



NEPA *PrideFest*
ROYALE
PAGEANT
2024

CONTESTANT
PACKET

SAT. JUNE 22, 2024 • 6-9PM

HILTON SCRANTON & CONFERENCE CENTER
INTERVIEW CATEGORY AT 12PM

NEPA *PrideFest* ROYALE-TY

Estella Sweet	Ms. NEPA PrideFest	2013, 18
Naomi Dettmore	Ms. NEPA PrideFest	2014
Andrew Oddgenus	Mr. NEPA PrideFest	2015
Nevaeh DeDa	Ms. NEPA PrideFest	2015
Justin Saine	Mr. NEPA PrideFest	2016
Mitzi Fauntayne	Ms. NEPA PrideFest	2016
Sheree Imani	Ms. NEPA PrideFest	2017
Buster Highman	Mr. NEPA PrideFest	2017
Vivtor Ian Love	Mr. NEPA PrideFest	2018
Justice	Mr. NEPA PrideFest	2019, 20
Trixy Valentine	Ms. NEPA PrideFest	2019, 20
Xander Valentine	Mr. NEPA PrideFest	2021
Suga Avery Bottoms	Ms. NEPA PrideFest	2021
Eileen O'Brennan	NEPA PrideFest Royale	2022

Agenda

Saturday, June 22nd, 2024

Location: Hilton Hotel Scranton

Address: 100 Adams Ave, Scranton, PA 18503

Parking: Parking Garage Across the Hotel (Parking tickets can be validated)

Interview Category: 12:00 PM

Call Time: 11:30 AM

Picking Contestant Numbers

Pageant starts at 6:00 PM

Call Time: 4:30 PM

Categories

Pride Attire

Talent

On-Stage Q&A (Top 5 Only)

Winner

Announced the Night of the Pageant

Applications

Due: Saturday, May 25th, 2024, at 11:59 PM EST

Music

Due: June 8th, 2024, at 11:59 PM EST

Contact

Eileen O'Brennan

Show Director

info@rainbowalliance.org

Eileen O'Brennan



Hello contestants,

I would like to thank you for taking the first step in becoming the next NEPA Pridefest Royale. In today's climate, it is very important that whoever wins the title takes it very seriously and shows the true professionalism we need at this time. Each and every one of you are showing courage by competing. LGBTQIA+ individuals are under attack and we all need to band together to show that we are resilient and, as a community, can overcome anything.

As I reflect on my year, I have had hurdles to overcome and have done so with a sharp mind and mindful mouth. Things around the world are ever-changing in the post covid world and new legislation around the country. Remember, if you win, you are in the world spotlight with everything you do. And if you don't win, please support the winner, as you are still in the NEPA Pridefest Royale family.

If, as you are preparing your package for the evening, have any questions please feel free to reach out to me on Facebook. I will be there for every contestant to help as I can. If I can't help you personally, I will get you in contact with someone that can.

In closing, I cannot wait to see what each of you presents in late June. And remember to live your life, LOUD and PROUD.

Much love,

Eileen O'Brennan
Forever NEPA Pridefest Royale 2022

Introduction to NEPA PrideFest Pageant

Hello contestant! Welcome to the NEPA PrideFest Royale Pageant. We are happy and honored by your interest to compete in this year's competition. The NEPA PrideFest Pageant is a local drag pageant hosted by the Rainbow Alliance concurrently with the annual NEPA PrideFest celebration. The pageant is a competition where individuals compete in a regional Pride event in order to earn the title of NEPA PrideFest Royale to show they have the excellence to be the face of Pride in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Drag performers have been a symbol of awareness, advocacy, and resilience within the LGBTQ+ community throughout history. We proudly host this pageant to celebrate all of the past performers who have used their art and voice to make a difference, and provide this platform to amplify the voices of current and next-generation performers to do the same.

This document constitutes a valid and legally binding contract between the applicants and potential participants (“you” or “contestant(s)” or “performer(s)”) of the NEPA PrideFest Royale Pageant (“Pageant” or “Competition”) and NEPA Rainbow Alliance Inc., a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation (the “Rainbow Alliance”) regarding the terms relating to a contestant’s participation in the Pageant and to reflect applicant’s understanding of the following information. This applicant acknowledges that they have paid the non-refundable application fee, which shall constitute a donation to the Rainbow Alliance which will be used towards, among other things, the cost of operating the Pageant. By submitting your completed application packet, you are committing to compete in this year’s NEPA PrideFest Royale Pageant. Further, you acknowledge and understand that submission of this application does not guarantee participation in the competition.

Please carefully read this packet in its entirety and follow the instructions. Any details are subject to change at the discretion of the Rainbow Alliance at any time.

1. All applications must be submitted on or before Saturday, May 24th, 2024, at 11:59 PM EST unless otherwise approved in advance by the Rainbow Alliance.
2. This application must be completed in its entirety and submitted to the Rainbow Alliance via email at info@rainbowalliance.org. It can only be submitted as a PDF. Responses should be typed. **Please note, the signature on the “Contestant Attestation” (found near the end of this packet) does not need to be added electronically as it requires a witness, and will be collected the day of the pageant at the registration table. All other sections may be signed electronically. Please provide your consent at the end of this section for your electronic signature to be accepted and considered valid. No application will be accepted if handwritten or received in any form other than PDF by email.**
3. The contestants will receive a confirmation of receipt by email to advise that the application has been received and that it is approved. Please only inquire whether or not the application has been received. A member of the Rainbow Alliance will contact you to let you know that your application has been successfully received. We strongly encourage each participant to retain a copy of their "sent receipt," an option you can enable when you submit your application via email.

