

MISS DALLAS AND MISS DALLAS TEEN PAGEANT CONTESTANT HANDBOOK 2024

Official Recruiter of MISS TEXAS USA® & MISS TEXAS TEEN USA®

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MISS DALLAS / MISS DALLAS TEEN Pageant

Miss Dallas / Miss Dallas Teen Pageant is independently produced and is an Official Recruiter of TPG Productions, Inc. and is an official preliminary to MISS TEXAS USA® and MISS TEXAS TEEN USA®.

Jennifer Ortiz has served as assistant director for the Miss Dallas and Miss Dallas Teen pageant since 2017. She filled the role of executive director in 2022. Jennifer has more than 20 years of experience in the pageant industry and event planning. Jennifer has judged multiple pageant competitions across the United States in all areas of pageantry. The Dallas titleholders and contestants have consistently won the title or attained a top 15 placement.

Jennifer is an insurance agent by trade for 30 years and also is the executive manager for Emily's Smile Boxes. Jennifer has vast experience in marketing and event coordination for her business, the charity, and pageants. Jennifer is also a published author and has received multiple awards across DFW in insurance, pageants, and community service.

She maintains the goal that the prior director had in place. This goal is to help contestants transfer the dream of winning a crown into an action plan for personal development.

The current Titleholders are:

- **MISS DALLAS 2023 – Aarienna Ware**
- **MISS DALLAS TEEN 2023 – Emma Fossum**

The Year Ahead

After being crowned, the Titleholders embark on a year unlike anything else, receiving exciting prizes, and services, as well as:

- the honor of representing the Dallas area in the MISS TEXAS USA pageant or if selected as Miss Dallas Teen the titleholder will represent Dallas in the MISS TEXAS TEEN USA pageant produced by TPG Productions.
- The Titleholder becomes a representative of the pageant for one year, meeting many new people, participating in official philanthropy and social events, potentially appearing on television, and getting the education, experiences and values to help fulfill her future career goals.

If you should be blessed enough to win please remember that Miss Dallas and Miss Dallas Teen is a very rewarding experience but also one that requires work, dedication, and cooperation. During our photo shoots throughout the year, there may be professional photos posted of you that may not be your favorite. Please do NOT call your director and complain. A lot of work and money goes into the shoots and we do the very best we can to pick the best photos available. Not every photo will be Program book cover quality. In addition please be on time for your appearances, have an open mind, and involve your Miss Dallas Team in final

decisions for state competition. We cannot wait to work with you! We have a long list of state winners and look to add you as well!

TPG Productions **MISS TEXAS USA® PAGEANT and MISS TEXAS TEEN USA® PAGEANT**

TPG Productions and its staff are producing the **MISS TEXAS USA® PAGEANT** and **MISS TEXAS TEEN USA® PAGEANT** which is nationally recognized as the premier state pageant in the United States. The high profile, glamorous, event is a preliminary to both the **MISS USA®** and **MISS UNIVERSE®** pageants.

The **MISS TEXAS USA® PAGEANT** has produced an astonishing record of nine **MISS USA's**, and in May of 1995 produced the first Miss Universe from Texas in the pageant's 45 year history. In August of 1996 Texas produced its first **MISS TEEN USA**. This brought Texas the distinction of having attained pageantry's triple crown—a **MISS TEEN USA**, a **MISS USA** and a **MISS UNIVERSE!**

Will Henderson has been involved with pageants as a director, producer, consultant, and judge for over 15 years. William has judged over 2,500 contestants on the local, state, and national level in all age divisions throughout the country across multiple pageant systems including the Miss Universe Organization and Miss America Organization. For the past 15 years, he has been involved in the Miss USA/Miss Universe Organization in Texas first as a volunteer, staff member, local director and now as the Executive Director of the Miss Texas USA and Miss Texas Teen USA pageants. Aside from pageants, William spent 12 years in the pharmaceutical industry in sales, marketing, training, and management for several of the world's largest pharmaceutical giants including GlaxoSmithKline and Schering-Plough. In 2018, combining experience from both the pharmaceutical and beauty industry, William founded and has operated his own skincare and device company.

Visit the website at: www.misstexasusa.com

The current titleholders are:

MISS TEXAS USA 2023 – Lluvia Alzate

MISS TEXAS TEEN USA 2023 – Haylee Puckett

Contestants from all over Texas aggressively vie for the opportunity to win **MISS TEXAS USA®** and the **MISS TEXAS TEEN USA®** title. 2024 Winners will be updated after the pageant in July.

