



## Miss Czech Slovak US Contestant's Parent/Guardian Questions

Congratulations on having a Miss Czech Slovak US contestant! This document is a collection of questions acquired over the last 10 years; these are actual questions asked by actual parents/guardians/travel companions. All rules and procedures apply, and this document does not replace any other official document.

The national pageant website is [www.missczechslovakus.com](http://www.missczechslovakus.com)

### **General Information**

#### **If I have a question who can I contact?**

If you represent a state with an active Board of Director member, they are your first point of contact for questions. Alexandria Cerveny Sandall ([acerveny10@gmail.com](mailto:acerveny10@gmail.com) or 402-631-9517) is the National Pageant Director (NPD). Brenda Cerveny and Ellie Cerveny are the Little Sister Coordinators. Julia Ourecky is the Pageant Committee Member, focusing on stage production. MaryElizabeth Lackey and Emily Manning are members of the Pageant Committee onsite to help. We are all here to make sure your pageant weekend is wonderful. You can easily locate us during the pageant weekend in the blue polo shirts.

#### **What is the dress code for us (parents/guardians) during the pageant weekend?**

There is no specific dress code during the pageant weekend – be comfortable! The daily temperature can reach 100 degrees so dress accordingly. Plan on bringing water and comfortable shoes.

#### **Are there any mandatory events for us? Will we get to meet the other contestant's parents?**

Saturday at 9:30 am there is a special parent packet pick up at the Cultural Center. Here you will receive a welcome packet which includes: your nametag, a special button and weekend reminders. You can deliver your daughter's silent auction basket at this time. This is also a great time to meet other parents! Please wear your nametag throughout the weekend, it helps the pageant committee identify parents in a crowd.

#### **What time should we arrive in Wilber on Friday? When will the pageant be over on Sunday?**

Contestants must arrive prior to 6 pm on Friday. Most contestants arrive between 2-4 pm. The first mandatory event of the weekend is the children's parade and then orientation. Contestants should eat dinner prior to Friday night events. On Sunday the pageant should be complete by 10 pm with the post party ending at 11 pm. Allow yourself enough time to not feel rushed but there is no advantage to arriving too early. For most, plan on leaving on Monday morning because Sunday night activities can end as late as midnight.

### **Is there assigned seating for the nightly pageant?**

The pageant reserves the first two rows in the three sections (total 6 rows) for parents and sponsors. This provides seating for 2 people per contestant. This is not mandatory. There are events at the outdoor theatre each night, so please be patient in waiting for them to move prior to the pageant. There is limited seating, some parents find it beneficial to have someone to “save seats.” You can also bring lawn chairs and sit in the grassy area beside the permanent seating.

### **What is the Sokol Hall Post-Pageant Party event after the crowning ceremony on Sunday night?**

The Sokol post-pageant party is a wonderful time for pictures and final farewells for the contestants. It is preferred if all contestant’s attend this party. This party is required for all award winners. Award winner checks will be given out at this party.

### **We forgot something at home or something broke, or we lost something, is there a local store?**

Wilber has a lovely Barnes Drug Store along with a few stores for Ethnic Ribbon. The closest Wal-Mart is located in Crete, NE (10 miles away) and the closest Shopping Mall is in Lincoln, NE (35 minutes away) Be prepared for the “What if’s” by creating an “emergency kit.”

### **We’re planning on staying a couple extra days what are sites of interest, towns or other events around Wilber?**

You can find a variety of points of interests on the Nebraska Czechs Inc website and the Wilber, NE website.

## **You and Your Contestant**

### **Can I help my contestant get ready in the morning?**

**One** female companion is allowed per contestant to assist in getting ready for each competition category. It is important to limit the number of “extra” people upstairs at the Wilber Hotel because there is limited available space. On Sunday night competition, if your contestant changes outfits for talent, she will wear her talent costume to the stage and after her talent change into her modeling kroj. If necessary, one female companion can assist the contestant getting into her modeling kroj. If you are staying in Beatrice, on Saturday morning, please allow extra time to travel to Wilber due to the morning run race. Some traffic may be delayed due to runners.

### **How does the pageant ensure the contestants don’t get overheated in 100 degree plus weather and kroj?**

The pageant has an excellent track record of ensuring contestants manage the heat. They are in air conditioning when possible and have water when they are outside. Contestants are welcome to carry water bottles if necessary or there are many places parents can provide water. It is also suggested to bring an umbrella to provide extra shade while outside. If you have specific questions, please contact NPD.

