

# Mx. Trans USA 2025

*Official Application Guide and Contestant Handbook* 

November 12-16, 2025 Washington, DC

Information on the Host Hotel and Venue will be released in early 2025. Trans USA is excited to continue our partnerships with Hilton Milwaukee City Center, the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, and the Pabst Theater Group, who provided phenomenal service and support throughout nationals' week in 2024.

### Your Story, Your Vision, Your Legacy

A Welcome Letter from your new National Director, Dylan B. Dickherson White

As cliché as it may seem, I'd like to congratulate you on taking the first step toward joining the Trans USA family. Opening this packet means that you have a story to tell, a vision for your future as a representative of the transgender community, and a legacy you'd like to build using this platform.

While it is true that many of our formers have found success as entertainers in the drag industry, we believe in showcasing the vast array of trans experiences and the myriad ways in which our community provides a positive contribution to society. As such, Trans USA was not designed with a focus on drag entertainment alone, and there is no Talent category. I've been an entertainer for so long, and many of the most valuable skills I use in my daily life are a direct result of my experiences in this industry and with drag pageantry. So, when I opened my packet for the first time like you're doing now, I really had to ask myself: What else do I have to offer? What else makes me the right choice? And what message do I want to send?

It was absolutely one of those "light bulb" moments they talk about. And when it hit me, I made a promise to myself and to my community. I refused to present my story in such a way that said that I thought of myself as a victim, of my own life as a series of traumatic events one after another, and of myself as less than those who have not had experiences similar to mine.

Our mission has been to rewrite the narrative that our lives are defined by our trauma, whether collective or individual. Though some details of the plot may be immutable, we get to choose how our stories are told. We are not our pain, and there is no need to lower the bar for us.

My reign as Mr. Trans USA 2022 was instrumental in preparing me for this new role as your National Director (officially). It taught me just how much power we have as a unit, just how much fight we have in us when one of our own is in need, and just how impossible it is to describe this experience to someone looking in from the outside. There's nothing quite like it. There's nothing quite as transformative or uplifting—aside from maybe transition itself—as embarking on a journey alongside dozens of your trans peers from around the country, all of you working toward the same goal despite your unique skills and experiences. It is my hope that, even if you had never considered entering a pageant before, you will take this leap to join in making trans history once again.

We can say all we want about trans excellence and what it means to wear that sash (and we will!), but for now, let's leave it at the most important one.

This is your chance to be the hero you needed growing up. What are you waiting for?

Sincerely and with love,

Dylan B. Dickherson White

National Director, Trans USA Mr. Trans USA 2022

### **Found Family**

A Welcome Letter from the reigning Mx. Trans USA

Welcome to the TRANS USA family! Opening and reading this packet is only the beginning of a beautiful journey you will embark on. This so much more than just another pageant and competition. Extremely different from drag pageants I have competed in. TRANS USA focuses on you and your unique transition journey. Focused on being who you truly are and being unapologetic about it! The support and friendships you make will be unlike another.

I struggled with many things leading up to nationals. The self-doubt was something I had to fight throughout the year. The worry on if I could even make it, along with the fear of being a disappointment. Battling depression and the loss of family was hard, but I kept fighting. The one thing I had on my mind, was that I wanted to be seen. I wanted people to know me, hear me, and prove to myself how much I truly do shine. The connections I made through my journey to nationals is what kept me going. My fellow contestants keeping me motivated. Along with the court actively checking in and being patient with me and all my questions. Which is what I aim to do as well.

I want to see you BE YOURSELF because you are absolutely beautiful as you are. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise or put you in a box.

This year I want to focus on the contestants that are interested in competing. Helping them raise money for their journey to Nationals. Getting sponsorships, and planning benefits. Offering any advice I am able to give and helping clear up anything that can seem confusing to you in the handbook!

This is so much more than a Crown and title; it's about the Family you made. The support you receive, and the chance to be Seen and more importantly Heard. With a team you can lean on when you feel like you can't stand on your own. It's overwhelming, the Love that this System can bring. However, as we navigate the next year, we will need all the love and support we can get.

I eagerly await you to join this family, and see how much impact you can make through your Journey as you represent for this Phenomenal system!

With Love,

Damien N. Serrato

Mx. Trans USA 2024

Photo by Mx. Gay Photography



# **Trans USA National Pageantry**

### **Purpose and Vision**

Founded by Gerardo Chavez and Luis Perez, The Trans USA National Pageantry System strives to celebrate and promote the development of transgender, non-binary, and gender-nonconforming leaders as visible advocates and role models for the community at large.

The primary function of Mx. Trans USA is to serve as an active representative of the transgender, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming community; maintain visibility as a positive role model for trans youth and the community at large; and engage in opportunities that promote productive discussions at multiple and often intersecting levels. Trans USA is not a drag pageant, and performances are not required. Each representative should aim to embody these roles in the ways most appropriate to their personal and professional life.

### Eligibility

Mx. Trans USA is open to United States citizens and lawful permanent residents identifying as non-binary or gender non-conforming regardless of sex assigned at birth. Contestants must be 21 years of age to compete.

Note: The Trans USA Board reserves the right to refuse registration in exceptional circumstances involving severe misconduct, irreconcilable offenses, or patterns of behavior that fail to meet the professional standards specified in the most recent version of the handbook. See "Misconduct" section below.

