

2018
MR. GAY USofA AT LARGE
& MR. GAY USofA
CONTESTANT HANDBOOK

Mr. Gay USofA At Large – October 15 & 16, 2018
Mr. Gay USofA – October 17, 18 & 19, 2018



Rich's – 2401 San Jacinto – Houston, TX

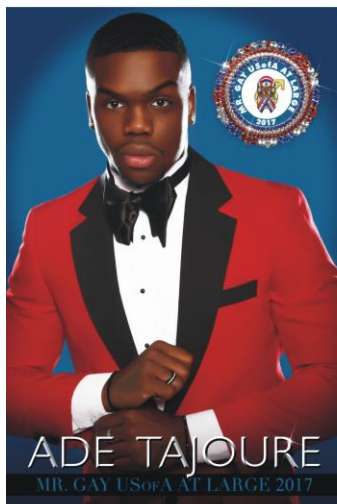
Honoring

Ade' Tajoure

Mr. Gay USofA at Large 2017

Dione Kelly

Mr. Gay USofA 2017



Rules and Regulations –

1. Contestants for the Mr. Gay USofA at Large and Mr. Gay USofA Contests must be born male and 21 years of age by the National Pageant to enter. All contestants should be prepared to present a valid, non-expired state issued ID at Registration. Contestants may not compete until the identification has been presented
2. All contestants for the Mr. Gay USofA at Large Contest must weigh at least 200 lbs. at both their preliminary contest and the national contest.
3. Judging will be on a total point accumulated system. Score sheets will be provided by USofA Pageants LLC. Ties will be broken by the higher talent score.
4. Contestants will be judges in the following categories:
 - Personal Interview
 - Club Wear/Fashion
 - Talent
5. Talent presentation will be limited to seven (7) minutes. Prop set up and tear down time will be limited to five (5) minutes. Talent presentations that contain racial slurs or excessively vulgar, obscene, or insulting language should be avoided. The judges will consider the contents of talent presentations when scoring them. Talent presentations will be timed at rehearsals and any presentation over seven (7) minutes will have administrative points deducted.
6. Any type of talent presentation is acceptable except those which might cause injury to the audience or any other person. No glitter, fire or water of any kind (including paint) may be used in any talent presentation. No live animals will be allowed in any talent presentation. Talent presentations that contain racial slurs or excessively vulgar, obscene, or insulting language should be avoided. The judges will consider the contents of talent presentations when scoring them.
7. The use of or dispensing of any illegal drugs or marijuana will not be tolerated while a contestant is participating in any USofA Pageants LLC event. Immediate disqualification will result for anyone who breaks this rule.
8. Any contestant who is not at their appointed place at the appointed time will lose administrative points.
9. Any contestant, contestant's dancer(s), helper(s), etc. who is caught in the act of stealing or tampering with any other person's property will be disqualified and immediately removed from the location of the contest.
10. USofA Pageants LLC does not discriminate against any contestant with silicone or hormones. The use of silicone or hormones will not be considered by any judge while scoring either contest.
11. Once a contestant has placed as 1st Alternate in a preliminary contest they may not enter another preliminary within that system. They must go to the national contest with that placement.
12. Any contestant who qualifies to compete in the national contest and fails to attend will be banned from the system for a period of at least one (1) year and must pay back any prize monies to their promoter and pay a \$125 fine to the national promoter.
13. Once an individual has won any USofA National Title (Miss Gay USofA, Mr. Gay USofA, Miss Gay USofA at Large, Mr. Gay USofA at Large, Miss Gay USofA Classic, Mister USofA MI, Mister USofA MI Classic, Miss DIVA USofA or Miss Gay USofA Newcomer) they may not compete in any Pageant or Contest until the end of their reign.
14. USofA Pageants LLC and Craig Henderson reserve the right to make any decision concerning any matter not covered by these rules and regulations.

Accommodations -

ALL contestants are required to stay at the Hampton Inn & Suites Houston I 10-Central located at 5820 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77007. **Reservations must be made online** by following this link:

https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/hp/reservation/book.htm?inputModule=HOTEL&ctyhocn=HOUKFHX&spec_plan=CHHMRO&arrival=20181013&departure=20181021&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT

If you have any questions concerning the host hotel their phone number is 713-869-9211. **You MUST make your reservations by September 21, 2018. If you have not made your reservations before the deadline you will have to pay the regular room rate. No exceptions!** Upon Check in there will be an additional incidental charge of \$20 per day added that will be refunded upon check-out. Cash payments will be accepted upon check-out however the hotel must retain a valid credit card during your stay. **Please make sure you bring plenty of towels to remove your make-up!**

There will be a \$100 damage deposit required to be placed on your credit card which will be refunded within 2 – 3 business days after check out. This is required to guarantee no damage is done to your hotel room by you or any of your guests.



