

**Honoring Our 2024 Ozarks Pridefest
Royalty Court
Chevelle Chardonnay
Mike Lit
Roy LT
Persephone Pomegranate**

Dear Contestants,

We are honored to have your interests in competing for the 26th Annual Ozarks Pridefest Pageant. Representing this title has given each of us the opportunity to represent our community and we are looking forward to welcoming the next Royalty Court into our family. We hope you are as excited as we are to be competing for a title that will bring you closer to your own community!

The following pages of this application & handbook outline all you need to know about this contest, if there is a question unanswered in the handbook please immediately contact a promoter or a member of the 2024 Royal Court.

The Ozarks PrideFest Pageant does not discriminate against contestants on the basis of their size, weight, race, age, national origin, ability, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

The entry fee for this year's contest is \$40.00 due by May 14th (midnight). Early registration fee of \$25.00 will be honored until midnight on May 7th. The entry fee is nonrefundable unless the pageant itself is cancelled. An individual is not considered an official contestant until the application and entry fee have been received online, by a member of the court or the promoter. Cash, Venmo/Cash App, and online payments* are excepted.

*Pay online via <https://ozarkspridefest.com/pride-pageant/>

The contest will be a one day event held on Sunday, May 18th, 2025 at Hotel V, 305 E Walnut, Springfield.

The deadline for application submission is **Wednesday May 14th, 2025** at midnight. All applications must be submitted online, to a member of the court or the promoter.

Please pay close attention to the schedule of events and ensure you arrive on time or early to each event to avoid any point deductions. Any and all disputes about pageant rules or the pageant itself will be handled by pageant promoters, and their decision will be final.

If after reading this handbook you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding any

portion, feel free to contact a member of the 2024 Royal Court or Promoter.

Here's to another amazing contest! Wishing you all the best of luck!

Vacant
Ms. Ozarks PrideFest Diva

Chevelle Chardonnay
Miss Ozarks PrideFest

Roy LT
Mr. Ozarks PrideFest Divo

Mike Lit
Mister Ozarks PrideFest

Persephone Pomegranate
Mx. Ozarks PrideFest

Dasana Kay
Promoter
417-343-9019 or Facebook Mess.

Prize Package

- Official Ozarks PrideFest Pageant Crown
 - Official Ozarks PrideFest Sash
 - Recognition on the PrideFest website
- The use of the Ozarks PrideFest Title for one year
- A timeslot on the main stage during PrideFest 2025
- \$100 Cash (\$50 Night of Crowning / \$50 Night of Step Down)

Ozarks Pridefest Pageant

Schedule of Events

Wednesday May 7th, 2025
(early registration deadline by midnight)

Wednesday May 14th, 2025
(Final registration deadline by midnight)

Applications & Entry Fee Due

**Sunday May 18th, 2025
(Hotel V)**

11:00 AM - Contestant Check In and meeting.

11:30 AM - Judges Check In

11:35 AM - Judges Meeting

12:00 PM - Personal Interview

Following Interview — Sound check for music

4:00 PM - Contestant Check In

4:30 PM - Judges Check In

5:00 PM - Pageant Begins

Ozarks Pridefest Pageant Official Rules & Regulations

- Contestants must have reached the age of 21 prior to the contest. Contestant must show proof of age at registration. Contestants must have a working phone number during the contest and during their reign in the event they win.
- All contestants must live within 100 miles of Springfield, Missouri and be a resident of the State of Missouri for a minimum of ninety (90) days. If a contestant wins or is named first alternate of the 2025 contest, they must reside within 100 miles of Springfield, Missouri and remain a resident of the State of Missouri throughout their reign. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of the title & any prizes awarded.
- Competition order will be done at orientation. Numbers will be included in gift bags.
- Any entertainer who has not previously been chosen as an Ozarks PrideFest representative is eligible to compete in this contest.
- Judging will be based on a total point's accumulated system. In the event of a tie score, the winner will be chosen based on high score in Talent, and then interview and then evening wear.
- Any contestant who walks off stage during crowning will be banned from entering Ozarks PrideFest pageant for 2 years.
- Any contestant who threatens a judge or promoter will be banned from entering Ozarks PrideFest pageant for life.