Social Media: Once your application is accepted and a deposit is paid we will send you a link to our Facebook contestants group. There you will find important information and updates. Also, be sure to follow us on Instagram @MissDallasPageant

2024 MISS DALLAS and MISS DALLAS TEEN PAGEANT

WARDROBE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **WHAT TO WEAR FOR REHEARSALS** - You should look nice at all times as you will be seen in the hotel or pageant venue, but dress comfortably. Warm-ups, nice jeans, or pants outfits and comfortable shoes are fine. We stress; **BRING COMFORTABLE SHOES!** We will have Miss DallasMerch listed on our Facebook group; <https://www.facebook.com/groups/754887372242319>

2. **EVENING GOWN** - You will be required to provide your own evening gown for competition. There are no specific requirements regarding the gown other than it should be full length, fit you well, and compliment your own coloring and physical features. A good rule-of-thumb is that if you feel good in your gown, then it will be most appropriate for your use in competition. Judges focus on poise, overall appearance, sense of fashion and style. No single detail of the gown, hair or make-up should garner attention. The overall effect should be elegant and sophisticated.

(A NOTE TO THE TEENS - Remember, you are competing with teenagers only. Don't overdress and try to look an age far beyond your own but that of a classy, contemporary teen.)

3. **PERSONAL INTERVIEW** - For the judges' interviews, there are no specific guidelines other than you should wear a daytime outfit that you feel is appropriate for interview, something that suits your taste and personality. A good guideline would be to ask yourself what you would wear for a press conference or television interview.

4a. **SWIMSUIT (MISS)** - Your swimsuit can be either a one-piece or two-piece suit. Color and style are up to you, but generally, a more conservative suit is better. You should wear high-heeled shoes with your swimsuit, which are complimentary to your feet and legs, a skin color, taupe, clear, silver or gold. Sandals, open-toe shoes, espadrilles, or pumps are acceptable, but big platforms are not. No hose is to be worn with your swimsuit. You should reflect a fit, healthy, natural and confident physical appearance. Remember grandparents are in the audience. No other jewelry except **EARRINGS Only** (Silver or Gold Hoops recommended). Bottoms must be covered.

4b. **ACTIVE WEAR (TEEN)** – Color is up to you

Tops: Teen Active Wear Tops should form fitting, full or mid-length athletic tanks.

Bottoms: Teen Active Wear Bottoms should be form-fitting athletic shorts or yoga capris. No baggy pants or tennis/athletic skirts, please.

Shoes: Teen Active Wear Shoes should be white athletic tennis shoes that compliment your outfit.

Socks Teen Active Wear Socks should be white or black ankle socks that are barely visible, if

visible at all.

**While we understand that shoes may have logos on them, please no logos, graphics or brands on Teen Active Wear apparel that is larger than the palm of your hand. Please no jewelry, hats or props of any kind. For examples, please visit the 'Paperwork' section of MissDallasPageant.com*

5. ON-STAGE OPENING NUMBER – Hot pink or bright purple cocktail dress or jumpsuit
The outfit can have rhinestones, beads, or sequins. Jewelry of your choice. Silver or Nude heels or flats.

6. All competition & and rehearsal shoes must have a back or strap around the ankle, no slide on shoes (except for Teen Active Wear).

7. SASH - You will be given a sash with your name on it. This must be worn at all times during the weekend. You will only be given one sash, so take care of it - it will not be replaced if you lose it. YOU WILL WEAR IT DURING THE SHOW! Please note the sashes are preprinted. If your name is misspelled don't worry the judge's forms are reflective of our online registry.

STAYING AT THE HOTEL We do not require that you stay at our host hotel over the pageant weekend, but if you would like to, for convenience, the hotel is offering a discounted room rate per night. The discounted rates are being offered any time between 10/4 – 10/7. You may share a room with another contestant to cut down on expenses if you would like to. (This room rate is also good for anyone including parents, relatives, and friends, who would like to stay overnight.) We highly recommend you book early. We sell out of rooms every year. There will NOT be a dressing room provided Saturday at the Eisemann but we will provide one on Sunday. The hotel will be a fast easy way to go change. The hotel is in the same parking lot as the Eisemann at 900 E Lookout Richardson, TX. The Renaissance Richardson has been fantastic to us over the years. You can reach them at 972-367-2000. A link will be on our website for online reservations but if you call reference Miss Dallas.

PAGEANT CHAPERONES Each group of approx. 10 girls will be assigned a chaperone who will help keep you informed and direct you where you are supposed to be at any given time during the day. She is there to assist you with any problems or questions you might have. Remember, these ladies are volunteering their own free time to do this for you, so please be courteous to them and treat them with respect. At the end of pageant activities each day, contestants will be released and will be expected to return promptly for the start of the next day's activities.