PROMOTERS – if you plan on paying for your contestant(s) room(s) but will not be in attendance the Host Hotel **must** receive a credit card authorization from you before releasing a room to your contestant(s). You must contact the hotel to make arrangements for the credit card authorization before your contestant(s) check in.

Admissions –

Contestants do not have to pay admission to Rich's on any night of competition. All dressing room assistants, dancers, prop personnel, managers, lovers, etc. must pay admission to all events. The Rich's is an 18 and over club. All persons entering Rich's **MUST** have a valid ID.

- Mr. Gay USofA at Large – Preliminary Night - \$15.00 - Monday
- Mr. Gay USofA at Large – Final Night - \$20.00 - Tuesday
- Mr. Gay USofA – Preliminary Nights - \$15.00 – Wed & Thurs
- Mr. Gay USofA – Final Night - \$40.00 – Friday

If you desire reserved seating – you can purchase that in advance by contacting Craig Henderson at txcraigann@aol.com or by calling 713-213-7350.

Contestant Coordinator –

This year Craig Henderson is proud to announce that **David Bridgman** will again serve as contestant coordinator to assist you during the week in Houston, Texas. His job is to help ensure that you have an enjoyable time during your experience at this year's contest. He is your point of contact with USofA and will be available to all the contestants daily. He will be reporting to the National Promoter daily on all matters.

Prizes –

Mr. Gay USofA –

TOP THREE FINALISTS

Mr. Gay USofA - \$1500.00*

1st Alternate - \$500.00

2nd Alternate - \$250.00

Mr. Gay USofA at Large –

TOP THREE FINALISTS

Mr. Gay USofA at Large - \$750.00**

1st Alternate - \$250.00

2nd Alternate - \$150.00

ALL winners must present a valid ID and Social Security Number when receiving prize money. All prize money will be distributed at a location to be announced following the announcement of the winner.

*Mr. Gay USofA will receive \$1000.00 upon winning and the balance of the prize money after having completed the obligations of the reign which includes being present and performing all nights of the Mr. Gay USofA 2019 Contest.

**Mr. Gay USofA at Large will receive \$500.00 upon winning and the balance of the prize money after having completed the obligations of the reign which includes being present and performing all nights of the Mr. Gay USofA At Large 2019 Contest.

Applications –

The deadline for submitting your applications is October 15, 2018 for Mr. Gay USofA at Large and October 17, 2018 for Mr. Gay USofA. Everyone should have an application filled out before you get to registration. Please fill out your application and sign it before you get to registration. **YOU MUST BRING YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION WITH YOU TO YOUR RESPECTIVE REGISTRATION.** If you have any questions regarding the application process please call Craig Henderson at 713-213-7350.



Mr. Gay USofA at Large
Mr. Gay USofA
Official Application



PLEASE PRINT

IN BLACK OR BLUE INK

Representing _____

Stage Name _____

Legal Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Age _____ Date Of Birth _____

E-Mail Address _____

Name of Backstage Assistant

Sponsors _____

Talent _____

Artist and Title of Talent Number

____ Live ____ Dance ____ Lip Sync ____ Props ____ # of Dancers

By my signature below, I hereby agree to release and hold harmless USofA Pageants LLC, Craig Henderson, The Official Mr. Gay USofA at Large and Mr. Gay USofA Contests, hereinafter referred to as the "contests", their agents, servants and employees from any liabilities and/or responsibility whatsoever from, associated with or arising out of my participation in the "contest" and/or the title of Mr. Gay USofA at Large or Mr. Gay USofA, including but not limited to personal injury and/or damage to personal property regardless of whether the loss, injury and/or damage occurred before, during or after the "contests" or any related activity.

I also hereby release myself from rights to any video taping (sound and/or video), photography (still camera or motion picture) of the "contests". I understand that I have no rights to any of the recordings that I appear in or on or the future sales thereof. I hereby agree that my name and photographs (still or motion picture) taken of me during the "contests" may be used for publication, promotional purposes or in any advertising publicity. By my signature below, I affirm and attest that I have read the Rules and Regulations of the "contest" and agree to abide by the same.