Contestants who have competed previously are welcome to apply; however, there is a two-year limit on representing the same state consecutively. One of the goals of Trans USA is to increase visibility and encourage growth, which includes mentoring others to come and represent. If a contestant has represented the same state two years in a row, they may choose another state or one of the following approved regional titles:

- Great Lakes
- Mid-Atlantic
- New England
- Gulf Coast
- Great Plains
- Cascade Mountains
- Southwest
- Midwest

Once qualified for the Trans USA 2025 National Contest, contestants may not compete for any other pageant system. Participation as a contestant in another pageant during the calendar 2025 year will result in disqualification from the National Contest, as well as a minimum one-year ban from registration for Trans USA.

# **Registration Updates for Trans USA 2025**

### **General Information**

Applications for registration will comprise (1) a basic information section; (2) a required section of openresponse questions; and (3) an optional section in which candidates may submit supplementary materials such as resumes, platform proposals, and endorsements from their partner charities.

Applications will undergo double-anonymized review by a panel of community leaders, which will not overlap with the national judges panel for the competition, and contingent offers will be extended to the candidates selected no later than the close of the registration period.

Contingent offers must be accepted, with full payment of the registration fee of **\$300**, within 1 week of receipt. The full Class of 2025 will be announced on **March 31, 2025**, in conjunction with International Trans Day of Visibility.

Pre-registration	December 9 to December 19, 2024
Public Registration	December 20, 2024, to March 1, 2025
Application Review	March 1 to March 7, 2025
Acceptance Window	March 7 to March 22, 2025
Public Announcement	March 31, 2025

The registration schedule for Trans USA 2025 will be as follows:

**Note**: Pre-registration will only be available to members of the Trans USA Class of 2024 who participated in the national competition. No applications will be required from pre-registered contestants.

### **Application Process**

Applications will be made available on the website at **12:00 AM EST on December 20, 2024**. The application questions will be posted at least one week in advance to allow time for preparation.

Contingent offers will be made no later than March 10, 2025.

Upon acceptance of a contingent offer, representatives must submit the following no later than **March 22, 2025**. Lack of submission will result in forfeiture of the offer without exception:

- High-resolution (300 DPI minimum), waist-up photo against a solid background.
- Registration fee of **\$300**.

A confirmation email with further instructions will be sent following official acceptance and receipt of both the announcement photo and registration fee.

 Contestants <u>MAY NOT</u> announce their titles until the official announcement made by Trans USA on Trans Day of Visibility 2025 (March 31). Contestants may announce that they have <u>applied</u> to begin fundraising work for themselves and their organizations. <u>Announcing acceptance of the</u> <u>title before the official Trans USA announcement will also result in forfeiture of the offer</u>.

### **Trans USA 2025 Application Questions**

Contestants will be required to answer the following listed questions to apply for a Trans USA State/Regional Title.

Personal identifying information will not be sent to the application judging panel; applications will be judged solely on the answers to these questions and supplementary material provided, if any.

Applicants seeking clarification on any of these questions or the application process itself should reach out to Board Member NV Gay (<u>natashagay09@gmail.com</u>) or @nv.gay on Instagram.

### 🖊 What communities/social groups are you actively involved in?

- What volunteer/community work are you involved in, and/or what organizations do you currently partner with?
- **What drives and motivates you to be involved with your community?**
- Why do you want to represent Trans USA, your local community, and the trans community across the nation?

### After Acceptance

- Within 30 days of receiving the state sash, the representative must submit an introduction video announcing their name, state title, charity organization, and their goals or motivations for their reign. Videos should be submitted to <u>admin@transusanationalpageantry.com</u>.
- Within 60 days of confirmation, the representative must schedule an interview with the reigning national titleholder.
- Within 90 days of confirmation, the representative must have completed or scheduled one (1) official event with their local charity partner.
- At any time before the national competition begins, the representative must hold one (1) fundraiser for the Trans USA 501(c)(3), with 50% of the proceeds going towards Trans USA and 50% to their individual expenses related to preparations for the national competition.

# **Optional Professional Registration Package**

Representatives will have the option to purchase an add-on professional package with their registration, which includes the following:

- Trans USA business cards (\$25 value)
- Trans USA parade banner (\$85 value)
- Starter Set of Trans USA promo booklets and personalized promo cards (\$125 value)
- Trans USA photo shoot at nationals with renowned photographer NV Gay (\$300+ value)
- Dresser Pass for Nationals (\$25)
- Dresser Brunch Meal at Nationals (\$25)
- Practice Panel Interview and Video Feedback Session with Trans USA Formers/Board Members (\$150+ value)

#### TOTAL COST: \$800 (\$300 registration plus \$500 package rate)

### Mx. Trans USA 2025 National Prize Package and Awards

The winner of Mx. Trans USA 2025 shall receive, *at minimum*, the following:

- \$1,000 upon signing the contract following coronation
- \$100 upon submission of an official promo photo within 30 days of coronation
- \$400 at the 6-month mark following coronation, subject to performance in the role (performance will be reviewed monthly with the Trans USA Board)
- \$500 on the final night of the next Mx. Trans USA contest
- Official Mx. Trans USA Sash
- Official Mx. Trans USA Crown
- Official Mx. Trans USA Crystal Plaque
- Travel and lodging for appearance at Milwaukee Pride (up to \$500)
- Travel and Lodging for next Mx. Trans USA contest

### **TOTAL VALUE: \$3,500 +**

Additional monetary and physical prizes may be added to this list and will be announced prior to final registration.

