to be at the venue prior to 2:00pm, you must use the back door to gain access inside. The front doors will remain locked each day until 2:00pm. You may bring outside food and drinks with you if you enter the venue before 2:00pm, but ALL outside food must be consumed on the patio. All food and drinks brought inside the venue prior to 2:00pm must be disposed of in the trash receptacles once the venue opens to the public at 2:00pm. No drinks are allowed on the dance floor.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS – Final Day/Night

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2018

| | | |
|---------|--|---|
| 10:30AM | Final Day Brunch (Mandatory for Contestants. Roll will be called at 10:30AM) | MCM Elegante Hotel – Windsor Restaurant |
| 12:00PM | Preliminary Group Awards Presentation (Public may attend) | MCM Elegante Hotel – Water Front Ballroom |
| 2:00PM | Opening Production Rehearsal for Formers & National Court | Round Up Saloon |
| 2:30PM | Opening Production Rehearsal for Contestants (Roll will be called at 1:30PM) | Round Up Saloon |
| 2:00PM | Promoters Meeting | MCM Elegante Hotel – Bentley Boardroom |
| 7:00PM | Doors Open to Public Check-In for ALL CONTESTANTS, Formers, Entertainers | Round Up Saloon |
| 8:00PM | Final Night begins | Round Up Saloon |

NOTE: Our venue, the Round Up Saloon, opens to the public each day at 2:00pm. If you are required to be at the venue prior to 2:00pm, you must use the back door to gain access inside. The front doors will remain locked each day until 2:00pm. You may bring outside food and drinks with you if you enter the venue before 2:00pm, but ALL outside food must be consumed on the patio. All food and drinks brought inside the venue prior to 2:00pm must be disposed of in the trash receptacles once the venue opens to the public at 2:00pm. No drinks are allowed on the dance floor.



Official Application / Contestant Info Sheet Miss Gay USofA Newcomer 2018

Representing Prelim: _____

Stage Name: _____

Legal Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____ Telephone Number: (_____) _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Sponsors: _____

Number of people in Prelim Night Talent _____ Number of people in Final Night Talent _____

Will LARGE Props be used? (Circle all that apply) Prelim Night Final Night

Name of Primary Backstage Helper/Assistant: _____

By my signature below, I hereby agree to release and hold harmless USofA Pageantry, the official Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant, hereinafter referred to as the "Pageant", the Preliminary Promoters, 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 USofA Newcomer, 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 right to any videotaping (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 of 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.

Signature of Contestant (Sign your Legal Name) _____