



Miss Czech-Slovak US Pageant Official Rules and Procedures

The Miss Czech-Slovak US Pageant strives to create an ethnic competition that promotes our vibrant heritage. In this spirit the following rules and procedures have been created as a standard and expectations.

Contestant Eligibility:

1. Contestants must be a natural born female as reflected on a government issued birth certificate between the ages of 16 and 26 prior to August 1 of the current year. *Documentation may be requested to verify this criterion.*
2. She must be attending high school or be a high school graduate.
3. Contestant must be a citizen or eligible to work in the United States of America.
4. Contestant must be of partial Czech, Moravian, Slovak, Rusyn, Silesian descent or be legally adopted by parents of this descent.
5. Contestants must be single and never married. She will abstain from behavior that could cause a negative impact or reflection of the pageant.
6. There shall not be more than one contestant from each US State, US Territory, or Washington D.C. Any contestant may represent a state where she is not a legal resident but, attending an accredited high school, college, university, tech school, trade school or business school.
7. Contestants can compete in two non-consecutive years at the National Pageant.

Pageant Competition Expectations

1. Contestant must appear in a Czech, Moravian, Slovak, Rusyn or Silesian kroj (costume). Contestants are limited to bringing three (3) kroje with them for the pageant weekend.
2. Contestant must be personally present and participate in all four (4) pageant categories and all pageant scheduled events as scheduled per pageant committee. The four (4) categories in order are: Private Interview by Judges, Public On-Stage Interview, Kroj Modeling, and Talent Presentation. Failure to complete any category or attend a weekend event will result in disqualification from the pageant. If contestant is not properly prepared for any category resulting in pageant order deviation a 5-point deduction will be assessed.
3. Contestants can only wear state sash while in kroj during the pageant weekend. Contestants will not wear state crowns at any point while in Wilber.

Pageant Weekend Procedures

Contestants are expected to act and represent the pageant in a positive and friendly competition manner during the pageant weekend. The pageant weekend begins Friday evening with the Children's Parade and concludes with the post pageant party at Sokol Hall.

1. All contestants and only contestants stay at the Historic Hotel Wilber.
2. Contestants are required to check into the Hotel Wilber by 6:00 pm on Friday.
3. Contestant must attend the mandatory orientation Friday evening.
4. Contestants must respect the nightly 11:00 pm Hotel Wilber curfew.
5. Males are not allowed on the 2nd floor of the Hotel Wilber from Friday at 6 pm until Monday at 7 am.
6. No alcoholic beverages will be consumed by contestants during pageant weekend or while in crown and sash.
7. Little Sisters will be appointed by the Miss Czech-Slovak US Pageant Committee.

Contestant's Entry Information

- Entries must be postmarked by May 25, 2024
- No changes to entry form responses and kroj description are allowed after submission.
- The following parts must be included in Contestant's Entry Packet
 - Entry Form and Application Question Responses
 - Kroj Description (Double-spaced 12-point Times New Roman Font) *Mandatory: Email kroj description in word format to acerveny10@gmail.com*
 - \$50.00 Entry Fee payable to Miss Czech-Slovak US Pageant
 - Contestant Headshot –5x7 color photo in kroj, head and shoulder picture with NO crown or sash. Photos will not be returned to contestants
 - Consent and Signature Form
- Each application question response page should have contestant's name and state in the header.
- Entry packets should be mailed to: **Alexandria Cervený Sandall 5610 N 18th Street, Lincoln, NE 68521**

Individual Category Rules

All Categories: Contestants compete in alphabetical order by last name.

Private Interview Rules

- Contestant must be interviewed in the same kroj she presents during kroj modeling category.
- Contestant will receive a nine (9) minute interview panel-style with the judges.
- All contestants will receive the same first three questions. After these standard questions judges ask questions utilizing the contestant's entry form and questionnaire. At seven (7) minute mark the judges will transition to ask kroj focused questions for the remaining two (2) minutes.
- Judges cannot ask questions about personal political affiliation, sexual topics, or personal religious affiliation or beliefs.
- Timer will announce when 30 seconds are left, contestant should answer final question or finish current question.

On-Stage Interview Rules

- Contestant must be interviewed in the same kroj she presents during kroj modeling category.
- Contestant will draw for three formal questions. A study guide of topics and subjects will be sent, via email, on or about, two weeks prior to the pageant to the contestants.
- First question will be "Americanized", second question will be "Authentic", and the third question will be an impromptu kroj question. The "Authentic" question will be determined by a dignitary, appointed by the pageant committee, upon reading the completed application submitted by the contestants.
- Contestants cannot read the questions prior to handing to Master of Ceremonies.

Kroj (costume) Rules

- A **250-word** description of your kroj must be sent with the Entry Form. This description should be written in third person and will be read aloud as you model your kroj on the stage during the kroj competition. Example: Suzy is wearing a Plzen kroj created with family assistance. *If the description is more than 250 words, the National Pageant Director will edit the contestant's description.* The kroj should represent your family's cultural heritage. Judges may deduct point(s) for kroje that do not represent the region, town or village of your family's ancestry.
- Kroj descriptions should include (but not limited to): The origin, how it represents your family, if any element(s) is authentic or replicated, the meaning of the kroj and physical description.
- All contestants must complete their kroj with footwear.