Sign Legal Name

Date

Host Club – Rich’s Houston –

This year the host club for the Mr. Gay USofA at Large and Mr. Gay USofA is Rich’s in Houston, Texas. Rich’s is an 18 and over club. You **MUST PRESENT** valid identification to enter the club. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!**



Rich’s is located at 2401 San Jacinto, Houston, TX. The phone number of Rich’s is 281-846-9985.

There is limited street parking close to Rich’s. PAID PARKING lots are across the street from the club or a block to the north of the club.

Club Wear/Fashion Competition –

Club Wear is only featured in the Mr. Gay USofA and Mr. Gay USofA at Large Contests. In Club Wear, contestants should dress as they would for an exciting night out on the town. You should wear clothing that you would expect to see in a large club in one of the major cities in the USofA.

Your Club Wear choice should match your personality, looks and lifestyle. Club Wear should NOT be a costume for stage, but rather what you would wear into the club. Club Wear should be fun and sexy. Club Wear is in between formal clothing and ultra-casual looks. A casual chic look that is both laid back and yet dressed up is appropriate for this category. Contemporary looks are perfect, but a classic cool look (like a crisp white shirt and boot cut dark denim) fit in just as nicely. Wearing layers can also be used.

Club Wear includes a variety of items, including:

- Unique and classic dress shirts,
- Sexy and trendy tops,
- Fitted T-Shirts,
- Bright Colors,
- Embellished fabrics with stones or beads,
- Metallic or metallic accents,
- Out of the ordinary fabrics such as leather,
- Funky prints and patterns,
- Casual and skinny ties,
- Classic, skinny and trendy jeans,
- Vests, blazers or casual jackets.

Some suggestions:

- Do wear something that makes you feel confident.
- Do choose bright or bold colors that enhance your skin and hair colors.
- Do make sure your shoes match the level of formality of your outfit.
- Don't dress too sexy.
- Don't try out all the trends in one night.
- Don't wear sweats.
- Don't wear rude or offensive t-shirts.

Remember, this is "pageantry" although outfits that are costumes will not score well.

Personal Interview Competition –

Each contestant will be interviewed individually by the judging panel. The purpose of the Personal Interview in the USofA system is to allow the judges some insight into the character of each contestant. During the interview, the judges are also afforded the opportunity to evaluate each contestant's basic qualities, such as intelligence, ability to communicate, attitude, composure, etc. The judges may also gather information about a contestant's professional or personal life.

The basic nature of the interview is intended to be casual and relaxed. The suggested attire for the interview is casual daywear and can range from casual daywear to professional corporate attire. Your interview will be held at the host hotel.

Talent Competition –

Any type of talent presentation will be allowed as long as it does not cause danger or injury to any contestant, dancer(s) or any audience member. You may not use fire, glitter, water or liquid of any kind including paint in any talent presentation. You may not use any live animals in any talent presentation. Talent presentations that contain racial slurs or excessively vulgar, obscene or insulting language should be avoided. The judges will consider the contents of talent presentations when scoring them.

Your talent presentation is limited to seven (7) minutes. Prop set up and take down time is limited to five (5) minutes. There is no restriction on the number of people you may have in your talent presentation.

Music for your talent presentation must be recorded on a CD-R, track one (1) and clearly marked with the contestant's name only! NO CASSETTE tapes will be accepted. You are welcome to use the video wall at the back of the stage. If you choose to use a video as or with your talent please place your talent video on a flash drive recorded as an MP4 only. **We will NOT accept talent music from iPhones, iPads or android phones.** Contestants are advised to make a back-up copy of their talent CD-R and flash drive and bring them to the contest as a safety precaution. All talent music/video will be turned in at talent rehearsal the day of your talent competition. You will not receive this copy back until after final night.

Your talent presentation should be recorded on track one (1) of your CD-R and your crown number should be recorded as track two (2). Commercial CD's or

CD-R's with additional tracks will not be accepted. If using a video for your talent make sure that video file is recorded as an MP4 and record your crown number on a CD-R.

We have allowed a limited time for each contestant's talent presentation rehearsal. This will allow time for sound checks, blocking and lighting cues. Please make sure you are prepared for your talent rehearsal as time is limited. Each contestant **MUST** attend the talent rehearsal for your group. Back up dancers will be assigned a separate dressing area. Make sure you tell the contestant coordinator at the contestant registration the exact number of dancers and prop personnel you will have. Props must be brought in at your group's talent rehearsal. You will not be allowed to bring props in at any other time. **ALL** props must be removed before final night rehearsal if your group is the last preliminary group to do talent.