4. No changes in the contestant’s application are allowed once the application has been submitted and you have received your confirmation that the application has been approved. Once the application is submitted, processed, and approved by a member of the Rainbow Alliance, the contestant will be notified that they have a spot to compete in this year's competition.

5. If a contestant wishes to withdraw from participation in the Pageant, they may do so upon notice to any Rainbow Alliance Board member at any time. In the event of such withdrawal, the contestant must email the Rainbow Alliance at least 72 hours before the competition’s set start time. **If a contestant withdraws from the Pageant less than 72 hours before the Pageant start time (except for an emergency-related reasoning), they will not be eligible to compete in the following year's pageant.**

6. Questions related to the application or any information contained herein should be promptly communicated to the Rainbow Alliance at: info@rainbowalliance.org

7. Music and other digital media for the talent portion of the competition should be appropriately labeled and submitted to the Rainbow Alliance no later than June 8th, 2024, at 11:59 PM EST. Information for submission will be included with the approval of your participation in this year’s pageant. Please also bring a copy of all talent music on a USB drive labeled with your stage name. All music and digital media must be appropriately labeled as: Contestant Name (Year of pageant) TalentMusic.mp3.

Please Note: This competition, as well as PrideFest as a whole, is a family-friendly, all-ages event. Therefore, appropriate choices regarding music and outfits must be expressed at all times. Music selections should be “radio edits” and be censored of any obscenities, and outfit choices should be acceptable to be seen by audience members of all ages (i.e. no exposed breasts, buttocks, or genitals). Failure to uphold these guidelines will result in immediate disqualification from the competition. If you have any questions regarding these guidelines, please contact the Rainbow Alliance at info@rainbowalliance.org.

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CONSENT

I, , agree and understand that by signing below, that all electronic signatures are the legal equivalent of my manual/handwritten signature and I consent to be legally bound to this agreement. I further agree my signature on this document is as valid as if I signed the document in writing. This is to be used in conjunction with the use of electronic signatures on all forms regarding any and all future documentation with a signature requirement, should I elect to have signed electronically. Under penalty of perjury, I herewith affirm that my electronic signature, and all future electronic signatures, were signed by myself with full knowledge and consent and am legally bound to these terms and conditions.

Contestant Signature

Date

The Competition

The competition will consist of one group of contestants who will compete for the title of **NEPA PrideFest Royale**. Each contestant must compete in all four of the following categories in order to be eligible to win the competition and be crowned as NEPA PrideFest Royale. The scoring sheets to be used for each category can be found at the end of this packet. A detailed description of each category can be found in the following sections.

Category #1: Interview

The purpose of the Interview is to place the contestant in a situation answering different types of questions and judging how well they do at representing themselves and responses. The context of the answer is important but more important is how a contestant communicates. Be sure to have eye contact with all the judges, not just the judge who has asked the question, you are speaking to everyone. The contestant is judged on the presentation of thoughts and delivery. The contestant should look comfortable in properly fitted attire, that represents if you were to be interviewed for a job position.

The contestant will be trying to impress and appeal to different types of judges. The interview category should last no longer than eight minutes. Contestants are encouraged to complete the Interview in an open and honest manner that portrays who they are as a person. This is a time to show the judges who you are out of drag, explaining your platform, passion, and experience.

Judging Criteria

This portion of the pageant will be judged with a scoring system of 1-10 out of the following subcategories. With the highest score being a 40.

- o Appearance (1-10): This subcategory is based on appearance. Points can be deducted for a poor appearance, clothes not fitted, tear, stain etc. The contestant is judged on the look that the contestant has chosen for themselves.
- o Communication (1-10): This subcategory is based on communication and delivery of answer. (Ex. Did you answer the question, was the answer too short or too long, did you provide context clearly to what you explained?)
- o Personality (1-10): This subcategory is based on how well presented yourself and your personality. (Ex. Did you appear nervous, or calm? Were you assured of your answer, and yourself? Did the judges learn more about who you are with your answers, or is there still uncertainty?)
- o Presentation (1-10): This subcategory is based on how well you appeared when communicating. (Ex. Eye contact, hand placement, fidgeting, not sitting still due to being nervous. Shaking hands when you walk in the room. Body Language and Etiquette.) This is more about the contestant's nonverbal communication.

Category #2: Pride Attire Presentation

This category is to look your best. There are many different gender and sexual identities represented by corresponding Pride flags. This category is for you to create a tasteful and unique look that clearly shows your Pride. Contestants will be introduced and then model their Pride Attire outfit to the panel of judges. The outfit should be in the theme of showing off your Pride. Outfits should cover all genitalia, buttocks, and chest regions. If a person's outfit reveals a person's nipples, genitals, or buttocks, they will receive an automatic zero for this category. You will model for 30 seconds once your name is called. The time starts as soon as you step onto the stage. Once an outfit is modeled, you will be able to explain what it means to you and why.

The outfit must be worn so that the contestant is able to walk onto the stage comfortably without assistance from another person. Costumes may have lights or motorized parts but must be battery operated. **NO** power extension cords should be required to power costume components. **NO FIRE** or spark is allowed.

Judging Criteria

This portion of the pageant will be judged with a scoring system of 1-10 out of the following subcategories. With the highest score being a 30.

