



Black Trans International Pageantry System
CONTESTANT INFORMATION PACKAGE
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Black Trans International Pageantry System

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Dear Contestant	2
Our History & Mission	3
Honoring the Reigning Royal Court	3
2026 Pageant Overview	4
Titleholder History.....	4
Pageant Admission	4
National Division Awards & Prizes	5
Contestant Eligibility	6
Contestant Acceptance Process	7
Competition Categories	9
Dressing Room Policy	11
National Title & Reign Expectations	12
Social Media & Public Conduct.....	13
Program Contact & Communications	13
Reign Schedule (2026–2027)	14
Productivity & Milestones	14
Contestant Code of Conduct.....	15
Agreement and Release.....	16

Black Trans International Pageantry System

Dear Contestant:

Thank you for your interest in the Black Trans International Pageantry System (BTIPS), the Standard of Excellence in Black transgender pageantry, known for elegance, philanthropy, and community service.

This packet contains the information you will need to register and prepare for the **Black Trans International Pageantry Competition taking place on Thursday, April 23, 2026**, during the 13th Annual National Black Trans Advocacy Conference & Awards Gala (BTAC26), scheduled April 23 & 23, 2026, located at the Astor Crowne Plaza New Orleans French Quarter, 739 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA, USA, 70130

The information enclosed in this package includes the following:

- Overview of the Black Trans International Pageantry System (BTIPS)
- Important 2026 pageant dates, registration details, and location
- Competition categories, scoring percentages, and tie-breaker policy
- Presentation theme and color guidelines
- National prize package overview
- Recognition of the Reigning Royal Court
- Expectations for the National Title and Reign
- Reign schedule and required appearances (2026–2027)
- Conduct, attendance, and social media policies
- Dressing room and assistant policies
- Contestant agreement and acknowledgment requirements

The competition and official pageantry activities will be hosted at the *Astor Crowne Plaza New Orleans French Quarter Hotel, located at the corner of Canal Street and Bourbon Street in New Orleans, Louisiana.*

It is an honor to have your participation. If you have any questions regarding the pageant or this application process, please do not hesitate to contact us by email at pageantry@blacktrans.org

We wish you the best of luck!

Black Trans International Pageantry System,

Taliyah Cassadine, *2016 Miss Black Trans International*
Pageant Coordinator

Black Trans International Pageantry System

Our History & Mission

Founded in 2012, the Black Trans International Pageantry System (BTIPS) is the only pageantry system of its kind crafted by and for the Black transgender community. BTIPS affirms identity, advances health and wellness advocacy, and elevates leadership through the art of pageantry.

BTIPS is a sponsored program of the Black Trans Advocacy Coalition, a national nonprofit recognized under IRS 501(c)(3).

Honoring the Reigning Royal Court

The Black Trans International Pageantry System proudly honors our reigning national titleholders:

Love Latonia, Miss Black Trans International
San Juan Ova, Mr. Black Trans International
Indie Johnson, Mx. Black Trans International

Their reign reflects the pillars of Elegance, Philanthropy, and Community Service.

Black Trans International Pageantry System

2026 Pageant Overview

Pageant Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026

Registration & Interviews: Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at 4:00 PM

Location: Astor Crowne Plaza New Orleans French Quarter Hotel
New Orleans, Louisiana

Now in our 11th year of pageantry, the BTIPS pageant program is our largest trans health fundraiser directly benefiting the black transgender community. It is now your turn to join Black Trans Royalty!

On Wednesday, April 23 at 4 PM contestants from around the world will meet up in beautiful New Orleans, Louisiana to compete in the only black trans-affirming pageant competition of its kind. Are you next to hold the title?

Mr, Miss & Mx Black Trans International Title Holders

2013 Lisa Davenport & Dairius Fairchild

2014 Armani Davenport & Myles Davis

2015 Syria Synclaire & Avante D Sherrington

2016 Taliyah Cassadine & Dane Ray

2017 Tiffany Starr & Trenton Johnson

2018 Malaysia Black & Sybastian Kennedy Armani Sr

2019 Angel Iman & Mufasa Prominencia

2020-2022 Miss COVID

2023 Cortez, India Sherry & Trinitee Wilson

2024 Mercedes L'Oreal & Jordan Alexander

2025 Love Latonia, San Juan Ova and Indie Johnson

2026 (Are you next? Add Your Name Here)

Pageant Admission

General Admission Ticket: \$15

Pageant Promoters:

Complimentary Tickets each with national walk participation or with advance RSVP. (4 Max).

