



Ohio Gay Pride Imperial State Contestant Packet

Ohio Gay Pride Imperial 2026

February 1st, 2026

Theme: Capitol Couture

What will you wear to the Hunger Games

**There will be no formal in person registration
– details will be provided via Discord.**

**Interviews will start at 11:00am **
and proceed every 10 minutes.
<Location to be provided>**

Pageant - 6pm

Axis - 775 N High St, Columbus, OH

Category order:

Presentation – Talent - Creative Wear/Q&A

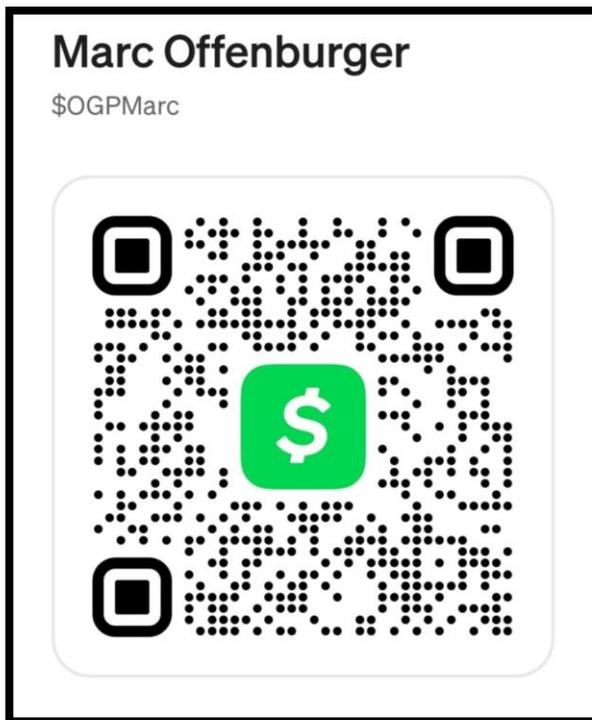
Contact(s):

Marc Offenburger

****Times subject to change
(see Itinerary in Discord Group for list of times when
released)**

Pay Apps to send \$100 entry fee to starting on September 1st at 12:01am ET.
First 10 Contestants

Please contact **Marc Offenburger** before you send
to confirm that entries have not been filled.



PAGEANT RULES/REGULATIONS

1. Ohio Gay Pride Pageants are open to contestants residing in the bordering or surrounding states only (Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia). Proof of residency must be presented to the preliminary/state promoter if requested.
2. The competitors must have reached the legal age of forty (40) prior to the date of the STATE pageant. Proof of age, such as a driver's license/state issued identification card, birth certificate, etc., must be provided to the promoter of the pageant. If for any reason the promoter finds cause to investigate the age of the contestant, reasonable measures will be taken for the investigation to ensure that the contestant meets the minimum age requirement. If no validation is found, the contestant would be disqualified.
3. Judging will be based on a total points-accumulated system. In the event of a TIE, the winner will be determined by the highest **Interview** score between those contestants. If there is a tie in those scores, the tie would continue to Talent, then Creative Wear, then On-Stage Question. If every category is a tie, it must be broken by an onstage question involving the top 5 contestants.
4. Contestants will be judged in the following categories: Creative Wear, On Stage Question and Answer, Talent, Interview, and Presentation.
5. The use or possession of any illegal drugs or the dispensing of any illegal drugs will not be tolerated while the contestants are participating in the official Ohio Gay Pride Pageant. Violation will result in immediate disqualification.
6. Talent will be limited to seven (7) minutes. Prop set-up will be limited to three (3) minutes. Prop take-down will also be limited to three (3) minutes. Prop set-up and take-down times are in addition to the seven (7) minute talent time.