First Alternate: Award Plaque + \$500 Cash + Invitation to return for the 2025 National Contest

Second Alternate: Award Plaque + \$250 Cash

Third Alternate: Award Plaque

Fourth Alternate: Award Plaque

Additional monetary and physical prizes may be added to this list and will be announced prior to final registration.

**Most Photogenic, Most Majestic, Mx. Congeniality, Most Visible**, and **Outstanding Advocate** winners will each receive an Award Plaque, as will the winner of each competition category.

**Most Photogenic** will be awarded to the contestant in each division whose official registration photo has received the most social media traffic (based on analytics, not simply likes or shares).

**Most Majestic**, to be voted upon by the judges, will replace Most Handsome/Most Beautiful as an award. This award is not merely about surface beauty but is intended to go to the contestant displaying the most class and elegance on stage overall.

**Mx. Congeniality**, to be voted upon by the contestants within the Mx. division, will be awarded to the contestant who most sincerely embodies a spirit of selflessness, compassion, and positivity when interacting with other contestants. The award is intended to highlight the individual who has made the greatest impact in building a family among the Mx. Trans USA Class of 2025.

### **Special Awards**

Decided by Mx. Trans USA 2024, Damien N. Serrato

#### **Outstanding Advocate**

To be selected by the reigning Mx. Trans USA, Outstanding Advocate will be awarded to the contestant providing the greatest contribution to a charity of their choosing. Contributing factors will include time, labor, money raised, and visibility provided for the organization. Contestants wishing to be considered for this award must submit an official physical or digital letter from their selected charity by registration at the national competition, which should detail the contributions provided by the contestant. Letters can be handed in person to a member of the administrative team at the national competition, or emailed to <u>admin@transusanationalpageantry.com</u>

*Without providing a letter from their chosen organization, contestants will not be eligible for this award.* 

#### Purpose

Contestants choosing to raise funds for pageant expenses are often successful when selecting a charity to highlight during the process. Most often, contestants raising funds in this manner will contribute 50% of the donations to their selected charity and the remaining 50% to pageant expenses.

To participate, contestants may select any 501(c)(3) with an impact in the trans community, including the Trans USA National Pageantry system. Although participation is strongly encouraged, <u>no additional points or favoritism in scoring will be shown to</u> <u>contestants based on the charity they have selected or whether they choose to participate in the running for this award.</u>

#### Most Visible

To be selected by the reigning Mx. Trans USA, the Most Visible Award will be presented to the contestant who has exhibited the most active engagement in the community across social media and at in-person events from registration at the state level until the final night of competition. This award serves to highlight the individual who has already been doing the work of Mx. Trans USA in the months prior to the competition, regardless of placement on final night.

#### **Contestant Gifts**

All contestants will receive a special gift from the reigning Mx. Trans USA at registration.

### Mx. Trans USA 2025 Categories and Scoring

### REGISTRATION

Registration is not scored; however, contestants must be present to officially be considered qualified for the contest. Late arrival will result in administrative deductions. Registration attire will be a <u>plain white shirt (no logo, images, etc.)</u>, <u>blue jeans, and state sash</u>. Accessories should be at the discretion of the contestant. A group photo will be taken at the end of registration. Contestants will be provided with an explanation of the itinerary and updated on expectations at this time.

NOTE: The point totals listed below are intended to reflect the relative importance of each category and subcategory. Trans USA utilizes weighting factors to scale the entered scores appropriately (i.e., percentages). The full explanation of the scoring system is included below the explanation of the last category.

#### **PERSONAL INTERVIEW**

Each contestant will be interviewed individually by the judges. The purpose of the interview is to allow some insight into the character, background, and experience of each contestant. The time limit for the interview category is <u>7 minutes</u>. Each contestant should be prepared with a short opening bio. The timer will begin when judges ask contestants to share a little about themselves. The opening statement should not be longer than 2 minutes. Points will not be deducted for longer bio; however, the interview will end at <u>7 minutes</u>, regardless of how many questions the judges have had time to ask. Interview attire is up to the contestant and may range from casual daywear to professional corporate attire. Although this is not a fashion category, contestants are expected to present themselves neatly and in properly fitted attire. An alert will be given one (1) minute prior to reaching the time limit, following which the contestant will be given an opportunity to provide a final comment or question.

<u>Note:</u> Although many of our titleholders have found success in drag pageantry, contestants should be mindful that Trans USA is not a drag pageant. Therefore, the interview process will encompass other issues affecting the trans community as well.

#### **SUBCATEGORIES**

#### General Appearance

Contestants will be judged on whether they are dressed in a manner befitting of a
national titleholder, regardless of the level of formality. Garments should be free of
wrinkles, tears, and other damage. Grooming should be appropriate for an interview
setting. Mx. Trans USA is expected to be an example in the community. Appearance and
attire should be clean and put together, appropriate for an official event appearance.

#### Ability to Communicate

• Contestants will be judged on their ability to answer questions with confidence and poise, the extent to which they are able to convey their personality during the interview, and their ability to speak without excessive errors or filler words (um, uh, etc.).