Pageant Contestants: Contestant & 1 Dresser/Backstage Assistant:

(1) Complimentary Tickets each with advance RSVP.

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National Division Awards & Prizes

The Black Trans International Pageantry Prize Package, Valued at Over \$12,000, Includes:

- The Official Black Trans Int Pageantry System National Crown
- The Official Black Trans Int Pageantry System National Sash
- National Media Recognition
- Court Photoshoot Friday, April 25. (Colors are Black & White)
- Full Page ad in BTAC 2026 National Conference Souvenir Journal
- Paid BTAC 2026 5-Night Hotel (Monday- Saturday)
- Paid BTAC 2026 Conference Registration for you plus one discount registration for your guest
- Paid Lodging & Flight travel accommodations for scheduled appearances

Winning Cash Prize:

\$1,500 Cash Prize Award – Increased to \$3,000 when a division reaches (3) or more contestants, paid at **contract signing Friday, April 24.**

Reign & Step-Down Incentives

Awards are based on a successful reign and the fulfillment of the BTIPS contract pillars—Elegance, Philanthropy, and Community Service —celebrating dedication and impact.

Semi-Annual Productivity Incentive: \$750 awarded twice per year, in September & March.

Step-Down Prize: \$500 awarded in April to honor a successful reign.

Runner-Up:

- Entry Fee Waived to compete in next year's pageant, submitted by April 1

Black Trans International Pageantry System

Contestant Eligibility

BTIPS is a transgender-centered pageantry system.

Individuals who identify as cisgender, regardless of gender expression or nonconformity, are not eligible to compete in any BTIPS division.

General Qualifications

- Identify as African American and Transgender.
- 21 years or older at the time of competition entry.
- Be of good moral character and background.
- Be in good emotional & physical health and financially stable to fulfill all pageant duties.
- Demonstrate overall leadership qualities
- Have a valid government or state-issued ID

Mr. Black Trans International

Open to Black individuals, age 21 and older, **who identify as transgender men**, and who are committed to leadership, visibility, and service within the Black transgender community.

Miss Black Trans International

Open to Black individuals, age 21 and older, **who identify as transgender women**, and who are committed to leadership, visibility, and service within the Black transgender community.

Mx. Black Trans International

Open to Black individuals, age 21 and older, **who identify as transgender (nonbinary or gender non-conforming) and whose lived gender experience includes transness**. This includes individuals whose identity exists outside binary expectations but is rooted in a trans lived experience.

Contestants must be prepared to represent and advocate for the Black transgender community at a national level.

Black Trans International Pageantry System

Contestant Acceptance Process

Are You Ready to Join Black Trans International Royalty?

If you have the confidence to take—and hold—the title, applying is as easy as 1-2-3. To be considered complete, candidates must submit all required materials.

Step One:	Read and become familiar with the BTIPS mission statement, eligibility requirements, and judging criteria.
Step Two:	Submit your online contestant application and entry fee.
Step Three:	Submit your talent music and participate in registration

Application Acceptance

All **Pageant Applications, Entry Fees, and Talent Music** must be submitted **no later than 3:45 PM CST on Wednesday, April 23, 2026**. Submission of all required materials by this deadline is **mandatory** to compete.

Pageant Application

All contestants must submit a completed online application along with the appropriate entry fee. To apply, visit: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/btacconferenceevents/event/btac26-pageant>

Pageant Entry Fee

The National Division Pageant entry fee is \$250. Discounted rates are available for contestants who submit their application and pay online.

- Early Online Entry (by April 1): \$150
- Online Entry (after April 1): \$200
- Walk-Up Entry (April 22): \$250 (cash) or \$200 (online)

All Fees are Non-Refundable. No checks accepted.