SECURITY There will be a female security guard in the dressing room area at all times, but PLEASE do not leave valuables in the dressing area. **The pageant cannot be responsible for any lost or stolen items.** The Eisemann center will require that you check in daily on their contestant list.

MEALS You should bring money with you for all of your meals during the weekend. We will have lunch and dinner breaks in our schedule but we do require you not leave the hotel or pageant venue for meals during the daily activities. We will provide a meal on competition day in the form of a catered boxed lunch.

JUDGING PROCESS: The judging is divided into three categories: Interview, Swimsuit and Evening Gown. The judges are looking for an all-around girl in each age group. She may not be

the most outstanding in any one category but yet she will score highly in all categories. The winners will have everything - poise, personality, intelligence and beauty.

In addition to choosing the new MISS DALLAS and MISS DALLAS TEEN, other awards to be presented (in each age group) are:

1. Miss Photogenic
2. Evening Gown Winner
3. People's Choice Winner (voting will open in September)
3. Miss Congeniality

CONTESTANTS-AT-LARGE - In addition to the winner of the pageant, several other high-scoring contestants will be invited to go on to the state competition as "Contestants-at-Large." While the winner's entry fee are part of her prizes, the Contestants-at-Large are responsible to pay their own expenses. So, approximately 15 to 20 contestants will be invited to the Miss Texas USA and Miss Texas Teen USA competitions as Contestants-at-Large.

PAGEANT EVENTS

REHEARSALS - Rehearsals are the key to a truly successful show and pageant weekend. Rehearsals take a great deal of time and hard work. Be prepared for this.

LISTEN! BE COOPERATIVE! FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS! BE ON TIME!

Rehearsals are closed as we have found the contestants are distracted by those attending the rehearsals. The hotel location allows for plenty of shopping and restaurants for family and friends in the Richardson and Plano area. Interview will also be closed PLEASE NO PARENTS IN THE DOWNSTAIRS LOBBY.

FINAL SHOW - This is a very entertaining and exciting event. **All contestants** will participate in the Final Show.

- 1) The show will begin with the Opening Production and the introduction of each contestant to the audience.
- 2) Swimsuit and Evening Gown competition for both Teen and Miss contestants next.
- 3) The Semi-Finalists from each age group will be announced and will be judged in Swimsuit and Gown, leading into the announcement of the Top 5, Top 5 Interview, and then the announcement of the Runners-up and Winners. All contestants will be seen at different times throughout the show and the Special Awards Winners - Photogenic, Evening Gown, Swimsuit, and Miss Congeniality is also presented during the Final Show.

**This is a ticketed event and open to the paying public. Reserved seating tickets will be available for purchase online 2 weeks before the pageant. The theater will sell out.

FEES The deposit of \$200 is due by 5/8/24. The balance of your \$595 fee is due in our office no later than **August 15, 2024. A \$50 late fee will be imposed this year!** *All entry fees are non-refundable after each deadline date.* Note only 40 contestants allowed per group.

REQUIRED PHOTOS Each contestant will be required to furnish the pageant with an emailed color 5" x 7" head and shoulders or face shots (in a vertical position) for the Program Book. **Please note: email to: Jennifer@missdallaspageant.com, i.e. minimum of 5x7 at 300 dpi.** **PLEASE Get your photos in ASAP. Deadline for Program Book Photos are due in our office by August 15, 2024. If we don't have your photo by this date we cannot guarantee a spot in the program book.**

Please feel free to use the photographer of your choice. However, our Official Photographers, **Zac Grimaldo and Steven Grant**, do outstanding work for our contestants.

Zac Grimaldo Photography

214-274-3435

ZacGrimaldo@gmail.com

Grant Foto

Info@Grantfoto.com

Kimberly Hughes Photography

www.kimberlyhughesphotography.com

PROGRAM BOOKLET Years from now many of you will still have your program booklet. It is the greatest souvenir of this very memorable weekend. We are planning a booklet that will be a great keepsake for you. Books will be \$20 and on sale at the event. Each contestant will receive one complimentary book.

Every contestant will have a roster photo in the program book, with one sponsor noted beneath it. In addition to this, **every contestant has the option to buy additional full pages as "Good Luck" pages or Sponsor Advertisements** (See *Ad Specs and Samples* insert). These pages can be a great tool for you to use when recruiting sponsors as they can be laid out with whatever picture(s) and information you would like on them. There are two ways this can be handled:

1. You can purchase these pages for \$200 each, if submitted in electronic "print-ready" form. "Print-ready" form means that the page (8-1/2" x 11") is typeset, with professional lettering, and laid out, in black and white, just as you want it to appear in the program book. Please submit computer disk along with a printout. (See *Ad Specs and Samples* insert)
2. If the page is not submitted in "camera-ready" form, add \$50. We can do the lay-out for you. All we will need is the information and photo(s) to be included on the page.