- o Uniqueness (1-10): This subcategory is based on the originality and creativity of your Pride-inspired look and how well it fits who you are. (Ex. Have we seen it before?)
- o Craftsmanship (1-10): This subcategory is based on how well the look is crafted. It does not have to be handmade but it should be unique to your drag (Ex. Does it have unintentional holes? Does it fit? Does it look presentable?)
- o Stage Presence (1-10): This subcategory is based on how well the look is modeled, including confidence. (Ex.. Did you capture the moment? Do you look nervous?)

Category #3: Talent

Each person must come up with a 3 to 5-minute performance. Five points will be deducted from the overall score from each judge if the performance is longer than 5 minutes or less than 3 minutes. If you need time to set up or clean up afterward, please prepare to do so in no more than 2 minutes before and after your performance. You will be deducted 5 points for each extra minute to set up and/or clean up.

The performance and music selection can be anything you want that is PG-13 and within the guidelines of this contract. There can be no full nudity, i.e. no exposure of genitals, buttocks, breasts, or nipples. Failure to comply with the performance guidelines will result in disqualification from the competition. The winners should be able to perform in front of children and families of all ages.

The contestants will be judged on their quality of lip-syncing, live vocals, or other entertainment. Originality in the talent portion is highly encouraged. For Lip-Syncing, judges will be looking to see if the contestant knows the words to their song and finishes each word. (Reminder, knowing the words is not enough. The contestant should also look as if they are actually singing the song and embodying the message.) Costuming and any accessory to the performance should reflect the mood one is trying to create. (Ex. If it is a live performance, is the talent of excellent quality? If there is choreography, the dancers should know the steps, and the steps should flow.) The contestant should not attempt to do something that is beyond their talent and ability. If dancers or actors are used in the presentation, they should not upstage the contestant. The contestant is responsible for the performance of others featured in their act. If a dance member does not know their dance, the contestant could be scored lower. If you have dancers, they may come back to get ready two performances prior to your number. (They should have been fully ready during the time before the competition started). ALL DANCERS MUST BE 18 or OVER and show proof of ID. They must be there prior to, or at, call time. Call time is one hour before the competition starts.

Contestants are responsible for their sets, props, or anything they may need to be taken on or off the performance stage. Always examine your presentation for entertainment value and ask, “Does it provoke sadness, humor, or stir some other emotion from my audience?”

Judging Criteria

This category will be judged from a score of 1-10 out of the following categories with the highest score being 40 points.

- o Choreography/Timing (1-10): This subcategory is based on physical coordination and stage presence (also relates to anyone else you’ve included in your performance on stage such as additional dancers) (Ex. Do your moves and actions correlate to the performance?)

- o Quality of performance (1-10): This subcategory is based on lip-sync, live vocal, stand up comedy, or other talents. (Ex. Did you make the best effort you could give? How well was the performance executed?)

- o Entertainment Value (1-10): This subcategory is based on how well the performance captures each audience member’s attention. (Ex. Was the performance engaging? Did you connect with your audience? Was it memorable?)

- o Originality/ Self-expression (1-10): This subcategory is based on how original the performance is as a whole. (Ex. Did you put your own take on the performance? Have we seen this before?)

Category #4: On-Stage Q&A

This category will be after talent and only for the top 5 contestants. The On-Stage Q&A category allows you to demonstrate your ability to communicate with an audience and answer a question

in a timely manner. Public speaking is a particularly important part of serving as the reigning NEPA PrideFest Royale while representing the Rainbow Alliance. You may receive interviews and public appearance requests to speak about Pride and important topics affecting the LGBTQIA+ community in Northeastern Pennsylvania. A judge will pull a question on stage that they will ask you.

Note: Questions asked will only be repeated once. You have 2 minutes to respond.

Judging Criteria

This category will be judged from a score of 1-10 out of the following categories, with the highest score being 30.

- Ability to Communicate (1-10): This subcategory will be based on clarity in the response (Ex. Did we understand the point you were trying to make? Was it concise? Was your answer longer than 2 minutes?)
 - **Note:** One (1) point will be deducted from each judge's final score in this category for each minute you exceed the 2-minute limit.
- Answer content (1-10): This subcategory is based on how well you answered the question asked. (Ex. Did you answer the question directly, or did you evade the question by responding on a different topic?)
- Presentation (1-10): This subcategory is based on how well you present yourself while responding (Ex. Did you make eye contact, maintain good volume, and articulate your words?)

Contestant Requirements

To compete for NEPA PrideFest Royale and be eligible for the title, you must meet all requirements listed below, and show proper identification for proof of legal age and residence. Proper identification can be either a PA State ID card, or PA Driver's License.

- Contestants must be 21 years or older on or before the date of the NEPA PrideFest Royale Competition that year.
- Contestants must currently reside in Pennsylvania.
- Contestants are not allowed to compete for a title if they have already won within the last 5 years. For example, if you won the title of NEPA PrideFest Royale (Formerly Ms./Mr./Mx. NEPA PrideFest), you are not eligible to compete for the NEPA PrideFest Royale title for five years after being crowned. After 5 years, a former NEPA PrideFest Royale may compete again for the title. The title may only be held by the same individual a total of two (2) times. No person may hold the title more than twice.