If a contestant **exceeds any** of the individual time limits, they will receive a 50-point deduction for every 30 seconds or part thereof for the talent category. (Example: If exceed setup by 15 sec = 50 points, talent by 45 seconds = 100 points, and tear-down by 28 seconds = 50 points – total deduction = 200 points)

7. Any type of talent presentation is acceptable except those that may cause injury to you or others. **NO PYROTECHNICS** are permitted (fire, flashpots, flaming batons, etc.). The use of authentic-looking weapons is prohibited.
8. **No Smoke machines, fog machines and strobe lights** of any type may not be used. **Use of dry rice, birdseed, glitter, confetti and other loose debris is also prohibited.**
9. Any contestant caught in the act of stealing and/or causing damage to another contestant's property will be immediately disqualified and removed from the pageant location.
10. For the crowning ceremony: Evening wear or Formal Wear attire of choice.
11. Smoking will not be permitted in the dressing areas (See Admin Points).
12. No food or drink will be permitted in the dressing areas (See Admin Points).
13. Each contestant will be permitted to have one (1) helper in the dressing area at any given time. (See Admin points)

14. Any contestants, dressers, dancers, talent performers, etc. who cause a disturbance of any kind during a pageant will result in the disqualification of the contestant and contestant and affiliate causing issue will be banned from all Ohio Gay Pride Preliminaries/Pageants in the future. We expect all contestants and their affiliates to behave in a professional manner.
15. Any changes to the information contained in this packet will be communicated as soon as it is received – this can include Administrative Deductions and Sub-categories and/or weight for scoring.



Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry

Contestant Name: _____

Number: _____

Interview	Possible Points	Judge's Score
General Appearance	0-20	
Personality	0-20	
Ability to Communicate	0-20	
Comfort Level	0-20	
Answer Content	0-20	
TOTAL CATEGORY SCORE		
Presentation Based on Theme	Possible Points	Judge's Score
Theme Appropriate	0-50	
Creativity	0-25	
Overall Look	0-15	
Poise and Modeling	0-10	
TOTAL CATEGORY SCORE		

Judge Signature: _____

Judge Number: _____



Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry

Contestant Name: _____

Number: _____

Interview

Presentation Based on Theme

Judge Signature: _____ Judge Number: _____



Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry

Contestant Name: _____

Number: _____

Creative Formal Wear	Possible Points	Judge's Score
Creativity / Presentation	0-25	
Elegance	0-25	
Fit and Suitability	0-20	
Poise and Modeling	0-15	
Hair, Appearance, & Accessories	0-15	
TOTAL CATEGORY SCORE		
On Stage Question	Possible Points	Judge's Score
Personality, Poise, Comfort Level	0-40	
Ability to Communicate	0-30	
Answer Content	0-30	
TOTAL CATEGORY SCORE		
Talent	Possible Points	Judge's Score
Entertainment Value	0-100	
Quality (lip sync, live vocals, choreo, etc.)	0-30	
Aesthetic (Costuming/Set Design/Props, etc.)	0-30	
Stage Presence	0-30	
Originality	0-10	
TOTAL CATEGORY SCORE		

Judge Signature: _____

Judge Number: _____



Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry

Contestant Name: _____

Number: _____

Creative Formal Wear Comments

On Stage Question Comments

Talent Comments

Judge Signature: _____

Judge Number: _____

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

PRESENTATION BASED ON THEME

Your presentation attire should be in accordance with the pageant theme. Appropriate music will be chosen by the Titleholder or the State Promoter and will be the same for all contestants. This is a clothing/modeling category and not a performance category.

You will not be afforded any setup time, you may carry props on with you (or be carried if you choose). Anything/anyone that goes on stage with you will be judged. You will model for about a minute, and then introduce yourself.

State 2026 Theme is Capitol Couture – What will you wear to watch the Hunger Games. Designs should reflect the Capitol outfits from the Hunger Games books or movies.

Below is an outline of the sub-categories:

Theme Appropriate

- The contestant will be judged on the appropriateness to the theme and fit to color specifications (if provided).

Creativity

- The contestant will be judged on the creativity of the apparel that they present during this category. Attire should be creative.

Overall Look

- The contestant will be judged on the overall look that is presented on stage, and how it all ties together (appearance, fit, and condition of hair, makeup, and accessories/hand-held props).

Poise and Modeling

- The contestant will be judged on how they model the outfit.

CREATIVE FORMAL WEAR (Imperial)

This is the most elegant category in the pageant. The attire should be elegant but creative. The creative wear category will allow you to use your imagination to create an exciting and original style. Creative wear does not have to be a gown, dress, tuxedo, or traditional suit. Pant suits are acceptable.

