



SWVA PRIDE
PAGEANTS

2026 CONTESTANT AGREEMENT

PRIZES, RULES, AND REGULATIONS

Eligibility

- Contestants must be 18 years of age or older. Proof of age is required.
- The competition is focused on individuals primarily in the Southwest Virginia (SWVA) region but is open to contestants from all states.
- Mr. SWVA Pride is open to any Cis Male, Drag King, Transgender Male, or Male-identifying individual.
- Mx SWVA Pride is open to individuals who identify as non-binary.
- Miss SWVA Pride is open to any Cis Female, Drag Queen, Transgender Female, or Female-identifying individual.

Entry Fee & Payment

- A \$20 non-refundable entry fee is required.
- No contestant will be considered officially entered until payment has been received.
- Payment must be submitted by the published deadline.

Accepted payment methods:

- Check or money order mailed to:
SWVA Pride, Inc.
PO Box 1208
Vinton, VA 24179
- Cash payments may be accepted by appointment only. A meeting time must be scheduled in advance.

Failure to submit payment by the required deadline may result in removal from the competition at the discretion of the SWVA Pride Board.

Minimum Contestant Requirement

- Each division (Mr., Mx, Miss) must have a minimum of two (2) contestants present on the day of competition.
- If the minimum is not met, Southwest Virginia Pride reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to:
 - Cancel the division;
 - Combine or restructure divisions; or
 - Offer affected contestants the option to compete in another eligible division.
- Division restructuring or cancellation shall not constitute grounds for a refund.
- All decisions regarding division eligibility and restructuring are final.

Competition Categories & Timing

Contestants will be judged in the following categories:

- Interview
- Talent
- Signature Style
- On-Stage Question

Talent performances are limited to a maximum of seven (7) minutes, including set-up and breakdown of all props.

Contestants may not provide their own music for Signature Style.

Conduct, Behavior & Disqualification

- Any contestant, or person affiliated with a contestant (including dressers, dancers, or support staff), who:
 - Misappropriates or damages property;
 - Violates any laws regarding alcohol or controlled substances;
 - Engages in theft, harassment, intimidation, or disruptive behavior;
 - Exhibits unsportsmanlike or abusive conduct before, during, or after the competition;

may be immediately disqualified and removed from the venue at the discretion of SWVA Pride officials.

- Contestants are financially responsible for any damage caused by themselves or their entourage to the venue or event property.
- Personal hygiene is required. Contestants must arrive clean, appropriately groomed, and in sanitary condition. Failure to meet basic hygiene and cleanliness standards, as determined by pageant officials, may result in immediate disqualification.
- Conduct expectations apply both in-person and online, including social media. Public disparagement of judges, staff, contestants, or SWVA Pride may result in disciplinary action, up to and including forfeiture of title.

Administrative Points & Authority

- Each contestant will receive 100 administrative points upon arrival.
- Contestants arriving late will be deducted 10 points for every five (5) minutes of tardiness.
- Contestants must remain in assigned areas at all times. Failure to do so will result in a five (5) point deduction.
- Each contestant may have one (1) dresser at any given time.
- Backup dancers or prop support staff may prepare two (2) numbers prior to the contestant's talent performance.

The SWVA Pride Board has sole discretion over all administrative points, enforcement, deductions, and disciplinary actions. If a judge raises a concern regarding a contestant's conduct, safety, or rule compliance, the matter will be reviewed by the SWVA Pride Board, whose decision shall be final and non-appealable.

Schedule Requirements

- Contestants must arrive at the venue by 1:00 PM for the mandatory contestant meeting.
- Interview will follow immediately after the meeting.
- Contestants must return by 5:30 PM for call time.
- The pageant will begin promptly at 6:00 PM.

Prizes

Prizes provided by Southwest Virginia Pride, Inc. are subject to change.

The winners of Mr., Mx, and Miss SWVA Pride 2026 will each receive:

- Total cash prize of \$200.00
- An official crown
- Personalized merchandise on the SWVA Pride website (benefits SWVA Pride)

Cash prize distribution:

- \$100.00 awarded upon winning
- \$100.00 awarded upon successful completion of the titleholder's reign

The minimum guaranteed cash prize for each title is \$200.00.

Required Duties of Titleholders

Winners agree to:

- Appear at selected official SWVA Pride events during the 5th Celebration of Pride in SWVA and throughout their reign, including but not limited to:
 - SWVA Pride Fest 2026
 - Dinner and Auction
 - Planned fundraising events
 - Official End-of-Year Step Down
- Remain active with the organization and represent SWVA Pride in a professional manner.

All travel, lodging, and appearance-related expenses are the responsibility of the titleholder, unless otherwise approved in writing.

Any misconduct during the reign will be addressed at the sole discretion of the SWVA Pride Board and may result in forfeiture of title and prizes.

Scoring Breakdown

Interview – 50 Points

- Content (20)
- Articulation (15)
- Confidence (15)

Talent – 100 Points

- Originality (30)

- Skill Level (30)
- Overall Impact (40)

Signature Style – 50 Points

- Creativity (30)
- Execution (20)

On-Stage Question – 25 Points

- Passion (10)
- Clarity (15)

Administrative – 100 Points

Total Possible Points: 325

Judges are encouraged to provide constructive feedback. Judges' decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

Media Release

By participating, contestants grant Southwest Virginia Pride, Inc. the irrevocable right to use their name, likeness, image, voice, and performance in photographs, video, audio recordings, and promotional materials for any lawful purpose without compensation.



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PAGEANTS

www.swvapride.org

Participant Liability Release and Waiver Form

I, _____, hereby acknowledge that I am voluntarily participating in the SWVA Pride Pageant hosted by Southwest Virginia Pride Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "the Organization"), scheduled to take place at the Salem Civic Center's Community Room on June 20th, 2026. I certify that I am 18 years of age or older.

In consideration of being permitted to participate in the SWVA Pride Pageant, I hereby agree to release and discharge the Organization, its officers, directors, employees, volunteers, sponsors, and agents (collectively referred to as "Released Parties") from any and all claims, liabilities, demands, actions, and causes of action whatsoever, arising out of or related to any loss, damage, or injury, including death, that may be sustained by me, or to any property belonging to me, while participating in the SWVA Pride Pageant.

I understand and acknowledge that participating in the SWVA Pride Pageant may involve certain risks and hazards, including but not limited to, bodily injury, property damage, illness, and even death. I voluntarily assume all such risks and hazards and agree to release, discharge, indemnify, and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all liability for any injuries, losses, or claims, including those caused by the negligent acts or omissions of the Released Parties, arising out of or in any way connected with my participation in the SWVA Pride Pageant.

I further agree that this Release and Waiver Form shall be binding upon my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, and shall be governed by the laws of the state of Virginia. I understand that this Release and Waiver Form is a legally binding document and that I am giving up certain legal rights by signing it.

I certify that I am of legal age and competent to enter into this agreement.

I have read this Release and Waiver Form carefully and fully understand its contents. I acknowledge that I am signing this document freely and voluntarily, without any inducement or duress.

Email the completed Participant Liability Release and Waiver Form to hello@swvapride.org

Legal Name

Stage Name

Address

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email

Division: Miss [] Mr. [] Mx. []

Participant's Signature:

Participant's Printed Name:

Date: _____

Southwest Virginia Pride, Inc. Use Only.

Date received: _____

Date Paid: _____

Received by: _____