Please submit the ad pages, along with payment, by **August 15, 2024.**

The program book designer can be contacted at **info@missdallaspageant.com**

Please submit electronic professional quality photos and ad pages for better print quality. Make sure the spelling is correct on your ad page and with your photo advise if a Teen or Miss contestant. Also, make sure that both our Director and program book designer has your email address if we need to communicate with you. **The ad page must be paid when submitting in the program book.**

PAPERS, FORMS, PHOTOS AND FEES

All paperwork and forms are due no later than **August 15, 2024**. You may email these items to Jennifer@MissDallasPageant.com

- Copy of Birth Certificate or driver's license. You can send this via our online entry form (needed to validate age for appropriate age division)
- *Contestant's Contract, Release, and Indemnity Agreement* (to be signed online by the contestant and parent or guardian and witnessed then email to the director)
- Contestant's Entry Affidavit (to be signed online by the contestant and parent or guardian and witnessed then emailed to the director)
- *Emergency Medical Information* (to be filled out online and signed by contestant and parent or guardian then email to the director)
- *Judge's Form* (this is online in it's own section. Please click on the competition tab then select judges form use the password judges123! Then email to the director. Do not alter the form. Once you hit submit it takes a moment to load the form for you to save it and send it)
- *Release of Liability* (electronically signed by contestant and parent or guardian and witnessed then email)
- *Rules & Regulations* (electronically signed by contestant and parent or guardian and witnessed then email)

Photos and Balance of Entry Fee are due no later than **August 15, 2024**.

- Balance of entry fee (total \$595)
- Optional program pages and photos. (They are \$200, if print-ready, or add \$50 if not print-ready)

You may access the forms on the website: <http://www.missdallaspageant.com/paperwork.php>

KEEPING EXPENSES DOWN

Contestants sometimes are convinced that they need or are not going to win unless they have very expensive wardrobes and have used all the sponsors for the pageant in which they are competing. These business people who sell and promote their goods and services are not required. This is how they make their living, and most are very talented at what they do. If you have the budget and want to buy these things, go for it! The information contained here is for those who have limited budgets or who wish to keep their expenses to a minimum (like most of us). It is our purpose to provide you with information regarding which costs are fixed and which expenses can be left to your discretion. In other words, competing in a pageant need not cost thousands and thousands of dollars.

The following are fixed expenses:

Pageant entry fee

These items are necessary, but the cost is variable:

1. Competition wardrobe
 - a. Evening gown
 - b. Interview outfit
 - c. Opening number outfit
 - d. Swimsuit
 - e. Shoes & accessories

2. Clothing for non-competition activities (rehearsals)
3. Photos

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1. Ad page in program book (optional)
2. Show tickets, preliminary and final, for family and friends
3. Hair & nail care
4. Make up
5. Coaching/training
6. Incidental expenses while at pageant

Something you should always keep in mind is, that as nice as it would be to have special outfits for all activities, the judges see you only in interview outfit, evening gown, swimsuit and opening number outfit. You are not judged based on all the cute clothes you wear when you arrive and at rehearsals. It is ***not*** a contest of who has the best wardrobe.

Now, to get a little more specific on the areas where you can economize:

1. Evening gown. A fantastic gown in itself does not win a pageant. Quite often, the winner is not wearing the most exquisite or most expensive gown, but she looks great in the gown she is wearing. It is the overall picture that counts. We have had state winners in borrowed dresses. When shopping for a gown if you have a budgeted amount advise the sales person and ask if they can work within your limit. I have found even the highest end stores often have fabulous sales. Ask!!! You may find a sponsor to provide, loan, or sell you a gown at cost. (This can be tax-deductible for a sponsor.)
2. Interview outfit. Just as with the evening gown, your interview outfit should be one that flatters you and one in which you feel comfortable and look attractive. The judges are looking at the overall picture, not at which designer you are wearing. You may already have a dress or a suit in your closet that would be suitable, or you might borrow one.
3. Swimsuit. We suggest a suit off the rack at a department store. Solid colors and muted patterns are always attractive onstage and can be purchased online. Remember modesty and an appropriate fit for your grandmother to see you in but not a swimsuit for your grandmother!
4. Shoes & accessories. Make your shoes do double duty. The same pair of neutral, silver, gold or clear shoes could be worn with swimsuit, and/or evening gown. Also, check your closet and see what you already have that could work for part of the competition. Your jewelry need not be costly; watch for sales, check the discount stores, borrow from a friend.
5. Clothing for non-competition activities. More than likely, this clothing can already be found in your wardrobe. **You do not need** an expensive new "arrival outfit". **You do not need** special rehearsal clothing.