#### 0 to 20 Points

0 to 40 Points

#### Answer Content

#### 0 to 40 Points

• Contestants will be judged on the thoughtfulness and substance of their answers. Judges should aim to ask questions that require the contestant to respond to situations and provide insight on how they will approach their reign as Mx. Trans USA. Answers should be specific and goal-oriented, and the contestant should aim to convey that they have already been preparing to represent the title in some way.

**Total points** 

### **STATE COSTUME**

The time limit for this category is 3 minutes. The time begins when the music starts and ends when the microphone is returned to the emcee. Contestants will first model their costume. Contestants are not required to follow a specific formation or hit designated points when modeling. This category should be perceived as a "Creative Costume" category and is not intended to be a performance. If the submitted music contains lyrics, contestants should avoid lip syncing when modeling. Contestants may choose their own music to accompany the costume design, or they may choose to use house-provided category music. After modeling, each contestant will be given the microphone, at which point they will state their name, the state they are representing, and give a short description of why they chose their costume. Contestants will be judged on construction/fit, modeling, creativity, and communication of concept.

<u>Notes:</u> Contestants wishing to provide their own music should email an mp3 file to <u>admin@transusanationalpageantry.com</u> no later than 2 weeks prior to the national contest. Costumes may have lights or motorized parts, but these must be battery operated. No power or extension cords should be required to power costume components. In addition, use of fire, water, excessive loose glitter, or other materials that may harm those in attendance is prohibited, as is the use of live animals. The costume must be worn so that the contestant can walk on to the stage without assistance. <u>No on-stage escorts are permitted in this category</u>. There is no set up time for this category, so props contestants cannot carry themselves are not recommended.

#### **SUBCATEGORIES**

#### Creativity

Contestants will be judged on their ability to create a look that is unique. When constructing an outfit for this category, contestants are encouraged to put thought into their concepts and go beyond the surface level to truly create something captivating. Other aspects of creativity include the appropriateness of the music selection (if chosen by the contestant) and whether creative elements have been incorporated into the modeling or speaking components of the category (e.g., use of a robotic movement or speaking style when presenting a "cyborg" look).

#### Quality of construction/fit

• Contestants will be judged on how well the costume is constructed and the appropriateness of fit on their body. Costumes should be of high quality, meaning that they are free of tears, cosmetic damage, appear sturdy, and showcase

#### 0 to 20 Points

0 to 20 Points

100 points

craftsmanship/skill in construction. All garments should be tailored to the individual contestant for a perfect fit.

#### Modeling

#### 0 to 20 Points

• Contestants will be judged on their ability to model in a professional manner that commands respect and showcases poise, comfort, and confidence. While contestants are not required to hit designated points or follow a set path when modeling, they should display an ability to utilize the space effectively, pose and pause appropriately for their look, and should command attention at all times.

Communication

#### 0 to 10 Points

• Contestants will be judged on their comfort in presenting themselves and their concept on the microphone and on the clarity of their communication.

Total points

#### 70 points

### **SWIMSUIT**

House music will be provided for this category. No custom audio will be accepted. It is important to remember that this category is not about a particular body style, shape, or frame. Swimsuits may be lightly embellished if the contestant chooses. Appropriate accessories are permitted during the category. Any style of swimsuit is allowed, with one exception: Butt cheeks should be mostly covered. Speedo style is acceptable, as long as it provides coverage. Contestants are permitted to wear swim binders as well. Thong-style suits are not permitted and will result in an administrative point deduction. Due to current state indecency laws, the areoles of feminine breast tissue must be covered (including contestants assigned email at birth who have not had top surgery, contestants assigned male at birth who are taking estrogen and have/are having breast enhancement surgery, or contestants using breast forms/breastplates). This may be through the use of Trans Tape, a binder, a shirt, or a preferred swim top. No points will be deducted based on the type of coverage. No on-stage escorts are permitted in this category.

#### **SUBCATEGORIES**

Quality of attire and fit

0 to 25 points • Contestants will be judged on their ability to showcase a swimsuit that is of high quality, fits them specifically regardless of body shape or size, and appears cohesive when considered with accessories (if any).

Modeling

0 to 25 points

 Contestants will be judged on their ability to model confidently and comfortably and are encouraged to have fun during this category. While contestants are not required to hit designated points or follow a set path when modeling, they should display an ability to utilize the space effectively, pose and pause appropriately for their look, and be able to command attention without appearing stiff.

#### Personality/Overall Impression

• While this is not a creative category, contestants will be judged on their ability to convey and make a statement about their own personality during the category. This should go beyond modeling "correctly" and ensuring an appropriate fit. A contestant's look should give us an idea of who they are and what they represent. Contestants are strongly encouraged to avoid being "generic" and to present themselves in a way that is MEMORABLE.

#### **Total points**

#### FORMAL ATTIRE

House music will be provided for this category. No custom audio will be accepted. Attire may be embellished but should not be considered a show or costume/performance piece. This is not a drag competition. The ensemble should be something appropriate to wear to a formal evening event, for example a charity dinner or speaking engagement. Contestants are encouraged to select a fashionable look that complements their body and personal style. The overall look may be classic or current. All apparel and accessories should be in perfect condition. Jackets and vests should be lined appropriately, unless designed otherwise. The judges should not be able to see through any parts of the garment unless that is the intended style. Sleeves on jackets should be no shorter than the wrist and no longer than one inch below the wrist unless the design calls for a specific length. The hem of a gown should be even unless the style of the gown is an intentionally uneven bottom. In general, a gown should be full length (either to the top of the toe part of the shoe or approximately 1/2 inch above the floor, unless the style of the gown warrants differently). Accessories should not be overpowering. Shoes should match or compliment the garment and should not be scuffed or worn at the toe or heel; the exception is if the design of the shoe is meant to be distressed. <u>No on-stage escorts are permitted in this category</u>.

