



## NATIONAL UNITED STATES STATE TITLE CONTRACT & GUIDELINES

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The National United States Scholarship Pageant herein referred to as NUS or National United States, is excited to welcome you as a state queen and national contestant. National United States is a community service and platform based pageant system and holds our contestants-parents to a high standard that promotes a positive pageant environment and personal excellence.

This Contract and Guidelines applies to all activities while representing and attending National United States events, appearances, service projects, etc. at the local, state, and national levels, along with personal activities. The Contestant and Parent/Guardian are required to sign this contract and agrees to abide by the State Title Contract and Guidelines, as well as the NUS Rules and Regulations. Failure to sign does not waive the contestant or parent's agreement to the State Title Contract and Guidelines, as accepting a state or regional title with National United States is the acknowledgement that the contestant and parent agree to the State Title Contract and Guidelines and all rules herein upon acceptance.

### **YEAR OF SERVICE & ELIGIBILITY**

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Year of Service begins at the signing of this contract and guidelines and ends within 10 days after the conclusion of the National Pageant. Contestants and titleholders are a ambassador and representative of the National United States Pageant and should actively promote NUS and its program throughout her year of service.

**Residency:** State titleholder must live, work, or attend school in the state/region which they represent, unless otherwise permitted and approved by the National Executive Director.

**Divisions:** Based on your age as of July 1<sup>st</sup> of the National Pageant. For the 2025 National Pageant division is based as of July 1, 2025.

- PRINCESS: Ages 5-6
- JR. PRETEEN: Ages 7-9
- PRETEEN: Ages 10-12
- JR. TEEN: Ages 13-15
- TEEN: Ages 16-18
- MISS: Ages 19-25
- MS.: Ages 26 and up (*single, divorced, or widowed – with or without children*)
- MRS.: Ages 21 and up (*married – with or without children*)

## **NATIONAL PAGEANT REQUIREMENT**

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All NUS State titleholders are required to compete at the National Pageant at the dates and location as determined by the National Office to represent her state title. ***If for any reason, a contestant cannot fulfill her obligation to compete and attend the National Pageant, contestant must pay a Withdraw Fee of \$250 to the National Office to withdraw from her contractual obligation to represent her title at Nationals and terminate this contract, and agrees to pay her Withdraw Fee within 10 days of notifying the national office via email and will be invoiced by the National Office to pay the Withdraw Fee. Additional fees may be added if the Withdraw Fee is not paid within 10 days.*** If contestant does not fulfill her responsibility to compete at the National Pageant, she must surrender her state title, return her official state crown, official state sash, and any and all prizes received including any scholarship money from winning a state pageant or during her year of service. Official state crown and official state sash must be returned in the condition it is received. If not, she understands, she will be required to pay a replacement fee of \$200 in addition to the Withdraw Fee. No refunds will be given for any state and/or national fees paid. Holding a state title with a prestigious national scholarship pageant is an honor and the responsibilities of serving as a titleholder should be taken seriously.

Contestant is required to attend all mandatory events during the national competition week to represent her state title. Contestants are not to leave the venue until the conclusion of the pageant and must be present and on time for all pageant events, including post pageant photos for award winners, runner ups, and national title winners. National United States prides itself on running events in a timely manner and on time for a smooth pageant experience and expects contestants to arrive on time and ready for each event during nationals week.

Contestants are responsible for her own transportation, wardrobe, hotel stay/accommodations at our host hotel, most meals, and any other additional expenses associated with the National Pageant. Any contestant under the age of 21 must be accompanied by an adult and understands contestants will be rooming with their family for the duration of the National Pageant.

Contestants are responsible for providing a raffle basket/item (\$50 value) for the Welcome Dinner or Chocolate & Diamonds Gala at the National Pageant and may seek sponsorship of these items. Baskets/items must be new and unused.

Contestant and/or family or guest may not approach the judges at any time before, during, or after the National Pageant including but not limited to via email, social media – posts, comments, groups, and/or message, phone, text, or any other means of communication to discuss any aspect of the National United States Pageant including but not limited to their judging, scoring, and/or competition performance. Depending on the degree and time of the infraction contestant may be disqualified with or without notice, or removed from the pageant at the discretion of the National United States Pageant and National Executive Director.