6. Photos. Our pageant photographer will be offering a special price for your required photos, or you may go to a photographer of your choice. Shop around for the best price!
7. Ad Page. This is OPTIONAL, but can be an excellent tool to help you get sponsors. Often, a sponsor will pay for the page in order to be featured on it, and you can use it to recognize your other sponsors. The Ad Page is also a great keepsake for your pageant experience.
8. Show tickets. Reserved seating tickets will be available to the general public and can be purchased online 2 weeks before the pageant.
9. Hair and Nail Care. See if your salon will provide these services free in exchange for a mention on your ad page in the program book. Remember we do not provide special time or facilities for hairdressers or make-up artists, nor are they allowed to set up in the public areas of the hotel.

10. Make-up. We recommend that you learn to do your own make-up for competition; you need to know how to do this yourself. Take a lesson.
11. Coaching/Training. Private sessions with a pageant trainer can be expensive and are not for everyone. This does not mean that you should be unprepared and just “wing it”! Workshops and seminars are at a cost much less than private sessions. Take one private lesson if you like and then practice in front of your mom, friend or in front of a mirror.
12. Incidentals. This includes phone calls, food not provided by the pageant, etc. How much you spend on these items is entirely in your control and can cost almost nothing if you plan ahead and do not spend money unnecessarily.

In Summary:

1. Know which expenses are unavoidable and which costs can be minimized or eliminated altogether.
2. Avail yourself of free or reduced-cost services, provided in exchange for a place on your ad page.
3. Find sponsors to help cover your costs. We provide you with a sponsor letter and tips on finding sponsors. Sponsors may provide services, wardrobe, and/or financial support.
4. Shop sales and discounts.
5. Borrow, rent and/or use items you already have.
6. Get advice and help from friends, relatives.
7. Prepare yourself. Be as physically fit as possible. Practice doing your own hair and make-up. Keep up with current events—read the newspaper or news channels.

Contestant Schedule

FRIDAY, October 4, 2023 - 7pm – Pajama Party – Details Pending, The theme is movie night!
So wear pajamas to fit your theme. Games, Pizza, and Karaoke. (note you don't have to wear pajamas to attend. You can base it on a movie, a character, or anything movie-related. (Keep it appropriate please 😊)

SATURDAY, October 5, 2023

8:30am - 9:00am - Orientation (Bank of America Hall – Open to public)

9:00am - 12:30pm - Rehearsal (Bank of America Hall – Closed to public)

12:30pm - 2:30pm - Lunch Break 2:30pm – (Be in the bank of America hall lobby for interview)

3:00pm - 5:30pm - Personal Interview (Bank of America – Closed to the public)

SUNDAY, October 8, 2023

8:30 am – 12:00 pm - Rehearsal (Bank of America Theater - Closed to the public)

12:00 pm - 2:30 pm - Lunch Break (Lunch Provided) / Prepare for Pageant

2:30 pm - All Contestants in the Dressing Room, dressed, and ready for the Pageant

3:00 pm - FINAL SHOW (Ticketed Event). Tickets go on sale in September.

Final Show consists of:

- 1) Opening Number and Contestant Introduction
- 2) Swimsuit Competition
- 3) Evening Gown Competition
- 4) Top 5 Semi-finalists announced (Teen and Miss contestants)
- 5) Onstage Question (Teen and Miss contestants)
- 6) Special Awards and Crowning

CHECKLIST – Due 8/15/24 unless otherwise noted

Fee Payment - Total \$ 595 (early bird discount)

Deposit (Due: 5/8/23) \$200 _____

Entry Fee Balance (Due: 8/15/23) \$395

Below all emailed to Emailed to Jennifer@Missdallaspageant.com again all fillable paperwork is available online.

Copy of Birth Certificate

Contestant's Contract, Release & Indemnity

Contestant's Entry Affidavit

Emergency Medical Release

Judge's Form

Release of Liability

Rules & Regulations

Headshot Color Photos (Portrait) – Emailed with one sponsor or your sponsor will be listed as Friends and Family.

OPTIONAL: Ad Page \$200 Full Page (print ready, digital copy), Add fee of \$50 if not print ready

** We reserve the right to change the schedule based on the total contestant count. We will only accept 40 contestants per group. Once we have maxed that count entries will be closed!

** Dressing rooms are not available on Saturday. Dressing rooms will be available during the show on Sunday.