



2026 RuCo Pride Pageant Packet

Thank you for your interest in competing in the 2026 RuCo Pride Pageant! We are beyond excited to have you join us.

The theme of this year's pageant is **"Old Hollywood on the Red Carpet."** We want to see how each contestant incorporates and carries this theme throughout the package they bring to this pageant. Make it your own! We look forward to stepping back in time to the old days of Hollywood and enjoying a night of Red Carpet glam and excitement as we crown our next King and Queen!

What's Next?

- **Application Deadline:** Applications must be received no later than **March 1st, 2026**. Applications should be emailed to rucopride@gmail.com with "2026 Pageant" in the subject line.
- **Additional Items:** Along with your application, please submit a basic headshot that can be used in promotional materials, 2-3 costume photos, and a short performance video.
- **Fee:** There is a **\$50** application fee. You will receive payment info once we receive the below application. Your application is not considered "received" until this fee is paid.
- **Acceptance:** Only **8** applicants total will compete the night of the pageant. You will be notified by email if you are approved or declined.
- **Important Dates:** Once your application is submitted and accepted, keep an eye out for important event details, including rehearsal schedules, and more.

If you have any questions or need support during the application process or leading up to the event, please feel free to reach out to our reigning royalty or pageant team. We are here to help in any way we can, every step of the way.

Thank you again for your interest in being a part of the 2026 RuCo Pride Pageant. We can't wait to witness your unique vision and see your artistry shine as we celebrate LGBTQ+ history, both past and present!

Warmest regards,

Veronika Electronika, Travi Sexton, and the RuCo Pride Team

Contact Info

Ms. RuCo Pride 2025, Veronika Electronika (Steven J. Raimo on FB/Instagram)

Mr. RuCo Pride 2025, Travi Sexton (Travi Sexton on FB/Instagram)

RuCo Pride (RuCo Pride on FB/Instagram; www.rucopride.com; rucopride@gmail.com)



RuCo Pride Pageant Application

Event Name: 2026 RuCo Pride Pageant

Date of Event: Saturday, March 21st, 2026, 6pm

Location: The Station Theater, 118 Front St, Smyrna TN, 37167

Personal Information & Eligibility

1. Full Legal Name: _____

2. Stage Name: _____

3. Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ Are you at least 21 years of age? ☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Gender Identity: _____

5. Pronouns: _____

6. Phone Number: _____

7. Email Address: _____

8. Mailing Address: _____

9. Are you available ALL DAY on Saturday, June 13th, 2026? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(If NO, explain why not, and why you are eligible to participate.)



Biography

Please provide a short biography (1-2 paragraphs) about yourself, your journey in drag, and why you want to compete in this pageant.

Categories/Performance Details

Categories:

- Presentation
- Formal Wear with On-Stage Interview
- Talent

Presentation Details

1. Outfit by: _____

2. Hair by: _____

3. Makeup by: _____

4. Jewelry by: _____



Formal Wear Details

1. Outfit by: _____
2. Hair by: _____
3. Makeup by: _____
4. Jewelry by: _____

Talent Details

1. Outfit by: _____
2. Hair by: _____
3. Makeup by: _____
4. Jewelry by: _____

5. Will you have music? ☐ Pre-recorded/audio track ☐ Live Music/Singing
(If you need a live mic, we will provide one. No personal devices allowed.)

6. Music: _____

(If live, who is performing with you? If track, include artist(s), title(s), & if multiple songs, who mixed them.)

7. Brief description of your talent/performance *(including additional participants)*:

In the talent portion of the pageant, you will have a total of 10 minutes, including set-up (3 mins), performance (4 mins), and tear-down (3 mins). You will be timed from start to finish. Anything over these 10 minutes, even just one second over, will result in point deductions of **10 points per minute over**. Your talent piece must be family-friendly from music to dancing to costume and props.



Backstage Assistance

Each contestant is allowed ONE person to stay backstage in the dressing area to assist with costuming and prep. They **MUST** wear the provided badge it must be visible at all times. If there are any additional persons in the dressing area helping you, there is a **10-point deduction** per person.

Assistant's preferred first & last name: _____

Terms & Agreement

1. I agree to abide by the rules and regulations of this pageant, and I understand that failure to comply with these rules may result in disqualification.

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. I agree to pay the required fee of \$50 as directed by pageant organizers as a part of my application.

☐ Yes ☐ No

3. If accepted, I grant permission for RuCo Pride and pageant organizers to use my name, image, and performance footage for promotional purposes.

☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Upon winning and being crowned, I agree to sign the RuCo Pride Pageant Royalty Contract.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Legal Name:

Signature:

Date:

Submission Instructions

Submit completed application and required attachments **NO LATER THAN MARCH 1ST, 2026** to rucopride@gmail.com with "2026 Pageant" in the subject line. Once reviewed, you will receive a response with information regarding how to submit the application fee (if applicable). If you have additional questions or need help, email rucopride@gmail.com for assistance.



RuCo Pride Pageant Royalty Contract

This contract is entered into by and between **Incoming Royalty's Name** (hereinafter referred to as "the Royalty") and **Rutherford County Pride** (hereinafter referred to as "the Pageant," "RuCo Pride," or "the Board"). By signing this contract, the Royalty agrees to fulfill the duties and responsibilities as outlined below during their reign.

1. Performance Requirements

The Royalty agrees to perform at RuCo Pride during the **2026 RuCo Pride Celebration** event and at any additional RuCo Pride-sponsored events as requested by the Board. Performances will be aligned with the values of the RuCo Pride community and will showcase the Royalty's talent, creativity, and support for LGBTQ+ advocacy.

Performance Expectations

1. The Royalty will perform at the scheduled annual event, **2026 RuCo Pride Celebration**, on **Saturday, June 13th, 2026**, and will coordinate with event staff and the Board regarding song choice(s), choreography, and stage requirements.
2. The royalty will perform at RuCo Pride-sponsored events throughout their reign, with dates and locations confirmed in advance.

2. Community Involvement & Charity Work

The Royalty agrees to commit to attending/completing at least **18** events in the RuCo Pride community during their reign. These events should focus on empowering the local community and support networks. *(There are **12** monthly meetings of the Board, and these will count toward the required **18** events if the Royalty is in attendance.)*

Charity/Community Service Expectations

1. As part of their **18** events, each member of the Royalty will organize or participate in at least **2** charity events during their reign, benefiting the community of Rutherford County. These may include fundraising performances, charity drives, volunteer work, or awareness campaigns.
2. The Royalty will actively promote these events through social media, public appearances, and community outreach, in collaboration with RuCo Pride's social media team and other local organizations.

3. Professional Conduct

Throughout the duration of their reign, the Royalty agrees to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, responsibility, and respect toward the Pageant and RuCo Pride, the LGBTQ+ community, sponsors, vendors, and event participants.



Behavior Expectations

1. The Royalty will act as a positive and inclusive representative of RuCo Pride and its values and mission.
2. The Royalty will maintain a respectful, uplifting, and inclusive presence in both in-person and online interactions. Social media/online interactions are subject to the RuCo Pride Social Media Policy.
3. The Royalty will attend all required events, rehearsals, meetings, and other engagements as requested by RuCo Pride unless a valid excuse is provided in advance.

Title/Reign Duration and Termination

Duration of Reign

The Royalty's title of **Mr./Ms. RuCo Pride 2026** shall be valid from **Saturday, June 13th, 2026** until the date of the next annual RuCo Pride Celebration (to be determined) OR until a successor is crowned.

Termination Agreement by Titleholder

This agreement may be terminated by the Royalty if they feel they are unable to fulfill their responsibilities outlined above. They must immediately notify the Board in writing, as soon as possible, of such. In such case, a replacement or acting titleholder may be named, solely at the discretion of the Board.

Termination Agreement by the Board

This agreement may be terminated by the Board if the Royalty has failed to meet the above-outlined responsibilities and expectations, including but not limited to attendance, community involvement, and/or adherence to RuCo Pride's standards of conduct.

1. Failure to engage in or support community services, charity events, RuCo Pride events, or other violations of this contract will result in a review of the Royalty's reign. The Board will have sole and final discretion to determine what, if any, action will be taken.
2. Failure to perform at the annual RuCo Pride Celebration or any required event detailed above may result in immediate termination of this contract, and a replacement or acting titleholder may be named, solely at the discretion of the Board.



Acknowledgment & Agreement

By signing below, the Royalty affirms their understanding and acceptance of all terms and conditions outlined herein and agrees to represent RuCo Pride and themselves to the best of their ability.

Legal Name *(printed)*:

Stage Name *(printed)*:

Legal Signature:

Date:

Board President Name *(printed)*:

Board President Signature:

Date:

Board Member Name/Position *(printed)*:

Board Member Signature:

Date:

RuCo Pride is an organization dedicated to fostering inclusivity, support, and empowerment within the LGBTQ+ community of Rutherford County and beyond. Our mission is to create safe and affirming spaces where LGBTQ+ individuals and their allies can thrive, connect, and build community. Through mutual aid initiatives, advocacy, and community events, we strive to cultivate an environment of acceptance, understanding and celebration of diverse identities. Together, we work towards a future where ALL members of the LGBTQ+ community feel valued, respected, and free to live authentically in Rutherford County.