- All contestants receive similar introduction including Name, State, and Kroj construction. This information is comes from the entry form. This introduction does not count towards 250-word count.
- Contestants **must** provide front and back (preferably in color) photos of the complete kroj or kroj element(s) that are replicated or authentic pieces with source citations on the photos with their application. *If a contestant is replicating a blouse, vest and skirt reference photos for each piece are required.* These photos will be provided to the judges for review and consideration. Please contact the National Pageant Director with any questions about the reference requirements.
- Kroj descriptions should be 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced and fit on one page. Contestant's name and state in must be included in the page header.
- All kroj descriptions must be emailed in word format to the National Pageant Director at acerveny10@gmail.com when the application is submitted.

Talent Rules

- Talent act is limited to no more than **four (4) minutes**. It begins with a formal introduction and concludes with final work, note or motion.
- Contestants are encouraged, but not mandated, to introduce their talent including what talent they will be performing, why they chose their talent and how it relates to the contestant. The introduction is part of the four (4) minute time limit.
- Talent can be signing, dancing, playing a musical instrument, dramatic reading, art display, dress designing, poetry, drawings, gymnastics, or a verbal oration on a subject or topic.
- Pre-recorded and pre-created props will not be considered/judged in overall performance.
- An on-stage accompanist is allowed but no other partners can perform with contestant.
- Contestants must describe their talent in detail on their pageant application.
- Contestants are responsible for all props for their talent. Pageant will provide, microphone (handheld and cordless), piano, and speaker system. All other props must be provided by the contestant.
 - Talent is performed at the Wilber Outdoor Theater. PowerPoint presentations are not recommended and are not guaranteed to be seen by judges and audience.
- We encourage contestants to perform their talent in Czech or Slovak language or works by Czech or Slovak composers. However, performing a Czech or Slovak talent is not mandatory.
- There will be an official talent timer located near the judges. The timer will hold up cards at minute intervals for the contestant's information. At four minutes the timer will hold up a STOP card. If the stop card is held up the contestant will be deducted 5 points from her overall talent score.

Failure to comply with any of the below rules will result in disqualification of contestant from the Miss Czech-Slovak US Pageant.

At – Large Program

Currently there are ten state pageants: Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin.

If a contestant would like to represent a state without a state pageant, they must enter via the national At-Large program.

1. If a state has a Board of Director Member (BOD), that individual has the right for 1st appointment of the state contestant.
2. If the BOD has not found a contestant by April 1st, the National Pageant Committee can appoint a candidate, meeting the national rules, to a state.
3. If your state does not have a Board of Director, please immediately contact the National Pageant Director.
- 4. All At-Large contestants must have their pageant entry form and required documents sent to the National Pageant Director by May 1st for confirmation by the pageant committee.**
5. At-Large contestants will be notified by May 10th of status of application and must turn in entry fee and kroj description by June 1st to complete the application.

At-large contestants can submit their application for approval at any time prior to May 1st.

If an at-large contestant submits the above requirements earlier than May 1st, she can receive early approval.

Contact the National Pageant Director for all at-large questions.

Traditional Prizes



Miss Czech-Slovak US will receive

- \$2,000 Cash Scholarship
- \$2,500 towards a trip to either the Czech or Slovak Republic arranged personally or through a Tour Agency. All tours must be approved through the National Pageant Director.
- A \$250 special scholarship from Cecelia Rokusek.
- Jeweled crown, trophy, and flowers

She will also receive access to the traditional traveling Fiala and Bohemian crystal crowns. The National Queen will use these for personal appearances throughout the year and pass them down to the next National Queen.

The 1st Runner-Up will receive

- \$1,500 Cash Scholarship
- Crown, sash, trophy and flowers

The 2nd Runner-Up will receive

- \$1,000 Cash Scholarship
- Crown, sash, trophy and flowers

Talent Awards:

Grand Talent Winner: Cash Scholarship and trophy

Talent Runner-Up: Cash Scholarship and trophy

Kroj Awards:

Awards will be presented based on accuracy to family story, poise, authenticity and kroj knowledge.

Oratory Award: Cash Scholarship and Crystal

An oratory award will be present to the contestant who has the best overall oratory skills. These skills include presentation, poise, clarity, expression, and public image. Judges will evaluate these skills throughout the pageant weekend for example, main street bandstand, parade, and evening introduction.

Other Awards: All awards below receive a cash prize and crystal

Miss Congeniality Award: This award is determined by the contestants. Contestants vote for the young lady, who exhibits the best attitude and spirit of the pageant.

Lois & John Fiala Spirit Award: This award is presented to the contestant with the most passion and spirit for her heritage.

Heritage Involvement Award: This award is presented to the contestant with the most and best community involvement in their heritage. This is determined by the contestant's entry form.

Sokol and Sokol Runner-Up Awards: These awards are presented to the two best sokol or sokol-like talents. These awards are only awarded if sokol talents are presented.

Cultural Preservation Award: This award is presented to the contestant who exhibits a passion and dedication to creating the next generation of cultural ambassadors.

Bozena Award: This award is focused on recognizing overall community service and efforts to make the world a better place.

All awards are subject to change based upon received donations.