Rules and Regulations

These rules and regulations must be followed by all the contestants, handlers, judges, and all people involved with the pageant:

- Contestants must arrive no later than the call time (One hour and thirty minutes before the competition begins.). Failure to show up ready and on time will result in 5 points being deducted from your overall final score from each judge. (Space will be provided for contestants to get dressed and ready)
- Hate-bashing, harassment, bullying, and/or discrimination of any kind via social media, cyber, and/or in-person will not be tolerated. You will be disqualified and escorted out of the competition. You will not be allowed to watch.
- Tampering with another person's belongings is forbidden. If caught tampering, you will be disqualified, escorted out of the competition, and banned from competing in the NEPA PrideFest Royale competition for life.
- All illegal substances are prohibited from being used on the premises of where the event is located. If after due investigation the Rainbow Alliance determines that you are in possession of, or have used any illegal substances without proper authorization (e.g., a valid, legal prescription or a state-issued medical marijuana card), you will be escorted out and disqualified.
- No fluids, open flame (sparks are considered open flame), weapons, or live animals can be used during your talent performance, or while on or off stage at any time (service animals are allowed).
- Any large props must be cleared prior to 2 weeks before the show by the show director. If your prop is brought and not cleared, you will lose 15 points in your overall score from each judge and will be prohibited from using it.
- Each competitor is allowed to have only ONE DRESSER with them backstage before the show, and the dresser is only permitted in the "getting ready area" as early as two numbers before the competitor is about to go on. (Space is limited and could be subject to change). Please inform the registration of who your dresser is upon arrival.
- Only staff, contestants, and dressers will be allowed backstage (there will be additional help available for changing).
- If it is not your time to get ready, please no "hanging out" backstage as space is limited.

Failure to comply with these rules and regulations at any time will result in disqualification and a two (2) year ban from competing in the NEPA PrideFest Royale competition.

I, , understand the above requirements, rules, and regulations as written, and agree to abide by them for the duration of the competition.

Contestant Signature

Judge's Panel

During the competition, there will be a total of five judges. The judges are selected at least two weeks prior to the competition. The Rainbow Alliance and Show Director are responsible for identifying panelists to fill each of the five slots as described below. The current and reigning NEPA PrideFest Royale are under no obligation to judge. Winners are not allowed to judge the following year's competition. The responsibilities of the reigning NEPA PrideFest Royale include hosting the following year's pageant and to help boost the contestants' morale while competing. Anyone who is asked to judge will be required to fill out a judge's contract and application form which will be approved by the Rainbow Alliance.

The judge's panel will be made up of the following 5 members:

- One (1) Former NEPA PrideFest Winner
- One (1) Rainbow Alliance Member
- One (1) Rainbow Alliance Member
- One (1) Volunteer Judge from outside of the organization who resides in NEPA
- One (1) Judge who does not live within the NEPA area, and who has no conflict of interest with any of the contestants competing (i.e. a friend, Partner, family member, coworker, etc.).

The Winner

The winner will be determined by the highest combined total score across all categories.

In the event that a person is the only contestant competing for the NEPA PrideFest Royale title, they must receive an overall final score of 70% or higher to be eligible for the title. Failure to do so means this title will not be awarded that year. The only exception to this rule is if the Rainbow Alliance demands a popular vote, which requires 4 out of the 5 judges from that year's competition to vote "yes" to awarding the title to the contestant who competed alone.

The winner will be announced on the day of the PrideFest Royale Competition. The winner of the title of NEPA PrideFest Royale will be crowned, and must attend and participate in the PrideFest Parade in Wilkes-Barre as one of the Grand Marshals on Sunday, June 23, 2024.

In the Event of a Tie

In the event of a tie, the judges will take part in a blind vote of the remaining tied contestants and the winner will be the contestant with the majority of votes.

In the unlikely event that a majority vote can not be reached between the judges (only possible in a situation where there are three or more contestants tied for first place by their overall score), the winner will be determined by combining each of the contestants' individual scores from the Interview Category (based on each judge's score sheet), with the winner being the contestant

with the highest overall combined score. In the unlikely event that two or more of the originally tied-by-overall-score contestants also have the same combined score in the Interview Category, the winner will be determined as the head judge's highest-overall-scored contestant. The Rainbow Alliance has final decision making authority in the event of a tie where a winner is not able to be determined by the above steps.

Prize Packages

Prizes for each winner are listed below:

*NEPA PrideFest Royale Winner (1st Place)**

- o **Sash** – One (1) Sash labeled “NEPA PrideFest Royal (Year)” (Estimated Value: \$50)
- o **Crown** – One (1) Crown (Designed and Created by **Fierce Drag Jewels - The Designer of the Crown for the winner of RuPaul's Drag Race**, Estimated Value: \$1200)
- o **NEPA Pin** – One (1) Pin (Designed and Created by **Fierce Drag Jewels - The Designer of the Crown for the winner of RuPaul's Drag Race**, Estimated Value \$200)
- o **Professional Photo Package** (Courtesy of **Shadow Catcher Photographer**, Estimated Value: \$250)
- o **Two (2) tickets to the NEPA Gayla** held during the year of your reign (Courtesy of the **NEPA Pride Project**, Estimated Value: \$100)
- o **Grand Marshal of Parade at PrideFest during the year of your reign**
- o **Cash Prize: \$200**

*** Prizes are subject to the terms and conditions outlined below, as well as subject to availability. The Rainbow Alliance reserves the right to exchange prizes for items of equal or greater value, or cash.**

NEPA PrideFest Royale Terms & Agreements

If selected as the winner and crowned as the reigning NEPA PrideFest Royale (hereinafter “Titleholder” “Royale” or “winner/winning contestant”), your reign is subject to the terms and conditions outlined below.

