

*The Blue Ridge Pride Pageant
2021 Handbook*

*Jasmine Summers
Miss Blue Ridge
Pride 2019*

Nightshade Studios



The 2021 Blue Ridge Pride Pageant

Banks Ave. | September 19, 2021

Is it possible to even begin this letter without referencing how hard this past year has been? It is certainly impossible to overstate the challenges that we have all faced. I don't have words for these challenges or what it looks like to move forward, because that reality is still shaping itself. But I am extremely grateful to be able to bring back this event that has meant so much to so many in our community.

Our titleholders have been community servants, political activists, queer artists, inspirational speakers, role models for hard work, lovers, fighters, and so much more. As the pageant director I want to help the titleholder shape their reign to their unique gifts and abilities. We are excited to continue a competition where drag excellence that isn't confined to a certain style or genre of artistic gender expression.

Competing in and winning this pageant changed my life. This legacy is close to my heart and one I feel blessed to be working with today. Win or lose, you make a powerful statement by entering this competition. You are saying that you love who you are and what you do. You are sharing your passion with your community. You are demonstrating commitment to your artistry by taking the risk of having it judged. And you are presenting yourself ready to stand with your community as a symbol of the values we hold dear. No matter what happens on stage or on the score sheet those are powerful actions and you will be made stronger for taking them.

Thank you. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Ida Carolina

Miss Blue Ridge Pride 2015
Blue Ridge Pride Pageant Director



ADVOCATE | CELEBRATE | EDUCATE | SERVE



HISTORY OF THE CROWN



2009
Coco Couture



2010
Tyra Couture



2011 & 2014
Eureka O'Hara



2012 (Miss)
**Odette Dynasty
O'Hara**



2012 (Mr)
Bruno Diaz



2013
Manhattan



2015
Ida Carolina



2016
Ginger Von Snap



2017
Anna Tomical



2018
Natasha Noir Nightly

PRIZE PACKAGE

The winner of the Blue Ridge Pride Pageant will receive a prize package. The package includes:

- The (Miss, Mr., or Mx.) Blue Ridge Pride full-round Crown
- \$200 at Crowning
- \$100 at Give Up
- \$100 at Pride Festival
- The following bookings have been offered to the titleholder by local venues. Three (3) \$75 bookings at Scandals Nightclub, three (3) \$75 bookings at O.Henry's, two (2) \$50 bookings at Banks Ave, one (1) \$50 booking at The Odditorium. This is dependent on the titleholder being in good standing with the venue and it is the responsibility of the titleholder to confirm and schedule these bookings.

The winner will be at liberty to determine which honorary (Mr/Miss/Mx) they are referred to during their reign.

CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All styles of drag entertainer regardless of gender are welcome to compete. However, contestants must meet the following criteria in order to participate in the Blue Ridge Pride Pageant.

1. Contestant must be at least 18 years of age. Proof of age is required by a valid driver's license, state ID, passport or other government-issued photo ID.
2. Contestant must reside within a 100-mile radius of the Asheville, NC 28801 zip code. Distance will be confirmed.
3. Contestant must pay a registration fee in order to compete in the pageant. The fee must be submitted at the time of registration. The 2021 registration fee is \$50 for registration and is due by September 6th, 2021. This fee is nonrefundable. Contestants can pre-register by contacting the Pageant Director (pageant@blueridgepride.org).
4. Previous winners of the Blue Ridge Pride Pageant are not eligible to compete in subsequent pageants.

PAGEANT RULES & REGULATIONS

The following rules and regulations will apply for the Blue Ridge Pride Pageant:

JUDGING: The slate of judges is reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors. Judging will be based on points awarded in several categories and subcategories.

- a. The Pageant Director will establish judging criteria and scoring guidelines and will nominate a slate of judges. These will be reviewed and approved by the Executive Director and Board of Directors of Blue Ridge Pride Center, Inc.
- b. The maximum amount of points a contestant can receive is 150. The points are:
 - INTERVIEW - 50 points max
 - ON STAGE QUESTION - 20 points max
 - CREATIVE PRIDE COSTUME - 30 points max
 - TALENT - 50 points max
- c. In the event of a tie, the winner will be selected by the higher Interview score.
- d. The pageant will have an auditor. The role of the auditor is to collect the scoring sheets from the judges and to perform the scoring tally.