Creative wear will consist of creative and unique design of the ensemble and/or creative and unique accessories while still presenting a formal look for this category. Be careful that your attire for this category is not a costume or look “costume-like”. **MAKE YOURSELF STAND OUT!** Remember, a unique pattern or design in fabric does not constitute Creativity, unless it is presented creatively.

This should be a garment that would be appropriate on the Red Carpet – ie: for the Met Gala or an Awards show.

Face masks are not encouraged as they tend to create the look of a costume instead of Creative Evening Wear. Hats are acceptable with this category but contestants should make sure that the hat does not cover your face and the size of the hat should be considered as well.

Props may be used in this category but no set-up, tear-down time will be allotted. Props must be in place by the time the contestant’s name is announced.

Creativity / Presentation

- The contestant will be judged on the creativity of the apparel that they present during this category. A unique pattern in a fabric alone does not constitute creativity.
- **And/or** how the ensemble is presented on stage creatively. The use of props is permitted in this category. However, there is no set-up or tear-down time allotted. Props must be carried onto the stage with the contestant or the props must be in place when the contestant’s name is called.
- Evening wear cannot be a costume

Elegance

- The contestant will be judged on the elegance of the formal wear. Formal Wear must be creative but elegant. The attire cannot be a costume.

Fit and Suitability

- The contestant will be judged on the fit of the formal wear. Does the formal wear fit properly? Is the pants hem too short or too long? Are the sleeves too short or too long? Formal wear does not have to be a tuxedo, but all criteria of fit and length apply.

Poise and Modeling

- The contestant will be judged on how they model the evening wear.

Hair, Appearance, & Accessories

- The contestant will be judged on appearance, appropriateness, and condition of hair, and accessories.

TALENT

Talent is the highest scored category in the Ohio Gay Pride Pageant. Talent should not contain excessive amounts of violence or vulgar language. Contestants should use their own discretion but also remember that “excessive” is defined by each judge. It is the contestant’s responsibility to ensure that the stage is clean and clear of debris after their talent is completed. Contestants will be judged on their quality of lip sync, live vocals, or other entertainment.

If the state pageant includes preliminary competition and final night competition, you may change your talent for final night if you wish to do so.

Entertainment Value

- The contestant will be judged according to how entertained the judge feels by the talent. Entertainment Value is the highest scored Subcategory in the Talent Category.

Quality (Lip Sync / Live Vocals / Choreography / Etc.)

- The contestant will be judged on the quality of the talent being presented to the judges. The talent can be lip sync, live vocals, monologue, spoken words, dance, or any other appropriate talent. Any talent presented by a contestant must be of the highest quality to score well at a Gay Pride Pageant.

Aesthetic (Costuming, Set Design, Props, Hair, Makeup, Accessories)

- This sub-category is how the contestant looks is presenting their talent:
- If the contestant presents a talent that includes props or a set, the judge will score the appropriateness and appearance of the props and/or set design. The contestant is not required to have props or set design for this category. If the talent does not “need” a set or props, the judge will not deduct points for the absence of a set or props.
- The contestant will be judged on the appropriateness, suitability, appearance, cleanliness, and functional use of the costume(s) presented in the talent.
- The contestant will be judged on the appearance, condition, and appropriateness of the contestants’ hair and makeup regarding the Talent presented.

Stage Presence

- The contestant will be judged on his/her stage presence and how comfortable the contestant is on stage while presenting his/her talent.

Originality

- The contestant will be judged on the originality of the Talent presented. Is this a talent that is seen often (ie: Wicked – Defying Gravity as the witch in black with green makeup – Not Original) or something that is different or a unique take on it (ie: Defying Gravity but as a parachutist stuck hanging in a tree – More Original). If this is a common talent, what have you done to make it your own.

ON-STAGE QUESTION AND ANSWER

You will be judged on speaking ability (or appropriate form of communication) and how you answer the question posed to you. You will be judged on personality, poise, comfort level, ability to communicate, and answer content. Contestants should speak slowly and clearly while answering questions posed to you. Proper English is expected to be used and you should speak well and be articulate. It is best that you answer questions without rambling. The more rambling, the more possible it is to lead yourself away from the topic of the question. Sometimes a short concise answer will score better than a long-drawn-out answer.

