

Empowerment Academy 2nd Annual 2022 Spring Pageant

Darcy Castro, Executive Director

Contestant Handbook & Agreement for Participation

Welcome!

The Empowerment Academy 2022 Spring Pageant is a great place for you to gain valuable pageant experience. Beginners all the way up to seasoned pros have something to gain from this program. ***The Spring Pageant is an open pageant, and does not have a non-compete rule.*** Winners are allowed and encouraged to compete in other pageant systems. This pageant experience is designed for you to grow in your personal, professional and pageant skills, and is a subsidiary yet separate entity of the original Empowerment Academy hybrid coaching pageant system, consisting of the Signature Program, Special Events and One-on-One Coaching.

The pageant will be held in a virtual format, which allows for greater accessibility and participation. In our increasingly digital environment, competing virtually in this traditionally-styled pageant is a useful tool to your overall pageant and professional preparation in whatever format you may compete in the future.

Prizes



Winners will receive a crown, sash and partial scholarship to the Empowerment Academy.



Runners-up will receive a certificate and partial scholarship to the Empowerment Academy.



Optional winners will receive an award.

All contestants and winners will be featured in the Empowerment Academy annual printed program book, available at the end of 2022!

Contestant Criteria

- Girls, women and transwomen ages 17+ are eligible to apply
- All abilities welcome, and accommodations will be provided if necessary
- There are no residency requirements. Contestants from around the globe are welcome to compete, but should be English proficient or have access to adequate translation services

- Must comply by the Code of Conduct and must sign the Agreement for Participation

Contestant Criteria

- Girls, women and transwomen ages 12+ are eligible to apply
- All abilities welcome, and accommodations will be provided if necessary
- There are no residency requirements. Contestants from around the globe are welcome to compete, but should be English proficient or have access to adequate translation services
- Must comply by the Code of Conduct and must sign the Agreement for Participation

Divisions

Miss 17-29 Ms. 30-44 Elite 45+ Miss Spring Sunrise

- All age division placements will be determined as of the contestant's age on the final pageant day, April 23, 2022.
- If minimum contestant numbers are not met in a particular division, the Director reserves the right to combine divisions.
- Miss Spring Sunrise is a division open to all contestants that identify as special needs or disabled.

Competition Elements

Interview (Contestants will participate in a recorded interview via Zoom)

1-minute max recorded introductory speech

30-second max recorded spring-theme fun fashion modeling

2-minute max recorded "All About Me" presentation (can be video, slideshow or any other creative medium)

30-second max recorded formal wear walk

***Points will be deducted for going over the time limit.**

Optionals – ALL ARE FREE! Participate in any you want!

Add to your pageant experience by participating in judged optionals that are not counted towards the pageant title, but are an opportunity to practice additional skills and win additional awards.

- Platform Presentation– 2-minute limit, can be video, slides with voiceover or any presentable medium.
- Talent – 2-minute limit, recorded, performance or non-performance.
- Academic, Service or Business Role Model – Submit a digital portfolio of your work and achievement.
- 2nd-hand Couture – 1-minute max recorded modeling walk in an outfit designed of thrift, recycled or 2nd-hand items. Get creative! Provide a written or recorded statement explaining the significance of your creation.
- Photogenic – One digital image. May enter more than one photo, but must register for this optional as many times as photos entered. If registering for "All-In," you may substitute additional photogenic entries for other optionals.

- Fitness & Wellness – Submit a 1-minute max recorded creative presentation about your fitness and wellness goals and how they benefit you.

Judging

A panel of judges will score each contestant's full competition package – videos and submitted paperwork. Optionals will be scored separately, but by the same panel of judges. Judges decisions are final. **Scores will be available after the final pageant date to all contestants, on request!**

Pricing

\$199

How to Enter

Submit an application at DarcyCastro.com. Upon full payment, you will receive a confirmation email of your acceptance and instructions on how to schedule your interview.

You must submit the following materials to Info@DarcyCastro.com **no later than 5pm ET Sunday, April 10:**

- Pageant resume
- Headshot
- All division competition submissions
- Any optional competition submissions

Important Dates to Remember

- * Registration closes April 8, 2022
- * All materials due no later than April 10, 2022, but are appreciated early!
- * Interviews will be scheduled via Zoom between April 11 – 13, 2022
- * Final pageant results broadcast online at 8:00pm ET April 23, 2022

Rules

- All fees are non-refundable.
- Required materials not submitted by the due date will result in contestant disqualification.
- All contestants will follow the Empowerment Academy core values of integrity, kindness and respect.
- All participants must hold harmless and release any claim against the Empowerment Academy and Darcy Castro Productions LLC, and any related companies, sponsors and staff.
- All judges' decisions are final and binding.
- By participating, contestants give permission for use of their images in Darcy Castro Productions LLC marketing and to have their participation appear in the final broadcast.
- Rescheduled interviews will result in point deduction.
- Winners must wait one year to participate in future Empowerment Spring pageants, but may compete for the 2022 Fall Pageant title.

Code of Conduct

- Contestants and their families must represent the program with integrity and a positive attitude.
- Gossip, negative or untrue communications/postings, or other inappropriate actions, may result in disqualification.
- Contestants must pledge to follow the Empowerment Academy core values of integrity, kindness and respect.
- Bullying in any form will not be tolerated.
- Contestants may not publish photos of themselves representing the organization in which they are consuming alcohol, tobacco or any other controlled substance, and must always represent the organization publicly in good taste.

Titleholder Obligations

- Promote the Empowerment Academy Pageant at least 4-6 times during their reign on social media, tagging the Empowerment Academy Facebook page @RhinstoneMotivation or on Instagram @darcycastroproductions
- Be available to appear in the Spring 2023 pageant broadcast
- Mentor the 2023 contestants in their division
- Be available for virtual appearances and marketing as requested by Director

About the Empowerment Academy

The mission of the Empowerment Academy is to give participants a path to identify their goals, visualize their highest potential and strive to be the best versions of themselves, in an environment that supports their personal and professional goals.

About Darcy Castro

Leader, author and on-air personality, Darcy Castro creates content that speaks to the hearts of women from all walks of life. Her Empowerment Academy and #StrongWomenStrongWorld initiative foster a climate of growth and respect for women of all identities to realize their potential as changemakers, both in their own lives in their communities. Her diverse life experiences and professional background have made her a force in the pageant industry and beyond. Come for the sparkle, leave with confidence. That's the Darcy Castro experience. Learn more at DarcyCastro.com.