## **APPEARANCES and COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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Contestants are required to make a minimum of five (5) different community service projects, activities, and/or volunteering with their state title, once they have received their state crown and sash and submit them to the national office via a submission form, along with photos wearing your crown and/sash to receive the full 10% of their overall competition score at Nationals. If contestant has an ongoing service project over time, they may submit submission forms for each time, but will be grouped together to count as one (1) service project towards your minimum requirement of the 10% of your overall score. For example, if you donate regularly to a food blessing box you will send in a service submission form for each time you donate or collect food items, but overall they will together count as one (1) total towards the Community Service requirement of the overall score. National United States encourages our contestants/titleholders to do a variety of community service and appearances throughout their year of service.

All community service and appearances must be submitted to the national office for credit via the Community Service and Submission Form, along with photos actively showing them doing their service project, volunteering, and/or their appearance.

Contestants should take pride in their state title and wear both their crown and sash together during community service and appearances. Contestant understands that her crown and sash are her uniform as representation of the National United States Pageant and she should wear them together with pride during her year for every public event. Depending on the extent of the event or service the state titleholder is participating in, National United States understands that only the sash is appropriate and the crown may not be worn. Contestant understands that only the official National United States crown and sash are to be worn together. No other crowns and/or sashes should be worn with or in any combination with the National United States Pageant's official state crown and sash.

Contestants are to dress appropriately for every event to project a polished and professional appearance. Outfits should be age appropriate and fashionable, and the delegate should maintain proper and clean grooming. As a titleholder you are in the public eye to people of various ages and backgrounds, and your personal appearance and presentation should be a positive representation of a role model and representative of the National United States Pageant.

State titleholder will serve as a role model and may not appear in any inappropriate attire during her year of service, including photographs, media, or magazine articles. All wardrobe choices should be appropriate for appearances as a positive reflection of the organization. This includes and is not limited to images and posts on all social media and internet (blogs, websites, etc.) outlets. In addition, all wardrobe choices should be age appropriate.

Contestant understands that she must be accompanied by a family member during all appearances and community service for her safety while representing the National United States Pageant, especially if the titleholder is under the age of 18.

## **PHOTOS, VIDEO, and IMAGES**

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Contestant transfers all right, title, and interest in her image and/or likeness during the state and/or national pageant to the National United States Scholarship Pageant LLC with respect to all pageant activities, whether live, recorded, photographed or drawn/sketched and regardless of the medium actually then displayed. State titleholder waives, releases, and forever surrenders to National United States Scholarship Pageant any right to income derived from State titleholder's image and/or likeness derived from the pageant. Additionally, she specifically agrees that she shall not be entitled to any royalties, now or in the future, from state titleholder's image and/or likeness derived from pageant. By signing and submitting an application, she specifically agrees that the National United States Scholarship Pageant shall forever enjoy the right to use contestant's image and/or likeness derived from pageant; all sales, proceeds, and/or income derived from her image and/or likeness derived from the pageant shall inure to the benefit of National United States Scholarship Pageant only.

Contestant gives the National United States Scholarship Pageant LLC permission to use any or all photos submitted to the National Office for appearances and community service events and activities to be used for promotion and marketing of the National United States Pageant in any media format including social media, pageant website, marketing materials, posters, banners, etc.

Any images created, developed, and/or written by the National United States Pageant is copyrighted and sole property of said organization, including national and state pageant logos. Images are not to be duplicated or copied, unless sole use of promotion of the National United States Pageant. The official National United States Scholarship Pageant logos are not to be altered in any way and may only be used in its original form and are sole copyright of the National United States Pageant.

Any unauthorized use of the National United States Pageant's logos is copyright infringement. Only authorized vendors may have use of the logo through written approval from the National Executive Director. Anyone wishing to use the national logo(s) and/or state logo must use an authorized vendor or purchase logo items directly from the National United States Pageant. This includes, but not limited to autograph card designs, apparel, social media graphics, flyers, etc. that the state titleholder wants to use the national logo(s) and/or state logo.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

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Contestants are to follow and like the National United States Scholarship Pageant official social media pages on Facebook and Instagram, and like and share posts on a regular basis to support the National United States brand. Contestants are encouraged to post on their own social media promoting National United States, representing their state title, appearances, community service, and sponsors, and tag National United States accounts in their photos and posts. Instagram is the pageant's preferred social media platform.