#### SUBCATEGORIES

#### Quality of attire/presentation

• Contestants will be judged on their ability to showcase a formal look that is professional, elegant, cohesive, and is worthy of a red-carpet or high-level appearance. This is to include any accessories such as earrings, pocket square, tie, cufflinks, button covers, shoes, rings, necklaces, etc.

#### Fit

• Contestants will be judged on the appropriateness of the fit of their attire. All garments should be or appear tailored to the individual contestant for a perfect fit. Contestants should pay attention to sleeve length of the undershirt, the fit of the jacket or gown in all areas (shoulders, sleeves, chest, waist, hips, jacket length), the fit of the pants if applicable (length, leg width, sizing, U-measurement) to avoid deductions.

#### Modeling

• Modeling should be at an easy pace and showcase class and elegance. While contestants are not required to hit designated points or follow a set path when modeling, they should display an ability to utilize the space effectively, pose and pause appropriately for their look, and be able to command attention.

### 0 to 25 points

#### 0 to 25 points

0 to 25 points

#### 70 points

#### 0 to 20 points

Personality/Overall Impression

• While this is not a creative category, contestants will be judged on their ability to convey and make a statement about their own personality during the category. This should go beyond modeling "correctly" and ensuring an appropriate fit. A contestant's look should give us an idea of who they are and what they represent. While classic looks are always in fashion, contestants are strongly encouraged to avoid being "generic" and to present a look that is not only well constructed, but also MEMORABLE.

Total points

### **ON-STAGE QUESTION**

This category will be for the top 5 contestants. All questions will be typed, printed, and sealed in envelopes. Top 5 contestants will retain their contestant number, and envelopes will be selected in that order. Once a contestant chooses their question envelope, they will be allowed a moment to read the question to themselves. The emcee will then read the question out loud twice, following which they will hand the microphone over for the contestant to answer. Contestants will be judged on the content and delivery of their answer. Contestants are permitted to think about the question before answering - judging will begin once the contestant starts speaking.

#### Ability to communicate

• Contestants will be judged on their ability to answer questions with confidence and poise, the extent to which they are able to convey their personality, and their ability to speak without excessive errors or filler words (um, uh, etc.).

#### Answer content

• Contestants will be judged on the thoughtfulness and substance of their answers. Answers should be specific to the question asked, and contestants should avoid tangents. Focused answers that showcase awareness of the issue, reflective capacity, and depth are ideal.

### **Total points**

#### 0 to 20 Points

0 to 20 Points

### 40 Points

100 points

0 to 25 points

### SCORING

Scores for Trans USA are computed using Tally Genie, the tabulation software used by Miss Universe, Miss Earth USA, Miss Teen America, USA National Miss, and numerous other prestigious national and international systems.

Weighting factors for each category/subcategory were computed and validated by Tally Genie using the exact information and breakdown in our packet.

To eliminate guesswork and subjectivity for the judges, all scores for each subcategory are entered on a scale of 0-100, and the software automatically weights each score appropriately, meaning that we no longer have to worry about how much a deduction of 5 points really means for categories with different maximum totals. Consistent judging can now be applied across all subcategories. Each judge uses a personal electronic device to enter their scores into a site with an event-specific passcode. All scores entered are marked with a timestamp, and inconsistencies are flagged for staff review.

The highest and lowest scores within each SUBCATEGORY are dropped for each contestant. Scores in each subcategory are multiplied by the above-mentioned weighting factors (percentages), ultimately resulting in a maximum possible score of 500.

The weighting factors reset for the Top 5 contestants to account for the inclusion of the Q&A category in the final 100% (i.e., the total maximum score will still be 500 points).

We believe that, as the nation's premier trans-only pageant, only the tools used by the experts in the pageant industry should be used to ensure fairness and to eliminate human error that can arise when trying to enter all scores from sheets of paper within a limited amount of time.

Contestants receive copies of the direct output of the tabulation software, without modification for visual purposes, for complete transparency.

#### **Weighting Factors**

Elimination Tally Weighting Factors are used prior to Q&A. The top 5 contestants in each division will be selected based on the scores achieved using these weighting factors. For contestants not in the top 5, the resulting scores will be the final scores.

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Elimination Tally Weighting Factors

. "Interview\General Appearance" 5.88%

. "Interview\Ability to Communicate" 11.76%

. "Interview\Answer Content" 11.76%

. "State Costume\Creativity" 5.88%

. "State Costume\Quality of Construction/Fit" 5.88%

. "State Costume\Modeling" 5.88%

. "State Costume\Communication" 2.94%

. "Swimwear\Quality of Construction/Fit" 7.35%

. "Swimwear\Modeling" 7.35%

. "Swimwear\Personality" 5.88%

. "Gown\Quality of Construction/Presentation" 7.36%

. "Gown\Modeling" 7.36%
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Scores for the top 5 contestants in each division will be re-weighted using the following factors to account for the inclusion of their Q&A score (i.e., scores will always be a maximum of 500 points with weighting). These re-weighted scores will be considered the final scores for the top 5 contestants.

