



UNITED STATES
of America's
MISS CALIFORNIA

USA Miss California STATE DELEGATE HANDBOOK



Photo credit: Moss Photography

EMPOWER | INSPIRE | UPLIFT

Start your quest for the crown today!



WELCOME

UNITED STATES of AMERICA PAGEANTS are designed to help women **ACHIEVE** their hopes, dreams, goals, and aspirations, while making them feel **CONFIDENT** and **BEAUTIFUL** inside and out! We believe the true definition of beauty is **"The unique set of combinations that make you, You!"** Our motto is to **EMPOWER Women, INSPIRE others, and UPLIFT everyone!** We focus on empowering women, promoting positive self-image and providing an avenue of achievement for today's modern woman. But, more importantly we are an elite sisterhood that provides support and encouragement to inspire each delegate to be the best version of herself!

"There is no tool for development, more effective than the empowerment of women"

-Kofi Annan



Eligibility Requirements

As of January 1, 2025



TEEN

- 13-17 years old
- is single, not married, never been married, not pregnant & has never given birth



MISS

- 18-28 years old
- is single, not married, not pregnant & has never given birth



MS.

- 29+ years old
- Is single, divorced, widowed, with or without children



MRS.

- 18+ years old
- legally married more than 6th months

all divisions

Is a U.S. citizen, naturalized or has been granted permanent residency by the United States.

Is a resident, works, or goes to school in the state they are competing.

Is a natural born female.

Has never posed nude in film or print media.

Wardrobe Requirements

INTERVIEW

Dress for Success! Select an outfit suitable for a job interview. Dress, skirt suit, or pantsuit, whatever reflects your personal style!

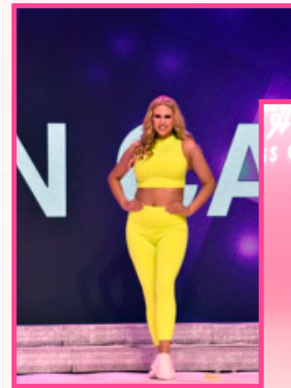


OPENING NUMBER

You will need to wear a dress of your choice in the color BLACK. Rhinestones, pearls and other embellishments are allowed but no additional colors. Floor length dresses are not allowed for the opening number. It must be a cocktail style dress OR rompers. Pants are allowed. You will need to provide and wear silver, clear or nude colored shoes.

FITNESS | SWIM

TEEN- Select any style athletic clothing & athletic shoes. MISS, MS., MRS.- Select any style swimsuit & heels. NO THONGS ALLOWED! Bottoms must provide adequate coverage!



EVENING GOWN

Dress for Success! Select an outfit suitable for a job interview. Dress, skirt suit, or pantsuit, whatever reflects your personal style!

Areas of Competition

INTERVIEW

Judging Criteria:



Content of Judges Bio, Knowledge, Perception, Self-Expression, Spontaneity and Personality will be evaluated. Also important the Use of Vocabulary, Voice, Appearance and Grooming Here are some things the Judges will be thinking about:

How well did Contestant answer the question in terms of content and knowledge?
How quickly was the contestant able to think on her feet?
How articulate and personable was she?

25% of Score | Round Robin Interview Style

FITNESS | SWIM

Judging Criteria:

Physical Fitness, Confidence, Choice of Ensemble, Poise, Posture and Execution of Movement will be evaluated. Here are some of the questions the Judges will be thinking about during this segment of the competition:

How well did the contestant model her swimsuit in terms of style and grace?
How well did the contestant's swimsuit flatter her figure?
How well did the contestant convey confidence with body type & choice of swimsuit?

25% of Score Onstage Presentation



Areas of Competition

GOWN



Judging Criteria:

Confidence, Choice of Evening Gown, Poise, Posture, Personality, Charm, Style, Charisma, Grace, Execution, Overall Appearance and Stage Presence will be evaluated. Here are some of the questions the Judges will be thinking about during the Evening Gown Competition.

- How well did the contestant model her gown in terms of technique and elegance?
- How well did the contestant's gown flatter her figure?
- How well did the contestant convey confidence with body type and choice of gown?

25% of Score Onstage Presentation

ON STAGE QUESTION

Judging Criteria:

Knowledge, Spontaneity, Personality, Vocabulary, Voice, Confidence, and Sense of Values will be evaluated. Here are some of the questions the Judges will be considering during the On-Stage Interview Competition:

- How well did the contestant answer the question in terms of content and knowledge?
- How quickly was the contestant able to think on her feet?
- How articulate and personable was she?