Contestants are encouraged to have social media pages for her state title on Facebook and Instagram to promote her year of service, personal platform, community service projects, and appearances.

Contestants understand that all posts, images, and videos will be appropriate. Inappropriate language, discrediting images, nudity, alcohol, tobacco, violence, public negative comments, unsportsmanlike or divisive, controversial subjects, offensive slang, bullying, or any other inappropriate images/videos are not acceptable. Personal social media sites/platforms are also a direct representation of National United States and will monitor its contents to ensure that no materials posted violate this contract. This pertains to all personal, as well as National United States related social media sites/apps, blogs, websites, public appearances, etc. Always be aware of what you post, whether on your title and/or personal social media as it is a direct reflection of the pageant.

Contestants agree that they will not post negative, disparaging, or slandering comments about National United States, pageant staff, titleholders, state and national directors, sponsors, volunteers, national pageant, state pageant, or any other party or event affiliated with National United States on any social forum, website, blog, networking site, chat boards, social media outlets, etc through posts, messages, comments, emails, etc.. This includes, but not limited to during contestant's year of service and any time after competing at the National Pageant, and includes any parents, guardians, and/or family showing unsportsmanlike behavior, posts, comments, and messages. Further includes, if the contestant for any reason has withdrawn from the National Pageant and/or the National United States Pageant. If a contestant or past contestant is found to be engaging in this type of behavior, and/or any negative press, she will be immediately dismissed and/or be ineligible to compete in the future from National United States and may be subject to litigation.

### **NON-COMPETE and FIRST PRIORITY**

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Being a titleholder is a job that requires commitment and should be taken seriously. The titleholder's job is to promote their title, promote National United States, and be a role model and serve her community. Because the title requires commitment, titleholders are not allowed to compete in any other national pageant prior to the national pageant and can only compete in local and state pageants with approval from the national office, to ensure that the titleholder is not hindered from fulfilling this contract and devaluing the prestige of her title. Contestants understand that the National United States state title takes precedence over any other titles they may have. Accepting a state title with the National United States Scholarship Pageant confirms that the contestant will hold National United States as their first priority.

If a contestant/titleholder competes in another pageant that requires her to relinquish or give up her title with the National United States Pageant, all fees paid are non-refundable, non-transferable, and contestant will have to pay a Withdraw Fee of \$250 to the National Office to withdraw from her contractual obligation to represent her title at Nationals and terminate this contract, and agrees to pay her Withdraw Fee within 10 days of notification, and return the official National United States state crown and state sash. Additional fees may be added if the Withdraw Fee is not paid within 10 days.

## **DEADLINES and COMMUNICATION**

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Contestant agrees to have all paperwork, forms, ad page fee, etc. associated with the National Pageant to the National Pageant Office by the designated deadline. Paperwork and items that is submitted late or past the deadline to the National Office will result in a loss of point(s) at the National Pageant for each item that is received late or past the deadline, and any fees that are received late or past the deadline are subject to a late fee of \$50 per item/fee for processing.

Contestant will follow all deadlines and make sure all items and fees are submitted within a timely manner. Deadlines are important to make sure that all aspects of the pageant and your experience run smooth and do not cause any delays.

Contestant and parent (if contestant is under 18) shall have open communication during her said year with the state and national executive director(s) via email, phone/text, and any means of communication through social media. And, to answer emails, calls, texts, and messages within a timely manner of no more 24-48 hours out of respect and courtesy to other's time and schedules.

Contestant understands that her and her parent/guardian should direct all questions to the National Office and the National Executive Director. This is to prevent misinformation from being distributed. Further, she should refer to her paperwork, handbooks, emails, and posts in our official contestant/parent private group on Facebook, first before contacting the National Office.

## **BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS and SPORTSMANSHIP**

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The National United States Pageant expects all contestants, parents/guardians, and family members to be respectful, kind, patient, and courteous at all times to directors, staff, sponsors, vendors, fellow contestants, and fellow parents at all times during your year of service and during the National Pageant. Contestant agrees that throughout her year of service, she is honest and truthful, and any misrepresentation, lies, untruths by her and/or a parent will lead to immediate dismissal from the National United States Scholarship Pageant and will become ineligible to compete and hold a title with National United States in the future.