2. CATEGORIES: All contestants will be judged in the following categories:

a. Interview (50 Points)

- Each contestant will have a private interview with the judging panel.
- The interview will be up to five (5) minutes.
- Every contestant will be asked to articulate a vision for their reign.
- Every contestant will be asked which pride flag their costume is based on and why they have selected it.
- Contestants will be judged on their answer content (20 points), answer delivery (20 points), and their ability to articulate their vision for their reign (10 points).
 - Content (20 Points) Is the question answered? Is the response thoughtful?
 - Delivery (20 Points) Is the contestant confident in their response? Is the contestant engaging with the panel?
 - Vision (10 Points) Does the contestant have a clear idea of what they would like their reign to look like?

b. Creative Pride Costume (30 Points)

- This category requires attire based on the Pride flags. Contestant should come dressed in the colors of a pride flag selected from options in this handbook. Contestants are responsible for understanding their selection and being able to articulate it in their interview.
- Contestants may select a different Pride flag at the discretion of the Pageant Director but this must be approved before the registration fee due date.
- The contestant must bring their own music track lasting no less than one minute and no longer than two.
- Contestants will NOT introduce themselves on the microphone following their music, this is a modeling category and not an introduction presentation.
- The entire package (hair, make-up, costume, accessories, etc.) will be judged.
- Contestants will be judged on their ability to present a clean (10 points), complete (10 points), and cohesive (10 points) look.
 - Clean (10 Points) Is the garment finished? Does it fit properly for the genre of costume chosen?
 - Complete (10 Points) Is the concept fully realized? Do the choices read as intentional?

- Cohesive (10 Points) Does the outfit tell a unified visual story? Are the colors of the chosen flag present and on display?
- c. On Stage Question (20 Points)
- After modeling Creative Costume, the Contestant will be asked a question on stage by the host and will answer for the judges.
 - The question will be revealed on stage when selected at random by the contestant.
 - Once the contestant has read and absorbed the question, the host will read the question twice into the microphone and then hand the contestant the microphone to answer.
 - Contestants will be judged on their answer content (10 points) and answer delivery (10 points).
 - Content (10 Points) Is the question answered? Is the response thoughtful?
 - Delivery (10 Points) Is the contestant confident in their response? Is the contestant able to articulate their thoughts?
- d. Talent (50 Points)
- Any type of talent is acceptable, except those that are illegal, or that may cause personal injury to the audience or any other person, or that may cause property damage.
 - Contestants will be judged on their entertainment value (20 points), quality of chosen medium (15 points), and technical elements (15 points).
 - Entertainment Value (20 Points) Does the talent provoke a response? Is the talent consistently engaging?
 - Quality of Chosen Medium (15 Points) Is the type of entertainment provided executed with excellence?
 - Technical Elements (15 Points) Hair, costuming, dancers.
3. Music will be submitted via email prior to the contest. Each contestant should include Costume Music, Talent Music as well as Crowning Music. Music should be labeled with the contestant's performance name and the category.
 4. Theft of, or intentional damage or destruction to any contestant's property or any theft of, or intentional damage or destruction to the venue's property will not be tolerated and will be grounds for immediate disqualification and ejection from the premises.
 5. Contestants and their team are required to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. Any violent or threatening language or behavior will not be tolerated and will be grounds for immediate disqualification and ejection from the facility. Contestants and their team are expressly forbidden to bring alcohol or drugs backstage at any time.
 6. Each contestant will be allowed one (1) dresser. The contestant's dresser is admitted backstage.
 7. Each contestant will be allowed an unlimited number of backup dancers for the presentational categories. However, there will be a backstage fee of \$5 per dancer. Only dressers and registered dancers are allowed backstage.
 8. Any contestant that is not at an appointed place at an appointed time may be disqualified.
 9. Blue Ridge Pride prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age*, national or cultural origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, or health status. (**Exception: contestants must be 18 years or older.*)
 10. The Blue Ridge Pride Board of Directors will request a background check (confidential to the board) for the winner of the crown. Whether any findings present cause for rescinding the title is at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors.

11. Blue Ridge Pride reserves the right to prohibit a contestant from participating, for any reason. Such decisions will be made with the review and approval of the board of directors.
12. Blue Ridge Pride reserves the right to make a decision concerning any matters not covered in these rules and regulations and/or the contestant agreement.
13. Contestant will not hold Blue Ridge Pride responsible for any injuries or hardships that may occur from contestant's participation in the pageant.

PRIDE FLAG OPTIONS



Rainbow
(8 Stripe)



Rainbow
(7 Stripe)



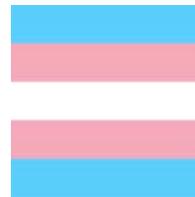
Rainbow
(6 Stripe)



Philadelphia
Rainbow



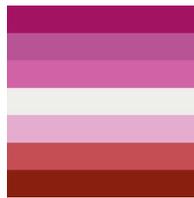
Progress



Transgender



Bisexual



Lesbian



Pansexual



Genderqueer



Asexual



Non-Binary



Intersex



Bear



Leather

TITLEHOLDER'S OBLIGATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Listed below are the expectations, obligations, and responsibilities of the crowned Miss Blue Ridge Pride:

The winner (hereafter, "Titleholder") of the pageant will assume the title of (Miss, Mr., or Mx.) Blue Ridge Pride for until the following pageant. Titleholder is obligated to and agrees to the following:

- a. Appear as the titleholder at events sponsored or co-sponsored by Blue Ridge Pride.
- b. Appear as the titleholder at local events not sponsored by Blue Ridge Pride.
- c. Assist the Pageant Director in the planning of the next pageant, including scouting out prospective contestants and locations.
- d. Submit a bi-monthly letter to the community during the entire year of your reign (subject to editorial review and publication at the discretion of Blue Ridge Pride Center, Inc.).
- e. Perform on the Blue Ridge Pride Festival Main Stage as the reigning titleholder. Performance date and time to be determined.
- f. Attend a Meet & Greet at the Blue Ridge Pride Festival.
- g. Participate as the reigning titleholder in the Asheville Mardi Gras Parade.
- h. Act as an ambassador of the community and work with the Pageant Director to seek ways to advance Blue Ridge Pride's mission and goals through community outreach.