Failure to uphold any of these obligations may result in a revocation of your title, crown, sash, and all winnings received as a part of your prize package (outlined below), in the sole and absolute discretion of the Rainbow Alliance.

If a person is stripped of their title within 6 months of their reign, the title will be awarded to the 1st alternate who competed for the title that year. If more than 6 months into their reign, the title will be vacated until the following year's competition.

If you choose to relinquish your title during your reign, you will be stripped of your title, crown, sash, and all winnings and you will be obligated to pay back all costs that apply.

The Titleholder's reign is defined as the period of time from being crowned until the date set for

the PrideFest Royale competition of the following calendar year when a new winner will be crowned.

Prize Package*

NOTE: The following prices are the estimated value of each prize offered. As a reminder for contestants, these are the items that will need to be returned, or reimbursement of the value of, if such items are damaged or lost, or if the Titleholder's title is revoked in accordance with the terms herein.

- o Sash – One (1) Sash labeled “NEPA PrideFest Royal (Year)” (Estimated Value: \$50)
- o Crown – One (1) Crown (Designed and Created by Fierce Drag Jewels, Estimated Value: \$1200)
- o NEPA Pin – One (1) Pin (Designed and Created by Fierce Drag Jewels, Estimated Value: \$200)
- o Professional Photo Package (Courtesy of Shadow Catcher Photographer, Estimated Value: \$250)
- o Two (2) tickets to the NEPA Gayla held during the year of your reign (Courtesy of the NEPA Pride Project, Estimated Value: \$100)
- o Grand Marshal of Parade at PrideFest during the year of your reign
- o Cash Prize \$200

* Prizes are subject to the terms and conditions outlined below, as well as subject to availability and change at the discretion of the Rainbow Alliance. The Rainbow Alliance reserves the right to exchange prizes for items of equal or greater value, or cash.

Duties and Obligations

- The titleholder must be in contact with the Rainbow Alliance within thirty (30) days of being crowned to schedule a meeting with the Board of Directors and/or the Executive Director, to go over the responsibilities and conditions of being crowned as NEPA Pride Royale. The conditions to be discussed in this meeting are also outlined below and elsewhere in this application packet.
- The titleholder must develop, plan, and host no less than three (3) Fundraising Events, hereinafter, “Fundraiser” or “Fundraising Event”, within the time of their reign. The proceeds of these fundraising events are to solely benefit the Rainbow Alliance.
 - o The Conditions of the Fundraising Event(s) are as followed:
 - The fundraising event(s) must be approved by the Rainbow Alliance.
 - The fundraising event(s) can be held anywhere in Northeastern Pennsylvania
 - The total donation amount received by the Rainbow Alliance must be no less than \$1000.00.
 - The titleholder is to host no less than three (3) fundraising events during their reign. The first fundraiser must be held within ninety (90) days of being crowned.
 - The titleholder must be in contact with the Rainbow Alliance

within the first thirty (30) days of being crowned to arrange the details of their first fundraiser and receive approval.

- Fees associated with the fundraising event, including, but not limited to, performer fees, venue fees, AV/Tech fees, or DJ fees, must be properly documented and the information must be given to the Rainbow Alliance no later than thirty (30) days after the fundraising event has taken place.
- A board member of the Rainbow Alliance, the Executive Director of the Rainbow Alliance, or an associate representative designated by the Rainbow Alliance must be present at any fundraiser held by the titleholder for which the proceeds benefit the Rainbow Alliance. The titleholder is responsible for contacting the Rainbow Alliance with the fundraiser's date, time, and location to ensure that a representative will be made available. The proceeds from the fundraiser will be accounted for at the end of the event by both the representative of the Rainbow Alliance and the titleholder. After the proceeds are accounted for, the titleholder may choose to surrender the proceeds to the Rainbow Alliance representative immediately, or, in the event that there are outstanding fees associated with the fundraising event that need to be covered by the proceeds of the fundraiser, the titleholder may retain the proceeds for a maximum period of thirty (30) days after the event date in order to complete any outstanding transactions for items including, but not limited to, performer fees, venue fees, AV/Tech fees, or DJ fees. Any outstanding fees must be paid before the proceeds are surrendered to the Rainbow Alliance. The titleholder will be responsible for any outstanding fees related to the fundraising event that were not rectified by the time of surrender. The titleholder is responsible for contacting a board member or the Executive Director of the Rainbow Alliance to arrange the surrender of the proceeds.
- The Professional Photography Package that is provided by ShadowCatcher Photography as a part of the prize package is subject to the terms and conditions outlined as follows; The photography session must be scheduled with the photographer (ShadowCatcher Photography) within thirty (30) days of being crowned. One (1) reschedule with no less than fourteen (14) days advanced notice is permitted without issue. Failure to give the photographer (ShadowCatcher Photography) at least fourteen (14) days notice of a need to reschedule the initial appointment, or cancellation of, or a failure to appear at, the rescheduled or initial appointment will result in the loss of this privilege and a further discussion with the Rainbow Alliance to determine the status of the titleholder's title will be necessary. Failure to comply with these terms may result in the loss of the titleholder's title. Additionally, the titleholder will be responsible for any fees incurred by the photographer for items including but not limited to, loss of wages and rental space fees, up to the total amount of the estimated value of the photography package, valued at \$250.
- The titleholder is responsible for repair(s) and/or replacement(s) of the Crown and/or Sash that they received as a part of their prize package should any

damage(s) or loss(es) occur to either item during the time of their reign. Additionally, these items must be kept in good condition as they are required to be worn throughout the titleholder's reign.