Personality, Poise, and Comfort Level

- The contestants will be judged on how they present themselves during this category. Are they confident or shy? Do they seem comfortable in front of an audience? Does their personality show through their words and demeanor on stage?

Ability to Communicate

- The contestant will be judged on their ability to communicate their answer to the question posed to them. Do they speak clearly and in a volume that is understandable to all? Are their words understandable? Do they speak with appropriate words and proper English?

Answer Content

- The contestant will be judged on their ability to answer the question posed to them. Did they answer the question presented to them? Failure to answer the question can result in a Zero for this sub-category.

INTERVIEW

There will be a personal interview for Ohio Gay Pride Pageant Contestants.

Your attire should be at least, business casual. You do not need to be in a 3 piece suit, but attire should be business appropriate. Do not come dressed in jeans and T-shirts or sweat suits. Attire should be clean and free of wrinkles.

Hair and accessories should be business appropriate, and contestants should be well groomed. You will be judged on poise, appearance, personality, ability to answer the questions posed by the judges, and on your professionalism during the interview. Don't be afraid to use humor during your interview. It just might be your greatest asset, but you should also make sure you are conveying the idea that you are serious about the position. You should be honest during the interview. If you do not know the answer you should tell the judges this but will research the information after the interview is over. You should show the judges you are motivated to learn anything you do not know.

General Appearance

- The contestant will be judged on their appearance during the interview. Are they dressed in, at least, business casual attire? Are their clothes wrinkle-free and in good condition? Are there strings, rips, or stains on their interview clothing?

Personality

- The contestant will be judged on personality in this subcategory. Does their personality shine through during the interview? Do they show emotion/facial expression?

Ability to Communicate

- The contestant will be judged on their ability to communicate during the interview category. Are their words understandable? Are they able to speak well and without using words, such as “ummm”? Are they able to use appropriate words and proper English when speaking? Do they consistently repeat the same word(s)?

Comfort Level

- The contestant will be judged on how comfortable they appear during the interview. Are they “fidgeting” or do they sit still? Are they well-postured? Do they make eye contact with judges?

Answer Content

- The contestant will be judged on the content of their answer to the questions posed to them in the interview process. Did the contestant answer the questions appropriately?

ADMINISTRATIVE POINT DEDUCTIONS

- 10 points:** Smoking in the dressing room.
- 10 points:** Food / Drinks / Liquid in the dressing room.
(Liquid for a steamer should be filled outside the dressing area – Food used for talent can be stored in dressing area and only opened outside of the dressing area)
- 10 points:** Too many people in the dressing room (One person allowed at a time) (each occurrence).
- 30 points:** Badgering or belittling any member of Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry or associates of the Ohio Gay Pride Preliminary Pageant, this includes the bar/venue staff, sponsors/vendors, and even your fellow contestants.
- 25 points:** No garment for presentation to match the theme
State: No admin points will be deducted as scoring would determine appropriateness.
- 25 points:** Tardy for line up - each for Presentation, Interview, Creative Wear, Talent, On-Stage Question (if at different time), and Crowning.
- 25 points:** Late for any scheduled contestant meeting during the pageant process, including registration and rehearsal for opening presentation (if applicable), and after prelim night events.
- 25 points:** Music not all provided:
- State Pageant - There would be 3 songs needed
Track 1 - Creative Formal/Evening Wear
Track 2 - Talent (Even if doing live talent - put something in the track placement)
Track 3 - Crowning
- Suggestion is to name the tracks as “<#>-<your name>-Creative Wear”, “<#>-<your name>-Talent”, etc.
Where <#> is your contestant number, <your name> is your name
example, Promoter is Contestant #5 so talent song would be : 5-Marc Offenburger-Talent
Music should be MP3 or MP4 – no Youtube links.
- 25 points:** Music not turned in by deadline (for State)
– Deadline for 2026 State Pageant is January 18th, 2026 at 11:59pm ET.