25% of Score Onstage Presentation



Entry Fee

CALIFORNIA ENTRY FEE \$695
+
SPOTLIGHT PAGE FEE \$299

- Official entry to participate in the annual competition
- Official USOA City/Region Titleholder crown
- Official USOA City/Region Titleholder sash
- Full Page Spotlight Page in the Program Book
- (1) State Program Book
- Contestant Swag Bag

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Payment #1) \$295 Deposit due immediately!
Reserves Local Title

Payment #2) \$200 Orders Sash & Crown

Payment #3) \$200 Delivers Sash & Crown

Payment #4) \$299 Final Payment

Spotlight Page- Due ONE MONTH Prior to Pageant

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Payments must be made online

**ALL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE
AND NON-TRANSFERABLE**

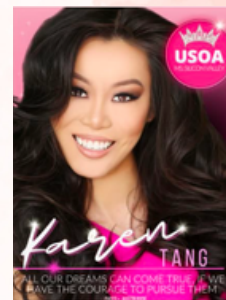
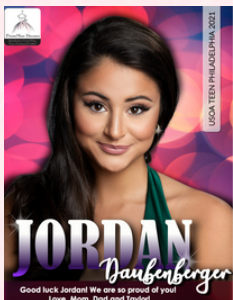
*A late fee of \$150 will be incurred if all required payments and documents are not received by the deadline



Program Book

CONTESTANT SPOTLIGHT PAGE

You will be responsible for ONE FULL PAGE COLOR ADVERTISEMENT in the Program Book (\$299). Each ad sold after the mandatory page, the contestant will receive 50% back. Please be sure it is sent in PDF 300DPI. The money will be put towards balances first, then forwarded back to the contestant minus 3% processing fee.



If you need help with a design page please reach out to Dani at ddora819@gmail.com

PROGRAM BOOK FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY



To help with the associated costs of competition you can sell ADDITIONAL advertisements in the program book and earn money! We have set up an incentive program for you to help offset your expenses. Listed below are the available advertisements, their costs, and the amount that you will receive for selling the advertisement! You will be provided a sponsorship letter to help you secure sponsors.

Advertisement	Cost	Incentive
Back Cover	\$700	\$350
Inside Covers	\$600	\$300
Two Page Spread	\$550	\$225
Full Page	\$299.00	\$150.00
Half Page	\$150	\$75
Quarter Page	\$75	\$35

Full-Page
8.5" W x 11" H

(please include
a 1/8" bleed)

Half-Page
7.5" W x 4.75" H

(no bleed)

Quarter-Page
3.5" W x 4.75" H

(no bleed)

Eighth-Page
3.5" W x 2.5" H

ARTWORK MUST BE TURNED IN NO LATER THAN ONE MONTH PRIOR

All advertisements must be submitted electronically via DropBox file request, be formatted correctly in accordance with the size chart above, and be submitted as a 300DPI JPEG file located in the delegate login.

Documents

DOCUMENTS & DEADLINES

To compete in the Pageant, you MUST turn in the following:

1. Official Online Application-Due Immediately
2. Deposit- Due Immediately
3. Official Paperwork-Due Immediately
 - o Title holder's agreement signed
 - o Indemnity Contract
 - o Credit Card Authorization Form (Only used if in violation of contract or on delinquent accounts)
 - o Photo/Advertising release
4. Headshot: Professional photo due within 30 days, No sash and crowns allowed for announcement
5. Copy of Birth Certificate, Naturalization, or permanent resident card
6. Copy of drivers license or identification card
7. Final divorce decree for any previously married Miss & Ms. Contestants
8. Ad Page artwork/\$299 fee/forms (as soon as they are ready, but NO LATER than Six Weeks before pageant)
9. Mrs. - copy of marriage license
10. Any other documents requested by director
11. Judges Bio Form- added to dropbox 3 weeks prior to pageant AND 5 hard copies, typed and three hole punched! (Due at orientation/registration)

***Item 4-10 are due no later than ONE MONTH PRIOR**

A late fee of \$150 will be incurred if all required payments and documents are not received by the deadline. ALL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE

Pageant Etiquette

None of these things will win or lose a pageant for you. However, once you have entered the pageant everyone is watching you, and it is important to make a good impression. These guidelines will help you create an impression of a responsible, confident, organized individual who can handle any job given to her.