- A titleholder who is stripped of their title will be responsible to pay back any amount of winnings they received as a part of their prize package that may have been used, lost, or damaged, including but not limited to, the estimated value amount of the tickets to the NEPA Gayla, the costs associated with your photoshoot, the estimated value cost of the crown, the estimated value cost of the sash, and the entire amount of the monetary cash prize. Any funds raised as part of the fundraiser(s) required to be held by the NEPA PrideFest Royale can help offset the cost of these terms.
- The titleholder must exercise best judgment in social media practices during the time of their reign. These practices include, but are not limited to:
 - Sharing and/or engaging with the Rainbow Alliance's posts and page (As reigning titleholder, sharing and engaging with the Rainbow Alliance's page and/or posts in a positive manner is a requirement.)
 - Posting of explicit content on the titleholder's personal page(s)
 - Language and Speech choices in posts/comments on, and made by, titleholder's personal page(s)
- The titleholder is required to attend no less than five (5) public community events (outlined below) throughout the course of their reign. At these events, the titleholder understands that they are representing the Rainbow Alliance as an organization and as such is required to behave in a manner that best reflects the organization as a whole. The titleholder should exercise their best judgment in the following behaviors at these events, when wearing their Crown and Sash as a representative of the Rainbow Alliance, and throughout their reign, failure to do so will be subject to further investigation and may directly result in the immediate stripping of the titleholder's title. These behaviors include, but are not limited to:
 - Alcohol Consumption
 - Speech & Language Choices
 - Outfit Choices (We ask that when you are deciding which outfit to wear to an event at which you will be a representative of the Rainbow Alliance, or during any period of time that you are wearing your Crown and/or Sash, you please consider the age range of the potential guests at the event, or in any given location)
- Public Community Events that the titleholder is required to attend as a representative of the Rainbow Alliance during the time of their reign:
 - PrideFest (Held on June 23rd, 2024 on Public Square in Wilkes-Barre)
 - Attendance is required from start of the lineup for the parade until the end of the closing ceremony (11:00AM-4:00PM)
 - Titleholder must wear the Crown and Sash that were received as a part of their prize package.
 - NEPA Gayla (Held in September 2024 in Wilkes-Barre)
 - Attendance is required from the start of the event until after the speech(es)/presentation(s) are finished
 - Titleholder must wear the Crown and Sash that were received as a part of their prize package
 - NEPA PrideFest Royale Pageant (The following year's competition at the end of the titleholder's reign, held near the end of June in 2025)

- Attendance is required from the beginning of the competition through the crowning of the new winner. Titleholder must be present to crown the new PrideFest Royale titleholder.
 - Titleholder must wear the Crown and Sash that were received as a part of their prize package
 - One (1) Cheers Queers Happy Hour OR Pass the Salt Dinner (Held once a month at various locations in Northeastern Pennsylvania)
 - One (1) Flag Raising Ceremony (There are two flag raisings in NEPA to choose from; one held in Wilkes-Barre (Luzerne County), and one held in Scranton (Lackawanna County). Both flag raisings take place at the beginning of June)
- The titleholder must assist in recruiting competitors for the NEPA PrideFest Royale competition in the year following your reign.
- During the time of their reign, if the titleholder is placed under arrest, indicted, convicted of, or otherwise implicated in a crime, including, without limitation, crimes of moral turpitude and possession, sale, or distribution of illegal substances, the Rainbow Alliance will conduct further investigation into the matter during which the titleholder shall cooperate fully with such investigation, and, thereafter, a decision will be made by the Rainbow Alliance regarding the status of the titleholder's title, in its absolute and sole discretion.
- The titleholder is considered a representative of the Rainbow Alliance. and as such, is required to act in a manner that befits a representative of the organization as a whole throughout the entirety of their reign. If at any point the Rainbow Alliance determines that the titleholder is not representing the organization in a positive manner, a meeting and discussion will be held between the Board of Directors and the titleholder to determine if they are allowed to continue to retain their title. Behaviors that would prompt this discussion include, but are not limited to; hostility or violence towards board members, sponsors, event organizers, the organization's volunteer members, or the general public, disparaging or defamatory remarks, comments, or statements concerning the Rainbow Alliance or its officers, the Rainbow Alliance's partners, sponsors, volunteers, other associated third parties, or the general public, and bullying, discrimination, or hate speech in any form. Reminder, the Rainbow Alliance has full discretion to remove a titleholder's title at any time as they see fit.

I, , acknowledge that I have carefully read and understand the above terms and conditions as written, and hereby agree to perform and discharge the duties and obligations set forth herein to the best of my abilities should I be crowned as NEPA PrideFest Royale.

Contestant Signature

Date

Background Check

If asked, would you be willing to submit to a background check?

(Select one)

_____ Yes

_____ No

If no, why not?