#### Top 5 Weighting Factors



#### **Administrative Deductions**

Administrative Point Deductions shall be administered in increments of 1 point per infraction and applied to the contestant's final score.

Regulated infractions include but are not limited to:

- Exceeding the allotted time for a category
- National application and questionnaires that are incomplete or not submitted.
- Direct violation of any category regulation unless category descriptions define a greater penalty.
- Tardiness for any scheduled events of the contest including, but not limited to, roll call, registration, rehearsals, and other meetings.
- Non-compliance with dressing room policies and helper's protocols.
- Actions by contestants or their entourage that may be disruptive to the efficient flow of the contest.
- Non-compliance with directives given from Contest Officials including Contest Director, back-stage managers, sound-lighting technicians, etc.
- Complaints from host hotel management, including, but not limited to, noise disturbances, damage to property, or disrespect to hotel staff.
- Failure to submit required materials by the designated deadline, unless otherwise approved by the Board.

#### **Tie Breaker**

In the event of a tie for finalists or winning court, the Interview score will be used to break the tie. In the event the tied contestants have the same score in Interview, the tie will be broken in the following order: On-stage Question, Formal Wear, State Costume, Swimwear.

### **Misconduct**

### **GENERAL CONDUCT**

Trans USA strives to promote inclusion, safety, and community through competition and collaboration. As such, former/current National Representatives, current contestants, and their entourages are expected to behave appropriately. Poor sportsmanship or inappropriate behavior will result in a conversation with the Board and could result in disciplinary action up to and including disqualification from competition. This includes but is not limited to the following: bullying, cyberbullying, social media shaming, verbal abuse, physical destruction or altercations, physical abuse, tampering with others' belongings, theft, assault, public intoxication, use of illegal drugs.

This is also not limited to the time spent at the national contest. Representatives should consider at all times to be representing both the trans community and the Trans USA system. The Board reserves the right to revoke eligibility for continued involvement with the system if behavior is not aligned with the views and goals of the organization. A minimum 3-year suspension will be enforced, depending on the behavior.

Suspension of Privilege to Compete

Justification for suspension of privilege to compete and the length of time includes but not limited to:

- 1. Qualified contestants who fail to compete without a justifiable reason (medical emergency, active military deployment, etc.) will receive a 3-year suspension. *Contestants who have conducted fundraising initiatives will be required to reimburse their sponsors and make a public notice that they will be doing so, which will include the date by which the sponsors will receive the reimbursement.*
- 2. Contestants suspended 3 times may be permanently banned from competing in the future.
- 3. If a contestant is banned after qualifying all prizes must be returned to the promoter within 30 days.
- 4. The Trans USA National Pageantry system will respect any ban from other national pageantry systems when aware. Such suspensions will carry forward to the Mx. Trans USA contest <u>unless</u> <u>otherwise approved by the National Office.</u>

# Mx. Trans USA 2025 National Representative Contract

This signed agreement is between the Mx. Trans USA National Representative,

\_and the Mx. Trans USA Pageantry system directed by \_\_\_\_\_

The following are requirements and guidelines that must be met and followed during the course of the reign. Reign begins at the time signer is announced as the national representative "Mx. Trans USA 2025" and ends at the time of crowning successor at the national contest, which is tentatively set for November 2026.

### GENERAL

- National Representative will complete their reign, which will end when crowning their successor at the 2026 contest
- At no time may National Representative express views or opinion with malice when discussing the Trans USA pageant, past competitors, title holders, other systems and their participants, or pageant owners
- Profanity of any kind is prohibited. This includes verbal and nonverbal expressions.
- National Representative agrees to actively participate and collaborate with our major sponsors and partners during their reign, as arranged by the board in agreed upon time frames with National Representative
- National Representative agrees to meet monthly via Zoom or some other digital communication platform, with Director + one other board member or Admin (Pageant owner may attend depending on availability) to update on the work they are doing, evaluate performance, and plan for events/partnerships
- National Representative agrees to conduct required virtual interviews with their contestants during application process
- National Representative agrees to be active and visible both in person and on social media throughout the year. Performance will be regularly evaluated with Board members. A-90 day warning will be issued with removal at 120 days if National Representative is unable to meet/maintain duties

# ATTIRE

- National Representative may only wear the designated Mx. Trans USA crown and/or sash
  provided during reign, unless fulfilling expressly pre-approved, non-conflicting duties for a
  pride/community/bar title as mentioned in the "COMPETING DURING YOUR REIGN" section
  below.
- The crown may only be worn with semiformal to formal attire. Sash may be added to ensemble if desired/appropriate, but not required with crown
- The sash may be worn alone with any attire if appropriate for the event.
- National Representative may not at any time, while conducting Trans USA business or wearing Trans USA regalia, wear clothing that exposes areola, buttocks or groin area, or open/unsupported breasts. This includes sheer or mesh type fabrics, tape, paint, glitter art or pasties. If National Representative is partaking in a burlesque performance, they may not advertise as the national Trans USA Representative for that event, and may not post photos/video of their performance while reigning as the National Representative