- All contestants will be held responsible for their actions & attitudes. Contestants are also responsible for the actions & attitudes of their dressers, dancers, and assistance.
- Any contestant caught in the act of stealing or damaging property will be immediately disqualified and removed from the pageant location; this will also result in a permanent ban from the pageant.
- Any contestant whose actions are interpreted as demeaning or disrespectful to the title of Ozarks Pridefest will be disqualified. The promoters reserve the right of final determination of what is considered to be demeaning behavior.
- The use or dispensing of any illegal drug will not be tolerated while a contestant is participating in the contest. This includes all assistants, dancers, dressers, etc. Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification of the contestant.
- There will be absolutely no drinking or smoking in the contestant dressing room at any time. This includes contestants, assistants, dancers, etc.
- The promoters reserve the right to refuse any application if they feel that you have represented the community in a negative way based on your actions.
- Each contestant will be allowed only one assistant in the dressing room at a time. Each contestant will be given a lanyard pass for their assistant. If you have more than one person helping you they must share the pass and only one person at a time is allowed in the dressing room.
- Current and former Ozarks PrideFest court are allowed in the dressing room and are able to help any contestant.
- All persons without a pass will be removed from the location of the pageant should they attempt to enter the dressing room.
- Contestants will be allowed one (1) assistant entry for free. Contestants will be responsible for entry fees for any additional assistants, dancers, etc.
- Contestants must be on time for all check in times and registration. Any contestant who is even one (1) minute late to any event will receive an administrative point deduction for each late arrival.
- Competition music must be submitted in quality USB flash drive or emailed (email address to be provided before the day of the pageant). Flash drives must only contain your music for the evening. A back up flash drive should be brought to prevent any point deductions for substandard quality music.
- Dancers in talent presentation will not be allowed in the dressing room until two (2)

contestants before they are needed. Example: Contestant #6 is performing; contestant #8's dancers will be allowed to enter the dressing room, unless otherwise approved by the promoter. Dancers must also leave the dressing room immediately following talent.

- All music must be submitted by soundcheck (Talent and Crowning). Contestants are responsible for the quality of their music. One copy should be submitted, and a second copy kept with the contestant. The contest should also submit an acceptance or crowning on USB or emailed at or before soundcheck.
- Talent presentation is limited to seven (7) minutes. Any contestant who exceeds this time limit will have an administrative point deduction from their final score.
- Contestants will have a total of five (5) minutes to set up and tear down for their talent presentation. Failure to comply will result in an administrative point deduction.
- Any Talent presentation is acceptable except for those that might cause injury to the audience or to other contestants. No fire, water, excessive glitter, animals, nudity or profanity will be permitted in any talent presentation. Failure to comply will result in a zero (0) score in this category.
- Pageant promoters or staff do not provide stage props, musical instruments, or assistance with set up or tear down. That will be the responsibility of the contestant.
- Each contestant will be permitted one (1) assistant to attend registration.
- Contestants must provide their own mirrors as these will not be provided; a clothing rack will be provided for each dressing room.
- Tips may only be accepted during the talent portion for the fundraising category. Tips will be placed in the buckets on stage or buckets people walk around the room with.
- Each contestant will receive their individualized scores and the option of critiques the night of the pageant. The final score sheet will be posted for public view on the Ozarks PrideFest website and is also available via messenger.

We kindly thank you for your cooperation.

Ozarks Pridefest Pageant Pageant Categories & Scoring

Scoring for this contest will be based on a total of points accumulated. Total points possible are 900 for each contestant, before fundraising is added. Judging will take place in the following categories:

Personal Interview: 60 points possible per judge (300 total points possible)

Personal interview is intended to be a casual interview. The purpose of Personal Interview is to put the contestant in a situation answering different types of questions and judging how they will react to their diversity. The context of the answer is important, but more important is how the contestant conveys that answer. Eye contact with all judges is very important, not just the judge who asked the question. Answer the judges' questions and do not get involved in getting the opinion of the judge. You are being judged on the presentation of your thoughts. Come as you feel your best. Your attire will be a small percentage of your interview but should be professional. You as the contestant will come to the interview as yourself and NOT your stage persona. Contestants will be scored on: General Appearance (0-15 pts.), Ability to Communicate (0-25 pts.), and Answer Content (0-20 pts.).