**Can I spend all day with my pageant contestant?**

You are welcome to see your contestant at any public event. The only events where parents are not allowed include contestant's orientation, private interviews, and daily luncheon. It is important contestant's stay on schedule! Parents are not allowed to "tag along" with the contestants for the entire day.

**What time does my contestant have to be ready each day?**

Contestants will receive a detailed schedule approximately two weeks before the pageant. Contestants will leave approximately 15 minutes prior to events to ensure on time arrival. It is recommended that you set up a "meet up" schedule so your contestant knows where to meet you daily.

**Will my contestant have any free time during the weekend?**

Free time is very limited. Traditionally, after the contestants practice at the Wilber Outdoor Theatre, after the parade, when this concludes, they are free until 6:30 pm. Some contestants find it helpful if a female is available after practice each day to help the contestant get undressed from her kroj into a casual outfit.

**How will talent practice work?**

Each contestant receives 7 minutes to practice their talent after the parade on Sunday. It is important to have all talent props, music, etc. at the Outdoor Theatre in time for practice to ensure the contestant is fully prepared. The contestant may change out of their kroj into practice attire at this time but is unable to leave the premises, if your contestant needs to change, please arrive with a change of clothes. The Pageant Committee will inform parents and contestants of the practice order if it needs to deviate from the pageant order to allow contestants who wish to have a quick practice to leave practice early if they wish vs contestants who have a longer set up or wish to go through their talent in the entire length. During this practice will be the only time in which the contestants will be out of pageant order. They will perform onstage in pageant order during the pageant. Each contestant must bring all necessary props and music to the practice and the pageant as the Pageant Committee will not furnish any props, nor music. CD is the preferred method for playing music, come prepared with multiple copies.

**Where is the best place to take pictures of the contestants?**

Parents are welcome to take any pictures, but contestants will receive ALL pictures taken by the official pageant photographer. Please respect our photographer and her requests for you to wait until her pictures are taken before you take pictures. On Sunday evening, at crowning ceremony the best pictures are taken at Sokol Hall – the pictures at the outdoor theatre taken on non-professional camera's turn out very poor.

**Can I get a video of the pageant?**

Maybe, we hope to have a videographer for the pageant. If we have someone available, we will notify the contestants. Parents are welcome to video the nightly events as long as they are not used for commercial use or posted on the internet.

### **What is the gift exchange on Friday during orientation?**

This is a pageant tradition started over 25 years ago. Each contestant will bring a small gift for the other contestants and pageant court. It usually represents the contestant and/or the state they represent. For example, a contestant where her father was a peanut farmer, brought peanut oil. Gifts should be limited to \$5-10 each – the goal is not to have an elaborate gift but to have something sentimental to remember each contestant. Ensure your contestant allows “return gift room” for the trip home, as she will be receiving many memorable favors.

### **My contestant told me she has a “little sister” what is this? Can we bring our own “little sister”?**

The Little Sister program is a special part of the pageant. Contestants are matched with a young lady from the Wilber area or connected to our pageant from 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade. This “little sister” is there to help support the queen and help calm any nerves by creating conversation. Contestants meet their little sister on Saturday morning during private interviews. At this time, each exchange a small gift (many contestants give the same gift they exchanged the night before) as a token of remembrance and to “break the ice.” This gift should be limited to \$10-\$20. Again, the point is not elaborate but sometime memorable.

### **I’m a father who will be coming to the pageant without a female to help my daughter get ready – what can I do?**

Since men cannot be on the second floor after 6pm on Friday (move-in) there are two hostesses (the reigning 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Ups) and the National Queen to help her get into her kroj. National Committee members also assist at the hotel and are always willing anyone. There are also restrooms on the first floor that can be utilized if necessary for family dressing.

### **Is food provided for the contestants?**

Each contestant will receive daily meal tickets (2 weekend total) to utilize for her dinner. Lunch is provided daily consisting various luncheon items. The contestants eat a pancake breakfast on Sunday morning at the St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church. On Saturday morning, breakfast items are provided at the hotel, if contestant wants additional food arrangements with her support group will need to be personally made. There are snacks for the contestants and a water provided at the hotel.