• National Representative's garments may not have offensive prints or pictures on them

# PERFORMANCES

- Performances are not required during the Mx. Trans USA reign. An opening production is required at the 2026 National Contest, but that can include a speech, a video, a dance troupe, etc, and does not require a lip-sync or "drag performance." Whatever expresses and encompasses National Representative's personality, skillsets, and comfort level. If National Representative is not a performer, they will work with Board members to come up with an appropriate opening presentation
- If applicable, all performance attire must follow the same guidelines as the attire section above under section titled 'Attire'
- Performance audio that includes profanity or explicit sexual innuendos are prohibited

### NATIONAL WALKS

- National walks are voluntary and will be at the expense of the National Representative if they choose to participate
- The Mx. Trans USA National Representative will wear the crown, sash, and formal attire for any national walk they choose to participate in during their reign

# SOCIAL MEDIA

- National Representative agrees to not express any profanity or malice at any time during their reign
- Changing garments/exhibiting nudity on social media videos is prohibited during reign
- Smoking of any kind is prohibited in all social media posts or LIVE videos, or publicly while conducting any Mx. Trans USA business. This includes both tobacco and marijuana
- Having an alcoholic beverage or unlabeled glass in hand is prohibited while taking pictures or videos throughout your reign as Mx. Trans USA
- National Representative must maintain an active Facebook profile that is open to the public so that potential contestants and fans may contact the representative for information. If personal page is preferred to be private, a public figure page may be created.
  - Activity highlighting oneself as the reigning national or content relevant to Trans USA is expected at least once per week on social media
- These social media rules and regulations apply to private social media accounts as well as a public account. National Representative is always representing Trans USA Brand during their reign
- National Representative must wear their sash at minimum for all scheduled interviews, television appearances, published photos, or modeling ads during reign as Mx. Trans USA
- National Representative will be responsible for ensuring all registered contestants are added to qualified contestant Facebook group for the 2026 contest, as well as keeping up contact with contestants in group chat
- National Representative will receive access to the main Facebook/Meta and TikTok accounts and may be asked to monitor the inboxes of each at times to address questions from potential contestants and direct messages appropriately.

# CHARITY

- National Representative must host two independent acts of charity targeted towards the trans community during their reign. This includes benefits, collecting needed supplies for donation or educational activities, etc. One act must occur during the first 6 months and the other during the last 6 months of the reign.
- National Representative should partner with a local or national charitable organization and maintain monthly involvement. That may look like hosting events, participating in fundraisers, or other general awareness raising for organization
- National Representative should participate in raising funds for the Trans USA National Pageantry system during their reign. This may look like selling ads for the souvenir book, or choosing to hold a fundraiser event that is partially for Trans USA and partially for a chosen charity. Other ideas should be presented during monthly meetings
- National Representative should ensure photos are taken at all events and provided to Admin or Social Media manager for Trans USA organization to be able to maintain visibility throughout the year

# CONTACT

- The reigning Mx. Trans USA must maintain an active telephone number, professional email account, and an up-to-date mailing address throughout the course of their reign
- National representative will be provided login information to official Mx. Trans USA email account to use during their reign. They must check email regularly to ensure they are up to date on communications with organization
- National representative should regularly reach out to interested parties and qualified contestants (once applicable) to maintain relationships and ensure contestants are prepared for national contest

# **COMPETING DURING YOUR REIGN**

- National Representative may not compete for another pageant or contest of any kind during reign as Mx. Trans USA, except for a Pride or Community Bar Pageant. All competition consideration should be discussed with Admin team for approval, to ensure that any additional duties will not affect their representation with Trans USA
- National Representative is only permitted to wear Trans USA Sash and Crown during their year (as stated in 'Attire'), unless they are attending a step down or fulfilling required, non-conflicting duties for a Pride or Community Bar Pageant that have been expressly approved/cleared with the board and administrative team.

# DRUGS/ALCOHOL

- At no time may National Representative appear in public while under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Public drug use will not be tolerated and will call for termination as the reigning Mx. Trans USA. Termination will be at the discretion of the Trans USA Board
- Public intoxication will not be tolerated. The level of intoxication will be objective, and this will be determined by the board after reviewing the situation and evidence of behavior. Unprofessional

behavior while under the influence of alcohol may lead to termination as Mx. Trans USA. Termination will be at the discretion of the Trans USA Board

- Alcohol use is not prohibited during reign so please drink responsibly to avoid possible reprimanding
- Smoking tobacco/marijuana is prohibited in all social media posts or LIVE videos, or publicly while conducting any Mx. Trans USA business

# **PROMOTIONAL PICTURES**

- The National Representative must release an official promotional picture wearing at least the medallion within the first 30 days after signing of contract. Failure to do so may result in the forfeiting of the \$100 scheduled prize payment
- All promotional pictures must be approved by Trans USA Board before being released

### ATTENDANCE

• Failure of the current Mx. Trans USA to attend the next Mx. Trans USA registration and pageant (step down) will result in a life-time ban from judging, performing or appearing in anything related to the Trans USA pageantry system. The final payment of \$500 will also be forfeited by the absent national representative.