TITLEHOLDER CODE OF CONDUCT

1. **Fulfillment of Role.** It is expected that the titleholder will engage in various duties and activities on behalf of Blue Ridge Pride Center, Inc. These will be defined and managed by the Pageant Director and outlined in the Pageant Handbook.
2. **Integrity and Professional Conduct.** Throughout their reign, the titleholder is expected to conduct themselves with integrity and in a professional manner, both in person and online. This expectation is heightened when the titleholder is in a physical and/or online presence directly connected to Blue Ridge Pride Center, Inc. and its programs, or whenever they present themselves as titleholder.
3. **Support of Blue Ridge Pride Mission.** The titleholder is expected to fulfill their role in support of Blue Ridge Pride Center, Inc.'s mission. A core part of our mission is to grow a community in Western North Carolina that is safe, welcoming, and inclusive of everyone, whether they are LGBTQ, an ally, or a non-ally. We believe that everyone should be free to express and live their identity, so long as they respect and support the right of others to do the same. Therefore, the titleholder should treat all people with respect at all times, especially when representing Blue Ridge Pride Center, Inc. The titleholder should feel free to express and celebrate their own identity. They should feel free to focus on uplifting the queer community and calling attention to its beauty. Indeed, they are encouraged to do so. But when representing Blue Ridge Pride Center, Inc., the titleholder must refrain from publicly critiquing others' gendered expressions and identities. Blue Ridge Pride Center, Inc. stands for everyone's right to pursue and express their own identity. We are categorically opposed to telling anyone who they should or should not be.

4. **Breach of Conduct.** Should there be an instance where the titleholder is alleged to have breached this Code of Conduct, the Pageant Director will conduct a preliminary investigation to determine whether the allegation is well founded and serious. If the Pageant Director determines that the allegation is well founded and serious, the Pageant Director shall inform and consult the Executive Director. If, upon review, the Executive Director also determines that the allegation is well founded and serious, they will inform and consult with the President of the Board. The President of the Board shall review the matter and render a final decision on whether the allegation is well founded and serious. This does not override Blue Ridge Pride's open-door policy. Anyone in the community or organization is free to approach the Executive Director or the President of the Board directly with their concerns regarding the conduct of the titleholder.
5. **Remedies.** In the event of a well-founded allegation of a serious or repetitive breach by the titleholder of the Code of Conduct, Blue Ridge Pride Center, Inc. reserves the right to strip the titleholder of their title and to cancel all future bookings, appearances, and payments associated with Blue Ridge Pride Center, Inc. In such an instance, title will pass to the 1st Alternate and the former titleholder will be expected to return the crown and sash.

CONTESTANT MEDIA RELEASE

Listed below are the Media Release conditions for The Blue Ridge Pride Pageant:

1. Contestant authorizes Blue Ridge Pride Center, Inc. to use the following personal information:
 - Their picture – including photographic, motion picture, and electronic (video) images.
 - Their voice – including sound and video recordings.
2. Contestant hereby grants to Blue Ridge Pride Center, Inc., its subsidiaries, licensees, successors and assigns, the right to use, publish, and reproduce, for all purposes, their name, pictures of them in film or electronic (video) form, sound and video recordings of their voice, and printed and electronic copy of the information described in sections (1) and (2) above in any and all media including, without limitation, cable and broadcast television and the Internet, and for exhibition, distribution, promotion, advertising, sale, press conferences, meetings, hearings, educational conferences and in brochures and other print media. This permission extends to all languages, media, formats and markets now known or hereafter devised. This permission shall continue forever.
3. Contestant further grants Blue Ridge Pride Center, Inc. all rights, title, and interest that they may have in all finished pictures, negatives, reproductions, and copies of the original print, and further grants Blue Ridge Pride Center, Inc. the right to give, sell, transfer, and exhibit the print in copies or facsimiles thereof, for marketing, communications, or advertising purposes, as it deems fit.
4. Contestant hereby waives the right to receive any payment for signing this release and waives the right to receive any payment for Blue Ridge Pride Center Inc.'s use of any of the material described above for any of the purposes authorized by this release. Contestant also waives any right to inspect or approve finished photographs, audio, video, multimedia, or advertising recordings and copy or printed matter or computer-generated scanned images and other electronic media that may be used in conjunction therewith or to approve the eventual use that it might be applied.
5. Contestant will not hold Blue Ridge Pride Center, Inc. responsible for any liability resulting from the use of contestant's name, likeness or images, including what might be deemed to be misrepresentation of the contestant, contestant's character or contestant's person due to distortion, optical illusion or faulty reproduction that may occur in the finished product.