Contestant Release

I, [REDACTED], in consideration of being selected to be a contestant in the NEPA PrideFest Royale Pageant, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, do hereby waive all rights to any claim, proceeding, or lawsuit against the Rainbow Alliance or its directors, employees, agents, distributors, volunteers, Show Director and NEPA PrideFest Pageant and its and their respective representatives, heirs, successors, and assigns arising out of or relating to the substance matter herein. I also grant with this release the right to the Rainbow Alliance and/or one or more of its agents to videotape, photograph, sound record, film, or otherwise use my name, stage name, likeness, image, or voice in any media now existing or hereafter created, including, without limitation, television program, documentary, or other films, along with social media posts, including, but not limited to, Instagram, Facebook, and Tik Tok. I allow for any advertising or promotion thereof in connection with or relating to the NEPA PrideFest Royale Pageant to be used and understand I will not receive or be given any form of payment or cost to use my image, voice, or recording.

I agree to enter all activities or events during the NEPA PrideFest Royale Pageant, past, present or future, at my own risk and expense. To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, I hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless from any and all liability, all parties involved in owning the NEPA PrideFest Pageant, including, without limitation, the Rainbow Alliance, its directors, employees, agents, distributors, volunteers, Show Director, and its and their respective representatives, heirs, successors, and assigns.

I understand the winner for NEPA PrideFest Royale Pageant agrees to represent the title of NEPA PrideFest Royale and appear as requested with advance notice for Rainbow Alliance events. Should the winner be unable to fulfill the commitment as NEPA PrideFest Royale, I will revert to the first alternate of my group or another representative chosen by the Rainbow Alliance.

I agree to honor the ruling of the Rainbow Alliance of the NEPA PrideFest Royale Pageant as the final deciding authority. I further agree I will abide by and be held accountable to follow the "Requirements of Winning" noted in this contract. I further acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the "Rules and Regulations" and all other requirements and information noted in the NEPA PrideFest Royale Pageant contract. Likewise, I will sign a contract to validate my partnership with the Rainbow Alliance. While this Agreement generally speaks to the winner of the said NEPA PrideFest Royale Pageant, I further acknowledge that regardless of my placement in the Pageant, I understand that all rules and regulations apply to me. By signing below, I agree to compete in the pageant and follow all that is mentioned in this contract, or that is directed to me online, by email, or in-person by all involved with the Rainbow Alliance.

Contestant Name: [REDACTED]

Signature: [REDACTED] Date: [REDACTED]

Contestant Contact Information

This information will be used to contact contestants about any information regarding the pageant. Please provide ONE HIGH QUALITY DRAG HEADSHOT via email with this application.

- Legal Name: _____
- Pronouns: _____
- Stage Name: _____
- Stage Pronouns: _____
- Birth Date: _____
- Age: _____
- Full Address: _____
- Telephone Number: _____
- Email Address: _____
- What does Pride mean to you? (This question will be posted next to your photo when we announce the contestants on social media)

Emergency Contact

- In case of an emergency, please notify: _____
- Emergency contact number: _____
- Relationship of person to notify in case of an emergency: _____

Contestant Attestation

I, _____, agree if I am selected as the next NEPA PrideFest Royale winner, I will be obligated to uphold all requirements listed in this application and contract. Failure to comply with these rules, regulations, and requirements will be cause for immediate forfeiture of the crown, sash, jewelry, and all winnings, with the title of NEPA PrideFest Royale and appearance stream as the official NEPA PrideFest Royale. I understand that I will be banned from competing in the pageant in perpetuity. I understand I will also be required to pay back in full the winnings that may have been damaged, lost, or used. It is further agreed that in the event that the title and crown are revoked, I clearly understand that I will be required to repay any cash prize, including the value of the non-cash prizes received, as a result of my selection as NEPA PrideFest Royale. I clearly understand and acknowledge the rules and regulations and my commitment to the Rainbow Alliance.

By signing below, I agree that I have received, read, clearly understand, and agree to abide by the verbiage detailed in all of the NEPA PrideFest Royale Pageant regulations including but not limited to information within this contract, application, and media posts. I will not duplicate or give this packet to anyone else and understand my fee is nonrefundable.

I further attest that all of the information submitted as part of the NEPA PrideFest Royale Pageant Application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. By signing below, I further attest that my Stage Name and Given/Daily Name are one and the same, for the purpose of acknowledging and agreeing to all of the terms and conditions of the NEPA PrideFest Royale Pageant.

Additionally, by signing below, I attest that I am a citizen of the United States of America currently residing in Northeastern Pennsylvania, that I am 21 years of age or will be as of the date of the competition, and have not won the title I am competing for within the last 5 years.

Stage Name: _____

Given/Daily Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Note: will be signed the day of the pageant

Witness Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness Name: (Print) _____

Judge's Contact Information

This information will be used to contact judges about any information regarding the pageant. Please provide ONE HEAD SHOT via email with this application.

- Given Name: _____
- Pronouns: _____
- Birth Date: _____
- Age: _____
- Full Address: _____
- Telephone: _____
- Email address: _____

Emergency Contact

- In case of an emergency, please notify: _____
- Emergency contact number: _____
- Relationship of person to notify in case of an emergency: _____

- What does Pride mean to you?

Judge's Contract

I, _____, agree if I am selected as a judge for the NEPA PrideFest Royale Pageant, I will do so as an impartial party. Any conflicts of interest will be disclosed to the Rainbow Alliance immediately. By signing below, I have read and agreed to all responsibilities and rules that I am to follow. I also agree that I have received a clear understanding of what is being asked of me and will abide by the verbiage detailed both in this application along with the instructions given to me the night of the pageant. I will follow all regulations for the NEPA PrideFest Royale Pageant including but not limited to information within this contract, application, emails and media posts.