If you feel you have made the top twelve (Mr. Gay USofA) and you will be changing your talent for final night, you must bring your talent CD-R or video flash drive and props to the final night talent rehearsal. That will be the only time you will be able to change your talent presentation. If you are using a video on final night make sure you bring a copy of your crown number on a CD-R to be turned in when you change your music at the final night rehearsal. If you feel you have made the top twelve you will only be allowed to bring your props in at the final night talent rehearsal and they must be removed following crowning that same night.

All competition will be held on the main stage of Rich's. The dimensions of the stage are 20' wide and 14' deep. There is no usable curtain and there is a very small space stage right or stage left so please prepare your talent accordingly. Please see the stage photo below as a guide.



Because of limited space at Rich's you are only allowed to store your props at the club the day of your talent. All props must be free standing. If you are using a backdrop (other than the video wall) it must be hung that day during your talent rehearsal AND it must be removed as soon as your talent presentation has ended. All props must be able to enter through a large overhead roll up doorway. Each contestant must secure his own storage of props at all other times. Remember that USofA Pageants does not provide contestants with backstage staff for prop set-up and tear down, although we will assist with your props as much as possible. The backstage staff will not, under any circumstance, be responsible for any damage to props while helping a contestant.

If you feel you have made the top twelve are you will be changing your talent for final night, you must bring your talent CD-R or MP4 video on a flash drive and any props to the final night talent rehearsal. That will be the only time you will be able to change your talent presentation. If you feel you have made the top twelve you will only be allowed to bring your props in at the opening night presentation rehearsal.

Meetings and Rehearsals –

Because of the logistics associated with organizing the Mr. Gay USofA at Large and Mr. Gay USofA Contests, all contestants are expected to arrive for all meetings and rehearsals approximately ten (10) minutes before their scheduled time. Contestants who arrive for a meeting or rehearsal after their scheduled time will be lose administrative points. The Mr. Gay USofA at Large contestant registration will be held on Monday, October 15, 2018 at the Host Hotel. At contestant registration, you will draw your contestant number and hold the opening presentation rehearsal.

Contestants for Mr. Gay USofA will have their contestant registration on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at the Host Hotel. At your contestant registration, you will draw your contestant number. You will be allowed a short time to change groups if you choose to. Preliminary competition will be done in 4 groups for the Mr. Gay USofA Contest.

PLEASE NOTE -- No extra helpers will be allowed in the dressing area. If you have more than one assistant, only **one** may enter at a time.

General Information –

It is very important to remember to bring plenty of towels from home to remove your make-up. Any contestant that uses the hotel towels to remove make-up will be fined \$10.00 **per towel** and lose 5 administrative points **per towel**, so bring your own. Remember to bring this handbook with you to the contest. It has all of the information that you will need. I would like to mention a point I want every contestant to take to heart. We all gather once a year to select a new Mr. Gay USofA at Large and Mr. Gay USofA. The staff and I want your week to be a pleasant experience. I would like to state that no damage to the Host Bar or Host Hotel will be tolerated. I want everyone to understand that I will help the Host Bar and the Host Hotel prosecute any person or persons causing damage to either place. Let's have a good, safe time! Each contestant is responsible for ensuring that each person in his party has proper identification. Rich's is an 18 and over club. **Everyone must have a valid ID for entrance into Rich's.** Please

do not ask for special help. Each bar owner is responsible to his state liquor board to follow the law, which includes each person having the proper identification. **You must have a valid ID for entry to the club.**

Presentation of Contestants –

All contestants are required to appear on stage for the Presentation of Contestants. The Presentation of Contestants is not a scored category of competition.

Contestants for Mr. Gay USofA at Large will be presented on **Tuesday, October 16, 2018**. The theme for Mr. Gay USofA at Large is **“Hunger Games”**. Ade is asking the contestants to be “Tributes” from different “Districts”. He will assign themes to each “District”. Formers are the “Victors” and are to dress in Royal Couture.

Contestants for Mr. Gay USofA will be presented on **Friday, October 19, 2018**. The theme for Mr. Gay USofA is **“Ready to Rumble”**. Dione is asking the contestants to wear boxing attire in Red, White OR Blue. Dione will assign which color you will wear according to your preliminary. Formers are asked to wear Evening Wear Couture to celebrate the 10th Year Anniversary.