Black Trans International Pageantry System

Contestant Acceptance Process

Contestant Number

Each Contestant is assigned a contestant number **based on the date and time the online application is received**. This will be the order that each contestant will be in for each category of the contest.

Registration & Interview

Black Trans International Pageant Registration is **Wednesday, April 22nd 4:00 pm**. All contestants must attend registration on time and in business attire. Arriving late or out of proper attire is subject to (-1) point deduction each in scoring penalization.

Pageant Music Guidelines

Showcase your talent with confidence, creativity, and class. All music selections must be suitable for a family-friendly audience—no excessive profanity or explicit language will be permitted during the pageant.

Music Submission Requirements

- Contestants must upload their music in advance, fully formatted and ready for use **no later than 3:45 April 22**.
- No thumb drives, CDs, or YouTube links will be accepted
- Music must be submitted through the official upload link below:
- Upload your music here: <https://driveuploader.com/upload/Zq7Ca7dra4/>

Proper submission ensures a smooth, professional pageant experience for everyone—no exceptions.

Contestant Accommodations

Contestants are responsible for scheduling and payment of their accommodations to participate in the BTIPS pageant including airfare, hotel, tickets, and conference registration.

Black Trans International Pageantry System

Category Descriptions

Each contestant competing for a national title will be evaluated based on alignment with the BTIPS mission across the following categories:

35% Personal Interview: A personal interview is required for all BTIPS candidates. The personal interview provides an opportunity to further discuss the mutual opportunities with BTIPS Royalty. Contestants will be individually interviewed by a panel of judges. This panel interview also evaluates your ability to embody the mission of BTIPS and the three pillars of elegance, philanthropy, and community service. Each contestant will be credited for **Attire, Personal Grooming, Communications Skill, and Overall Interview**.

15% Presentation: It's time to take the stage and make a statement. Contestants will present a three-minute or less themed presentation showcasing creativity, confidence, and stage presence. As part of the Black Trans International Pageant Royalty, you're more than a contender—you're an icon, an inspiration, a whole vibe! Each contestant will be credited for **Theme Wear, Personal Grooming, and Overall Stage Presence**.

Presentation Theme & Colors

Theme: Gods & Goddesses: Good vs. Evil

Colors: Orange, Blue, White, or any combination thereof

15% Talent: As part of the duties of the Black Trans International Pageant Royalty, you may be asked to entertain to promote the pageantry system. Each Contestant will display entertainment ability through Lip-Sync, Live Vocal, and/or Other Entertainment. (5 minutes with 3-minute setup/knockdown time) and will be credited for **Talent Wear, Performance (No Excessive Profanity), and Over-All Talent Presentation**.

15% Evening Gown/ Formal Wear: Time to serve sophistication, style, and grace! Contestants will showcase their finest **formal wear**, bringing regal energy to the stage with confidence and presence. Whether it's a gown, tux, or combination of the two that best represents your royalty, this is your moment to shine.

Each contestant will present their finest **formal attire**—whether a gown, suit, or other ensemble that embodies elegance and confidence. Points will be awarded for **Formal Wear Selection, Personal Grooming, and Overall Appearance**.

- Mr. Contestants: Suit & tie or tuxedo
- Miss Contestants: Floor-length evening gown (ankle-length or longer)
- Mx. Contestants: Any variation of formal attire aligned with personal expression

Black Trans International Pageantry System

Category Descriptions

20% Onstage Q/A: As part of the duties of the Black Trans International Pageant Royalty, you will be asked to appear at public speaking engagements &/or respond to media interviews. Each contestant will be asked short impactful questions to assess their public speaking skill set and will be credited for **Answer Presentation, Communications Skill, and Answer Content**.

- This category will be directly after formal wear, so you are to stay in your formal attire for this category.
- For divisions with **five or fewer contestants**, a Panel Q&A will be conducted to assess poise, confidence, and the ability to think on your feet. This is your chance to showcase wisdom, authenticity, and grace under pressure.

Category Deductions: Contestants must be prepared to start ALL CATEGORIES when called. (5) admin points deducted after 30 seconds. After 1 minute you will be skipped and receive a Zero for that category. We will not return to you.