### **PRIZE PACKAGE**

- \$1000 upon signing the contract following coronation
- \$100 upon submission of an official promo photo within 30 days of coronation/signing of contract
- \$400 at the 6-mont mark following coronation, subject to performance in the role
- \$500 on the final night of the 2026 Mx. Trans USA contest
- Official Mx. Trans USA Sash
- Official Mx. Trans USA Crown
- Official Mx. Trans USA Crystal Plaque
- Travel and lodging for appearance at Milwaukee Pride (up to \$500)
- Travel and Lodging for 2026 Mx. Trans USA contest

# Total Value: \$3500+

Additional monetary and physical prizes may be offered throughout the year.

In the unfortunate event that your reign is terminated you must return the crown and sash within 5 business days. The return post mark must be within five (5) business days of termination. The title holder will be liable for any damages to the crown and/or sash. At the time of termination all future scheduled payments, flights or incentives will be terminated. You will be prohibited from ever affiliating yourself with the Trans USA Pageantry System or with any Trans USA events.

# Trans USA 2025: National Titleholder Signature Page

By signing below, signer acknowledges that they have read, understood, and agree with/consent to all regulations, points, and parameters outlined in the Trans USA 2025 Handbook and National Contract. Signature also serves as official acceptance of the title and responsibilities of Mx. Trans USA 2025.

In necessary and exceptional circumstances, Trans USA National Pageantry reserves the right to amend any and all points within the handbook and national contract upon majority approval by the national administrative team and board.

(Mx. Trans USA WINNER Legal Signature)	(Date/Time)
Mx. Trans USA WINNER Print Legal Name)	(Date/Time)
(Trans USA DIRECTOR/PRESIDENT Signature)	(Date/Time)
Trans USA DIRECTOR/PRESIDENT Print Name)	(Date/Time)
Trans USA Board Member/Admin Signature)	(Date/Time)
(Trans USA Board Member/Admin Print Name)	(Date/Time)

### **Contact Information**

Mr. Trans USA 2024	Scrappy Legacy Facebook: Shay Brewer Instagram: xxxx Email: <u>scrappy@transusanationalpageantry.com</u>
Miss Trans USA 2024	Beyoncé B. St. James Facebook: xxx Instagram: xxx Email: <b>beyonce@transusanationalpageantry.com</b>
Mx. Trans USA 2024	Damien Serrato Facebook: xxx Instagram: xxx Email: <b>damien@transusanationalpageantry.com</b>
Founder	Gerardo Chavez Facebook: Gerardo Chavez Email: <u>lalochavezvega81@gmail.com</u>
National Director	Dylan B Dickherson White Email: <b>ddrobish@transusanationalpageantry.com</b>
National Administrative Team/Board	Abs Hart (Mr. Trans USA Emeritus) Email: admin@transusanationalpageantry.com D-Luv Saviyon Email: Dee Latcher aka Sassy Stratton Diazz DeMornay Instagram: SassyDVDeMornay NV Gay Email: NatashaGay09@gmail.com Freddie Grant Email: fundraising@transusanationalpageantry.com Londenn Davenport Raine Email: Gianna Ramirez Email:

Trans USA Website <a href="https://www.transusanationalpageantry.com/">https://www.transusanationalpageantry.com/</a> Instagram: @transusaoffical TikTok: TransUSAOfficial

### Mx. Trans USA 2025 Event Information

### Date: November 13-16, 2025 Location: Washington, DC

Exact dates will be released ASAP. Announcements regarding the Host Hotel will also be made as registration proceeds.

#### **Contest Schedule**

The competition schedule will be based on the number of contestants registered and will be announced in full several months prior to the national pageant. However, contestants should expect the competition to run, at minimum, Thursday morning through Sunday night (4 nights). Changes to this tentative arrangement, if necessary, will be announced well in advance.

#### **Ticket/Souvenir Book Information**

Information related to ticket sales and the national souvenir book will be announced as the contest date approaches.

#### **Dressing Room Policy**

All contestants, their assistants, and promoters must adhere to these policies. Violations of these policies will result in administrative deductions. Contestants are responsible for the actions, conduct, and the consequences of those actions of their helpers, assistants, etc.

- 1. Only one (1) assistant per contestant will be allowed in the dressing room(s) at any time, unless uniformly approved by the promoter. A Dresser/Assistant pass is **\$25**, which will allow entry into all nights of competition for the national contest for one (1) person. If more than one person is assisting contestant, official entry tickets must be purchased separately for all excess.
- 2. One (1) pass will be given to each contestant which must be shared in cases of multiple assistants.
- 3. If a pass is lost, a new one may be purchased for **\$15**. Until the new pass is issued, the contestant assistants will not be allowed to be in the dressing room(s). Only one pass per contestant will be allowed to be in use at any time. Revocation of all dressing room privileges will be the penalty given to any contestant whose assistants are found to be using more than one (1) pass at any time.
- 4. All persons without a pass will be removed from the location of the contest should they attempt to enter the dressing room(s).
- 5. Media personnel will be required to have passes, but will not be allowed into the dressing room areas. Contestants are not required to interview or take extra photos for media, but are encouraged to do so if they feel comfortable. All interactions should be done outside of the dressing room areas.
- 6. Special entertainment will have their own dressing room area when applicable, and should not be in the contestant dressing room areas. Trans USA Formers may check in on contestants in the dressing areas, but will observe and respect privacy. If any contestant feels their privacy has been violated, they should speak with the National Representative immediately to resolve the issue and prevent any further discomfort.