As a Judge, I vow that I will be bias free with my scoring, critiques, and overall assessment for every contestant. I understand that drag and drag performance is subjective and I will only judge contestants using the judge's criteria for each category as listed in the application. I understand I will not judge a contestant based on anything they have done outside of the night of the pageant. I am obligated to judge each contestant based on only what is presented in front of me during their time on stage. Once I have been offered and accepted my position as a judge, I understand I am not allowed in any way to help, provide advice, answer questions, or guide a contestant in any way before or during the pageant.

As a Judge, I understand I am representing the mission, vision, and values of the Rainbow Alliance and I will uphold, honor and respect their agency and the people associated with them. I will not bash, harass, or negatively speak about the Rainbow Alliance, NEPA PrideFest Royale pageant, contestants, or people involved at any time both in person or on social media. If evidence is provided that I have broken any of the rules, I understand and agree that I will be removed from serving as a Judge. If I witness tampering with the scoring, a bribe or injustice related to any of the judges cheating or unfairly scoring of a contestant, I will report it immediately to the tabulator of the night or one of the leaders presented the night of the pageant such as the host or Board members present. If any judges are caught cheating or scoring improperly, their scores will not count towards the overall scores of the pageant. I understand as a Judge I will not be paid and this is a volunteer position.

Name: _____

Position/ Former title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Note: will be signed the day of the pageant

Witness Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness: (print) _____

Scoring Sheets

Pride Attire

Contestant #	Score (1-10)	Execution	Improvements
<p>Uniqueness (1-10): This subcategory is based on an original and creative way to create a Pride inspired look that fits the theme.</p>			
<p>Craftsmanship (1-10): This subcategory is based on how well the look is put together i.e. if there are any holes, hanging threads, visible glue marks, visible zippers, whether it fits properly, etc.</p>			
<p>Stage Presence (1-10): This subcategory is based on how well the look is modeled, confidence, i.e. "Do they capture the moment?"</p>			

On-Stage Q&A

Contestant #	Score (1-10)	Execution	Improvement
Ability to Communicate (1-10): This subcategory is based on clarity in their response i.e. “Did we understand the point they were trying to make? Was it concise?” “Was their answer longer than 2 minutes?”			
Answer content (1-10): This subcategory is based on how well they answered the question asked i.e. “Did they answer the question or did they evade the question by responding on a different topic?”			
Presentation (1-10): This subcategory is based on how well the contestant presented themselves while responding i.e. “Did they make eye contact, maintain good volume, and articulate their words?”			

Talent

Contestant #	Score (1-10)	Execution	Improvements
<p><u>Choreography/Timing (1-10):</u> This subcategory is based on physical coordination and stage presence (also relates to anyone else they've included in their performance on stage such as additional dancers) i.e. "Do their moves and actions correlate to the performance?"</p>			
<p><u>Quality or performance (1-10):</u> This subcategory is based on lip sync, live vocal, standup comedy, or other talents i.e. "Did they make the best effort they could give? How well was the performance executed?"</p>			
<p><u>Entertainment Value (1-10):</u> This subcategory is based on how well the performance captures each audience member's attention i.e. "Was the performance engaging? Did they connect with the audience? Was it memorable?"</p>			
<p><u>Originality/ Self Expression (1- 10):</u> This subcategory is based how original the performance is as a whole i.e. "Did you put your own take on the performance? Have we seen this before?"</p>			

Interview

Contestant #	Score (1-10)	Execution	Improvements
<p><u>Appearance (1-10)</u>: This subcategory is based on the appearance. Points can be deducted for a poor appearance, clothes not fitted, tear, stain etc. The contestant is judged on the look that the contestant has chosen for themselves.</p>			
<p><u>Communication (1-10)</u>: This subcategory is based on communication and delivery of answer. Did you answer the question, was the answer too short or too long, did you provide context clearly to what you explained.</p>			
<p><u>Personality (1-10)</u>: This subcategory is based on how well you presented yourself and your personality. Did you appear nervous, or calm. Were you assured of your answer and yourself? Did they learn more about who you are with your answers, or is there still uncertainty?</p>			
<p><u>Presentation</u>: This subcategory is based on how well you appeared when communicating. Eye contact, hand placement, fidgeting, not sitting still due to being nervous. Shaking hands when you walk in the room. Body Language and Etiquette. This is more about our nonverbal communication.</p>			

Cost-Benefit Analysis

The following prices are estimates related to the prizes being offered. The following prices are the estimated value of each prize offered. As a reminder for contestants, these are the items that will need to be returned, or reimbursement of the value of, if such items are damaged or lost, or if the Titleholder's title is revoked in accordance with the terms herein.

These prices are subject to change at the discretion of the Rainbow Alliance:

NEPA PrideFest Royale Prize Package (First Place)

- Sash – “NEPA PrideFest (Year)”
 - Cost approx. \$50 Estimate
- Crown
 - Cost approx. \$1200 Estimate
- NEPA Pin
 - Cost approx. \$200 Estimate
- Photoshoot Package
 - Cost approx. \$250
- Two tickets to the NEPA Gayla
 - Cost approx. \$100 Estimate
- Grand Marshal
 - Cost approx. \$0 Estimate
- Cash Prize
 - Cost approx. \$200

Total: \$2,000