Tie-Breaker Policy

In the event of a tie, the highest Interview score will determine placement. If Interview scores are tied, the tie will be broken in the following order:

1. Onstage Question & Answer
2. Formal Wear
3. Talent
4. Presentation

Black Trans International Pageantry System

Dressing Room Policy

All contestants, assistants, promoters, and affiliated personnel must adhere to the following dressing room policies. **Violations will result in administrative point deductions.** Contestants are fully responsible for the actions and conduct of their assistants and supporters.

1. Only **one (1) assistant per contestant** is permitted in the dressing room at any time unless otherwise approved by the promoter.
 - a. One **complimentary Dresser/Assistant pass** is provided per contestant and grants access to all nights of national competition.
 - b. Additional assistants must purchase a pass for **\$25 per person**.
2. Each contestant will receive **one (1) complimentary ticket** to admit one guest to the pageant.
3. Lost passes may be reissued for **\$15**. Until a replacement pass is obtained, assistants will not be permitted in dressing room areas.
 - a. **Revocation of all dressing room privileges** will occur if assistants are found using more than one pass.
4. Individuals without valid passes will be **removed from the contest venue** if they attempt to enter dressing room areas.
5. Media personnel must possess valid passes but **are not permitted in dressing room areas**.
 - a. Contestants are not required to participate in media interviews or photos but are encouraged to do so if comfortable.
 - b. All media interactions must occur **outside dressing room areas**.
6. Special entertainers will be assigned separate dressing areas when applicable and are not permitted in contestant dressing rooms.
 - a. BTIPS alumni and formers may briefly check in on contestants but must **respect privacy at all times**.
 - b. Any concerns regarding privacy violations should be reported immediately to the Pageant Coordinator for prompt resolution.

Black Trans International Pageantry System

National Title & Reign Expectations

Black Trans International Pageantry Titleholders serve as ambassadors of Black trans excellence and are expected to uphold the BTIPS pillars of Elegance, Philanthropy, and Community Service.

ELEGANCE

National titleholders are viewed as a role model and inspiration to others

- Black Trans Royalty serves with purpose and professionalism.
- Black Trans Royalty exemplifies excellence.
- Black Trans Succession goal of a minimum of **(3) contestants**.

PHILANTHROPY

National titleholders will each fundraiser **\$1500 in community individual donations and corporate sponsorship** for trans advocacy grants to support trans health & wellness through:

- BTAC/BTIPS Advocacy Service Project General Support Donation/Sponsorship
- BTAC/BTIPS Conference Ad Space Sales
- BTIPS Pageant Ticket Sales

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

National titleholders give back through a **Goodwill Ambassador Goal of 500+ hours**, including:

- **Positive Black Trans Awareness** – Engaging with the Black Trans community within pageants, pride, and ball/house events.
- **Black Trans Advocacy Service** – Connecting the Black Trans community with your trans advocacy service project.
- **Black Trans Outreach** – Connecting the Black Trans community to BTAC partner resources.
- **Public Speaking & Education** – Raising awareness on Black trans issues with media, workshops, summits, and panel discussions **in-person and virtually**.

Attendance Requirements

Failure to attend the BTIPS step-down pageant will result in forfeiture of final incentives and ineligibility for future BTIPS participation.

Competing During Your Reign

Representatives may not compete in another pageant during the first six months of their reign, except for Pride or Community Bar Pageants with prior approval.

Black Trans International Pageantry System

Social Media & Public Conduct

- Members of the BTIPS Court agree to refrain from expressing profanity, malice, or behavior unbecoming of national titleholders throughout their reign.
- The BTIPS Court must maintain at least one active public social media profile (Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok) to allow potential contestants, supporters, and partners to connect with the reigning representative.
- If a personal account is kept private, a public figure page must be created and maintained.
- Social media activity must include content highlighting one's role as a reigning national titleholder.
- The BTIPS Court must wear their official sash (at minimum) for all scheduled interviews, television appearances, published photos, promotional materials, or modeling advertisements during their reign.