- Meet every deadline, or call for an extension!
- Follow all rules! They are for your safety and security.
- Be neat and clean! No one should have to pick up after you.
- Be organized! It is your responsibility to know what's happening and be ready.
- Get acquainted! You should get to know the other contestants, the contestant coordinators, and our Team. Most importantly, be respectful to everyone!
- Be complimentary of all accommodations and meals! Sponsors and staff always do their best, please remember that.
- Be cheerful even if you are not "the winner." Only one person can win the crown, and you are already a winner for representing with your local title!
- Be a gracious winner! It happens once in a lifetime, and many others would like to be in your shoes!

BACKSTAGE

NO ONE is allowed in the backstage dressing area during the pageant other than the contestant, staff, and exclusive sponsors for hair and makeup. If the contestant is 13 or 14 years of age, she may have one female escort. You may bring your own full size mirror. NO tolerance for vandalism to anyone else property. All trash must be disposed of properly. Room cleaned up at end of competition. Absolutely no cell phone use will be permitted during the pageant backstage.

Prize Package

- Crowned Queen full paid entry to the national pageant
(Valued at \$2295.00)
- Official entry to participate in the annual competition
- Official State title holder's rhinestone, embroidered sash
 - Official State title holder's rhinestone crown
 - Flower Bouquet
- Professional Photo Shoot with our Sponsored Photographer
 - National Pageant Opening number ensemble
- Full Page Contestant's Spotlight Advertisement in the National Program Book
 - National Program Book
 - National Photo Package (Onstage Competition Photos)
- 4 Nights Hotel Accommodations (Paired with another contestant)
- Minimum of 2 provided meals per day at the national pageant
 - National Contestant Swag Bag
- Official UNITED STATES of AMERICA PAGEANT shirt
 - Official autograph cards

PLUS MUCH MORE!



Crowning & Awards

Miss Congeniality

This special award is voted by the contestants and will be given to the young lady who is most embodies sisterhood, gives support, and has good sportsmanship despite it being a competition!

People's Choice

We will have voting 3 weeks prior to the pageant for our People's Choice Recipient. Voting costs are \$1 per vote. There will be no limit on votes per person and feel free to solicit votes from friends, family, and social media followers from all over the world.

Photogenic Award

This award is presented to the contestant whose photo shows the most personality, beauty, fashion sense, and confidence.



FAQs

PARTICIPATE WITH YOUR FRIENDS!

You will receive \$50 credit for every new delegate in any division that you refer that pays her entry fee and competes.

WHEN DO TICKETS GO ON SALE?

Tickets typically go on sale 4 weeks prior to the pageant. You will be notified when they go on sale and given instructions on how to purchase tickets. There is not a minimum amount of tickets that you are required to sell.

DO I GET A FREE TICKET FOR MY PARENT OR HUSBAND?

No, Everyone must purchase a ticket to attend the pageant.

ARE THERE ANY REQUIRED REHEARSALS PRIOR TO PAGEANT WEEKEND?

No, all rehearsals will take place during pageant weekend.

WILL THE PAGEANT BE TELEVISED?

We are aiming to provide a Livestream of this year's pageant. More information will be announced as we get closer to the pageant.

HOW DO I SELL ADVERTISEMENTS IN PROGRAM BOOK TO RAISE MONEY TOWARDS MY PAGEANT EXPENSES?

Once you are registered as a contestant, you will be provided a sponsorship letter to present to businesses, friends and family whom may wish to support. You can either purchase an advertisement to simply wish you good luck or to promote and highlight their business!



We are delighted to welcome you to the sisterhood! This experience is at the top of our list of priorities. This event was created with time, love, and passion for YOU! I recognize that this journey must be well-organized and go smoothly therefore we ask that you meet all deadlines. There shall be no slander or negativity in our pageants.

You will be surrounded by likeminded ladies with ZERO room for distraction! Pageantry is a life-changing experience, and we will do all in our power to assure it! If you need to reprint anything or need access to the tools we have provided, please visit www.usoamisscalifornia.com and login to the delegate portal.

For any questions please email : california@unitedstatesofamericapageants.com

Again, WELCOME to the United States of America's Miss California pageant family! YOU may be the next queen! Make sure to follow us on Facebook & Instagram.

With Much Excitement.
Executive Director

Margaret Manuel