Scoring –

For Mr. Gay USofA at Large & Mr. Gay USofA

Preliminary Competition –

Preliminary nights will be done on a cumulative scoring system. Each judge will give each contestant a score based on his performance in the category without regard to the other contestants. With this scoring system, more than one contestant may be given the same score. Scores are assigned as follows:

Personal Interview	1 to 12 points
Club Wear	1 to 12 points
Talent	2 to 24 points

Maximum possible points	48 points

Total X 5 judges (high and low dropped)	240 points

For Mr. Gay USofA at Large and for Mr. Gay USofA there will be seven Judges and the high and the low scores will be dropped. The Twelve Contestants with the highest scores will become the finalists.

Final Competition –

The twelve (12) contestants with the highest cumulative score from preliminary competition will be scored comparatively for their final night scores as follows:

Personal Interview	1 to 12 points (<i>carried over prelim score</i>)
Club Wear/Fashion	1 to 12 points
Talent	2 to 24 points

Maximum possible points	48 points

Total X 5 judges (high and low dropped)	240 points

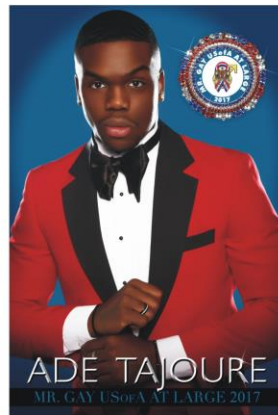
The preliminary score sheets and judges comment sheets will be available to contestants following the announcement of the winners. The finalists will receive their judges comment sheets and a copy of the master score sheet after the announcement of the winners. The top 3 will receive their prize money at a location to be announced

Additional Information –

To obtain additional information regarding the Mr. Gay USofA at Large Contest or the Mr. USofA Contest please contact Craig Henderson at chenderson@usofa.org or by calling 713-213-7350

www.mrgayusofaatlarge.com

www.mrgayusofa.com



Schedule of Events –

Monday – October 15, 2018 – MR. GAY USofA AT LARGE

11:00 am	Contestant Registration	Hampton Inn
1:00 pm	Interview	Hampton Inn
2:00 pm	Talent Rehearsal	Rich's
9:00 pm	Doors Open	Rich's
9:00 pm	All Contestant Check In	Rich's
10:00 pm	Contest Begins	

Tuesday – October 16, 2018 - MR. GAY USofA AT LARGE

12:00 noon	Luncheon	Rich's
	<i>Contestants, Promoters, Judges, Staff, Entertainers & VIP Guests ONLY</i>	
1:00 pm	Opening Presentation Rehearsal	
	<i>Contestants & Titleholders</i>	Rich's
8:00 pm	Doors Open	Rich's
8:00 pm	All Contestant Check In	Rich's
9:00 pm	Contest Begins	

Wednesday – October 17, 2018 – MR. GAY USofA

12:00 noon	Contestant Registration	Hampton Inn
2:00 pm	Talent Rehearsal Groups 3 & 4	Rich's
2:00 pm	Interview Groups 1 & 2	Hampton Inn
9:00 pm	Doors Open	Rich's
9:00 pm	Contestant Check In	Rich's
	Groups 1 & 2	
10:00 pm	Club Wear Competition	
10:00 pm	Contestant Check In	Rich's
	Groups 3 & 4	
10:30 pm	Talent Competition Groups 3 & 4	

Thursday – October 18, 2018 – MR. GAY USofA

2:00 pm	Talent Rehearsal Groups 1 & 2	Rich's
2:00 pm	Interview Groups 3 & 4	Hampton Inn
9:00 pm	Doors Open	Rich's
9:00 pm	Contestant Check In	Rich's
	Groups 3 & 4	
10:00 pm	Club Wear Competition	
10:00 pm	Contestant Check In	Rich's
	Groups 1 & 2	
10:30 pm	Talent Competition Groups 1 & 2	

Friday – October 19, 2018 – MR. GAY USofA FINAL NIGHT

12:00 noon	Luncheon <i>Contestants, Promoters, Judges, Staff, Entertainers & VIP Guests ONLY</i>	Rich's
12:45 pm	Opening Presentation Rehearsal <i>Contestants & Title Holders</i>	Rich's
2:00 pm	Promoters Meeting	Rich's
8:00 pm	Doors Open	Rich's
8:00 pm	All Contestants Check In	Rich's
9:00 pm	Final night begins	Rich's

Remember to bring this handbook with you to the contest.