Contact & Communication Needs

Hours of Operation

BTIPS is open for information and services during the hours of 12 PM – 6 PM CST Tues - Thursday and may be reached also at our toll-free number 888-229-6710.

Meetings:

Each member of the BTIPS royal court is required to attend staff orientation, systems training, and monthly pageant meetings available online. Meetings are generally scheduled on Tuesday at 6 PM CST.

- The reigning BTIPS Court must maintain:
 - o An active telephone number
 - o A regularly monitored email account
 - o An active **Bitrix Mobile account**
 - o An up-to-date mailing address
- BTIPS will provide login credentials for the official **Bitrix account**, which must be checked regularly to remain current on organizational communications.
- Members of the BTIPS Court are expected to **engage with interested parties and qualified contestants (when applicable)** to provide guidance, maintain relationships, and support preparedness for national competition.

Black Trans International Pageantry System

National Reign Schedule

Reign Schedule (2026–2027)

April 2026

- April 23, 2026 – Reign begins at crowning
- April 24, 2026 – Court meeting, prize distribution, Awards Gala appearance
 - o Pageant meeting and monetary prize package provided
 - o New court promo photos
 - o First Appearance - Award Gala Performance with Crown & Sash
- April 25, 2026 – Family Day participation
 - o Family Day participation and group photo with Sash

May 2026–March 2027

- Monthly pageant meeting participation
- National Advocacy (Dallas Black Pride, USCHA 2026 (Anaheim, CA), NTVM 2026 (Puerto Rico), and Creating Change 2027 (Louisville, KY))
- Media advocacy via Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok Live
- Awareness and promotional photos (holidays, empowerment campaigns, fundraising initiatives)
- Partner pageant and community event participation

April 2027

- Required five-day participation in the 14th Annual National Black Trans Advocacy Conference & Awards Gala (BTAC27)

Productivity & Milestones

30-Day of Win Deadline

- Service Project must be published within 30 days
- The fundraising project must be published within 30 days of win
- All funds are to be received online

4-Months after Win Deadline

- 50% of the Fundraising Goal due September 1 (May-September)
- Recruitment for give-up contestants
- Semi-Annual Productivity Incentive: \$750 awarded September

6-Months after Win Deadline

- 100% of the Fundraising Goal is due by March 31, 2026. (October-March)
- (3 for each division but no less than 2) due by April 1, 2026
- Semi-Annual Productivity Incentive: \$750 awarded March.

Black Trans International Pageantry System

Code of Contact Summary

All contestants are expected to uphold the values of respect, integrity, and sportsmanship throughout the Black Trans International Pageant.

By submitting an application, I agree to:

- Conduct myself respectfully toward judges, staff, volunteers, and fellow contestants at all times
- Accept all judging decisions as final
- Follow the stated scorecard release process
- Understand that all entry fees are non-refundable
- Refrain from harassment, threats, intimidation, or defamatory behavior in person or online

I understand that unsportsmanlike conduct or public disparagement of the pageant, conference, judges, or organizers may result in disqualification, loss of placement or title (if applicable), and ineligibility for future events.

Black Trans International Pageantry System

Agreement and Release

I, _____, hereby agree to the rules and regulations of the Black Trans International Pageantry System (BTIPS) pageant by signing my signature below. I agree to release and hold harmless BTIPS, hosts, agents and employees, from any liabilities and/or responsibilities whatsoever resulting from, associated with or arising out of my participation in the BTIPS pageant or the title I am applying, not limited to personal injury, or loss or damage to my personal property, regardless of whether the loss or injury occurs before, during or after the pageant or any other related activities. Any damage that you cause to your personal dressing space or room is also your responsibility.

I also hereby release myself from rights to any videotaping (sound and/or video), photography, recording, still camera or motion pictures of the pageant. I agree that my name or any photographs taken of me during the pageant may be used for publication for promotional purposes or in advertising publicity.

By signing below, I affirm and attest that I have read and agree to the above terms of this application. I understand that this application is held in the strictest of confidence, to be utilized and analyzed only by Black Trans International Pageantry System, and will not be sold, suggested or transferred to third parties, unless otherwise notified.

Print Legal Name

Date

Signature