Evening Gown / Creative Evening Wear: 50 points possible per judge (250 total points possible)

We do not want anyone to overspend on this category as we know that evening wear can be very expensive. However, the winners of this title will find themselves representing the Springfield and Ozarks community and we feel that it is important that they have the ability to “dress to impress”. When preparing for the category, please consider that you should follow general guidelines and expectations for other pageants that you may have seen or previously participated in. If you have any questions or concerns about this category, please discuss them with the promoter before turning in your applications. Contestants will model their evening wear for the judge’s panel & audience. Queens & Divas shall be in Evening Gown and Kings & Divo’s shall present in a Creative Evening Wear. MX will present as non-binary. Contestants will be judge in the category based upon: Appearance/Overall Look (0-20 pts.), Suitability of Attire (0-15 pts.), Presentation, including modeling, poise, & smile (0-15 pts.)

Theme wear: 15 points possible per judge (75 total possible)

We feel that if you are making a monetary investment into something in a pageant, you should earn points for it. The theme for this year’s pageant is **Rock and Roll**. *Contestants are asked to wear an outfit that you feel would be represented the theme. This theme is open to interpretation.* Contestants will be judged in this category based upon: Participation (5 pts.), Costuming/Creativity (0-10 pts.).

Talent Presentation: 55 Points possible per judge (275 Total Points Possible.)

Contestants will have up to 7 minutes to show the judges & audience their ability to entertain.

You are to perform to the judges & the audience equally. Each contestant will be given a total of 5 minutes for set up and breakdown for their talent number. Exceeding this time may result in a point deduction from your final score. Contestants will be judge in the category based upon: Stage Presence/Overall Look (0-15 pts.), Quality of Lip Sync (0-20 pts.), and Entertainment Value (0-20 pts.)

Stage props and back up dancers will be allowed for Talent Presentation; however, there will be no point deduction for not having props or dancers. Please remember that your back up dancers will be judge on their ability to know their words and/or choreography, etc. If your backups forget their parts and are out of sync with the music, you will receive a lower score. Your stage props will also be judged. Do they flow with the mood of the talent? If your props fall apart or fall over during judging, you will receive a point deduction. Any contestant or back up person who throws anything off the stage into the audience will receive an administrative point deduction.

Fundraising: Tiered points in 5 point increments.

During talent contestants will be able to show their fundraising ability. The crowd will be able to tip them using collection buckets either sat on the stage or with attendants walking around. Once talent is complete the funds will be counted and compared to the other contestants in the same division (For example queens vs queens). Once totals are recorded the lowest contestant will be awarded 5 points, next higher awarded 10 points, and so on until the highest contestant is awarded.

Ozarks Pridefest Pageant Code of Conduct & Contract

All contestants must agree to the following standards of conduct of contestants and titleholders. All titleholders must adhere to these guidelines throughout their reign. By signing below, you agree to the following:

- You must represent Ozarks PrideFest throughout your year-long reign. While you hold the title, you are expected to advertise, attend, and participate in at least 75% of the events (number of events TBD).
- As the “Ambassadors” of Ozarks PrideFest, you must maintain visibility in the LGBTQIA+ community by attending various functions at various venues throughout your rein.
- Present themselves professionally at all times, while representing your title.
- Never demean the pageant or your title.
- Never cause substantial problems for the promoters or for those whom they perform for.
- Never become to intoxicated while representing your title.
- Never participate in any kind of argument, except as a mediator, while representing your

title.

- Try to solve problems with their promoters in a peaceful manner and in good faith.
- Never lecture an audience, only provide quality entertainment.
- Organize benefit fundraisers during your reign. The funds will be for a Passion Project in the community decided as a group, others will be for the 2026 pageant.
- Assist in raising the needed funds to present the 2026 contest. The following schedule will be used to outline fundraising efforts. 0 - 6 months - \$200 per titleholder, 6 - 10 months \$125 per titleholder, 10 - 12 months \$75 per titleholder. Failure to do so could result in loss of give up, final payout or even title.
- Be active in the planning process of the 2026 contest including jointly (with other titleholders) selecting a theme, decorating, selling tickets, and gathering contestants.

Failure to comply with the above contract may result in forfeiture of the title & all prize money paid and/or owed.