## **Housing**

### **Can I stay with my contestant at the Wilber Hotel? Where can we stay?**

The Wilber Hotel is specifically reserved for only contestants.

### **How are Wilber Hotel rooms decided?**

If roommates are required, the Pageant Committee asks for volunteers first and then randomly assigns rooms and (if necessary) roommates. There are 12 rooms at the Wilber

Hotel. If a room has multiple beds, requiring roommates, beds are decided by the contestants who are staying in that room.

**Is there any security at the Wilber Hotel?**

Security and safety of the contestant's is a top priority of the pageant. There will be nightly police patrol of the hotel. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure only contestants and one helper is upstairs at the hotel. The National Queen and Court stay at the Wilber Hotel their role is to ensure all rules are enforced and contestant stay on schedule.

**I'm not staying in Wilber, where can I "hang out" during the day?**

There are a variety of events throughout Wilber to enjoy during the Wilber Czech Festival. The Czech Museum and Sokol Hall are great places to enjoy history, music and air conditioning.

**Transportation**

**We are flying to Nebraska what are the closest airports?**

Both Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska have airports. Lincoln, NE is located 35 miles northeast of Wilber. Omaha, NE is located about 2 hours east of Wilber.

**I heard there is limited cell phone coverage in Wilber?**

Yes! Due to the influx of visitor in Wilber it stresses the network. Calls typically are more reliable than text messages.

**I'm bringing my camper/RV is there an RV park in Wilber?**

Yes, Wilber has an RV part on a first come/first serve basis. This fills up VERY quickly and is usually filled by the Wednesday before pageant weekend. Please plan accordingly.

**Individual Competitions**

**Where can I find category judging information?**

There is a variety of resources on judge's score sheets on the national pageant website [www.missczechslovakus.com](http://www.missczechslovakus.com) – choose the "Contestant's Resource" tab.

**Can I get a copy of my daughter's score sheets?**

The pageant does not provide copies of the score sheets but contact NPD post-pageant and she provides verbal feedback sessions upon request.

**Will my daughter get a schedule of events?**

Yes, a schedule will be emailed about 2 weeks before the pageant.

**Do contestants get copies of the onstage interview questions?**

No, the goal of the onstage interview questions is for queens to "think on their feet." Approximately 2 weeks before contestants will get detailed study guides that if utilized will fully prepare them to answer any of the "Authentic" Questions for the pageant. The

“Americanized” questions are common pageant and personality questions, no study guides are provided as the National Pageant feels these questions are easily answered for a national level pageant.

**On Saturday when does my daughter have to wear her competition kroj?**

Contestants are required to wear their competition kroj for private interview and all onstage competition categories (talent costume is an exception). On Saturday she will need to be in kroj for private interviews. Immediately following interviews, she will have individual and group photos taken. Contestants are not allowed to alter any portion of the competition kroj prior to the NPD giving the approval. If a contestant would like to change, we suggest that a parent or friend help the contestant take off extra layers if possible (ex. petticoats, tights, or scarf.) Please note it is not required to make any changes to your competition kroj this is for contestants who are concerned about the daily heat. Also, contestants will have approximately 10-15 minutes to make any necessary changes which is why we recommend “de-layering” only.

**Post Pageant:**

**Does my contestant have any responsibilities after the pageant weekend?** Thank you notes to our sponsors are a critical part of the pageant. All award winners should write a thank you to the award’s sponsor. A list of sponsor’s names and addresses is provided in orientation. Other contestants can write thank you’s to any sponsor of an event or portion of the pageant that inspired them. Queen and Court responsibilities will be discussed on an individual basis.

**My daughter has a “feedback” sheet in her orientation packet – what is this?** The Miss Czech-Slovak US pageant is dedicated to continually improving ourselves. We accept and appreciate constructive feedback from contestants. Please note, the best feedback is not only comments but also suggestions. Also note we can’t change certain things, location, weather, time of year. The pageant acts consistently on over 75% of suggestions each year and some of the best pageant improvements came from contestant’s suggestions.

**I heard someone talk about the Miss Czech-Slovak US Alumni Association – what is this?**

All contestants that participate at the Miss Czech-Slovak US Pageant are eligible to join the Miss Czech-Slovak US Alumni Association. Complete information can be found on the national pageant website. Parents are welcome to sponsor their daughters into the annual association.