Contestant agrees and understands that the National United States Pageant has a zero-tolerance policy for bullying in any form, defamation of character, drama, harassment, and any bad sportsmanship behavior. If a titleholder and/or parent/family member (regardless of age of titleholder), is bullying, creating defamation of character, drama, and/or harassment at any time during or after her year of service, including but not limited to during the National Pageant, will be dismissed and/or removed immediately from her state or regional title and the National United States Scholarship Pageant. Contestant will also become ineligible in the future to compete at and/or hold a title with the National United States Pageant.

- Depending on the degree of the infraction, legal action/litigation may be pursued. If legal action is pursued, dismissed titleholder is responsible for all legal fees of the National United States Scholarship Pageant LLC in addition to any withdraw fees listed in this agreement. The place of arbitration shall be Blair County, Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Contestant and parent understand that as role model the action of the parent(s) and family are also a reflection of the state title, our sponsors, our national partners, and the National United States Scholarship Pageant as a whole, and any bullying in any form, bad sportsmanship, harassment, defamation of character, etc. can lead to immediate dismissal from the pageant and your state title regardless of age at the discretion of the National Office and the National Executive Director.

## **GENERAL**

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Contestant and parent/guardian agrees that she will not hold the National United States Scholarship Pageant and/or said state pageant responsible for any injury, loss, or accident that occurs during attendance of an appearance or community service project, and the National Pageant.

Contestant agrees to follow and abide all rules and regulations set forth by the National United States Scholarship Pageant.

State titleholder understands, even if of age, that she is NOT permitted, while wearing the official state crown and sash, to consume and/or pose/take photos with any type of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco related items/products while attending a pageant related function, a pageant (regardless of system), appearances, or at any time during her year of service. It is unacceptable as a representative of the National United States Pageant. While holding a state title you are a role model to various ages and we expect our contestants/titleholders to act as a positive role model for all ages, at all times.

Contestant and parent/guardian understand and agree that the National United States Pageant shall determine the manner and method of conducting the competition in its sole discretion, along with the National United States Pageant and its National Executive Director. She (they) further understand and agree that the National United States Pageant, along with the National Executive Director shall also determine the time, method, and manner of judging the competition and the awarding and supervision of all scholarships, titles, and awards designated in its sole discretion.

Contestant understands that she is not permitted to have her name embroidered on any part of the official state sash per National Pageant policy. If she does, she (the State Titleholder) is responsible for purchasing a new official state sash through the National Office at her expense of \$150. This is for the safety of the titleholder.

State titleholder agrees that if she does not follow the rules, regulations, policies, contracts, and any agreements with the National United States Pageant, she understands depending on the degree of the infraction, she may lose points or may be dismissed from her year of service, surrendering the state title, and returning the official state crown, the official state sash, and pay a \$250 Withdraw Fee to the National Office to withdraw from her contractual obligation to represent her title at Nationals and terminate this contract, and agrees to pay her Withdraw Fee within 10 days of notification. Additional fees may be added if the Withdraw Fee is not paid within 10 days.

State titleholder agrees to replace, at her expense, the state crown and/or state sash if damaged, lost, or stolen during her year of service.

## **ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS**

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I have reviewed the NUS State Title Contract and Guidelines, and the Rules and Regulations, I as well as my parents or legal guardian, agree to uphold all of its provisions. I hereby release and forever discharge the National United States Scholarship Pageant, its directors, volunteers, and staff from any and all claims and demands arising from damages or liabilities due to theft, accident, loss or injury resulting in participation in the National United State Scholarship Pageant and/or any of our events. State titleholder and parent/guardian further covenants and agree not to sue the organization, its directors individually, volunteers, and staff for any claim for damages or liability. I have read and understand all of the policies and rules and agree to abide by them. I understand that National United States is not responsible for any prizes forfeited by sponsors. I understand that this contract is enforceable in court under state and federal laws.

Contestant and parent/guardian (if under 18) understand the expenses of competing and that all fees paid are non-fundable, non-transferable.

Contestant understands that the National United States Pageant reserves the right to make said modifications, as needed, without prior notice at its sole discretion.

By signing and submitting a Registration Form online, along with my parent or guardian if under 18, I am certifying that I have read and agreed to all rules, which are published on the organization's website, handbooks, paperwork, and applications.

By accepting a state title with the National United States Scholarship Pageant, you are agreeing to the rules and policies herein. Every contestant completes the online registration form which includes the above contract and guidelines, and an acceptance of our national rules and policies as published on our website.