OHIO GAY PRIDE IMPERIAL CONTESTANT CONTRACT

ALL CONTESTANTS MUST SIGN AND SUBMIT AT REGISTRATION (when coming to Interview)

This agreement is made as of this date _____, by and between Ohio Gay Pride Promoter

and _____ AKA _____
(Legal Name) (Stage Name)

I _____ AKA _____ acknowledge and agree to follow the guidelines set forth by The
(Legal Name) (Stage Name)

Ohio Gay Pride Pageant Promoter.

I also acknowledge that my promoter upon winning will be holding various functions throughout the year for which I will be responsible for attending with a thirty (30) day notice given to me.

I will uphold the title of Ohio Gay Pride to the best of my ability.

I also will be providing a promotional photograph to Ohio Gay Pride Preliminary Promoter BY EMAIL within 30 days of January 31st, 2026 (Date of Miss State Pageant). Formal contract signing and Winning payment will be immediately after the pageant.

THE OWNER OF OHIO GAY PRIDE, MARC OFFENBURGER HAS THE RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY TO PROMOTE OHIO GAY PRIDE AT THEIR DISCRETION.

THE OWNER/PROMOTER ALSO HAS THE RIGHT TO REVOKE THE TITLE OF OHIO GAY PRIDE and/or PREVENT STATE COMPETITION FOR ANY ACTIONS INTERPRETED AS:

- A) FAILURE TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES WITH DUE REGARD TO THE PROMOTION OF THEIR TITLE IN PUBLIC,
- B) ANY ACT INVOLVING MORAL, CRIMINAL, OR ETHICAL ISSUES UNDER ANY LAW,
- C) ANY SERIOUS ACT OF MISCONDUCT INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) AN ACT OF DISHONESTY, THEFT, OR ANY ACT OF INJURING, ABUSING OR ENDANGERING OTHERS,
- D) ANY ACT WHICH CASTS AN UNFAVORABLE LIGHT UPON THE OHIO GAY PRIDE SYSTEM OR ITS PRELIMINARIES,
- E) OR IS ACCUSED OF PERFORMING OR COMMITTING ANY ACT WHICH WOULD/COULD ADVERSELY IMPACT OHIO GAY PRIDE OR ITS PRELIMINARY EVENTS, PROGRAMS, SERVICES, OR REPUTATION.

THE DETERMINATION OF WHETHER AND TO WHAT EXTENT THE OFFENSE IS CURED SHALL BE MADE BY THE STATE OWNER/PROMOTER.

REVOCAION OF TITLE INCLUDES THE REVOCATION OF CROWN AND ALL AWARDS AND MONEY PAID.

THIS AGREEMENT IS ENTERED INTO THE COMPLIANCE OF BOTH PARTIES WITH FULL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

SIGNED ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 20__

LEGAL NAME _____
(Signature)

(State Promoter Signature)

AKA _____
(Stage Name)

(Witness Signature)

OHIO GAY PRIDE PAGEANTRY APPLICATION

(Bring a copy to Registration/Interview)

NAME _____

(Full, Legal)

STAGE NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE(S) _____

EMAIL _____

FACEBOOK USER NAME(S) _____

AGE _____ BIRTH DATE _____

RELEASE

(Contestants and anyone going on stage need to sign - Submit prior to Interview)

By my signature below, I hereby agree to release and hold harmless Ohio Gay Pride Pageantry (hereafter referred to as the "pageant"), their agents, servants, and employees from any liabilities and/or responsibilities resulting from, associated with, or arising out of my participation in the pageant and/or the title of Ohio Gay Pride, including but not limited to, personal injury, or loss or damage to personal property-regardless of whether the loss or injury occurred before, after, or during the pageant or any other related activity.

I also hereby release myself from rights to any videotaping, audio taping, photography, recording, still photos, or motion pictures of the pageant. I understand that I have no rights to any recordings that I appear on/in or the future sale thereof.

I hereby agree that my name or any photographs taken of me during the pageant may be used for publication for promotional purposes or in any advertising publicity.

By my signature below, I affirm and attest that I have read the rules and regulations governing the Ohio Gay Pride Pageant and agree to abide by them.

Contestant:

PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
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Anyone else going on stage:

PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
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PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
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