

Registration Updates for Trans USA 2025

December 3, 2024

As we prepare to begin the next cycle of registration for Trans USA and welcome our next class of exemplary leaders, we first must acknowledge the monumental success of Trans USA 2024, much of which was achieved against seemingly insurmountable odds. At each turn, barriers both unanticipated and systemic were placed in our way—including a need to shift sash producers abruptly, anti-trans violence against our national director, a broad reduction in the availability of funding and sponsorship for trans-focused organizations at the national level, and the overwhelming number of Trans USA family members and staff who faced personal circumstances that prevented their participation. Despite setback after setback, our national team rallied to raise additional funds, our titleholders dug more deeply into their strengths, leaders from ally systems joined to provide critical staffing at the event, and our major community partners provided much needed support in the final days of the 2024 cycle.

Indeed, the outcome of the 2024 election ignited a fire within many of us, and the exuberance with which our Class of 2024 greeted the challenge of the national competition in the face of uncertainty and in spite of their own fears is truly a testament to the movement we have built—and to the legacy we aim to leave.

In a commitment to uphold this legacy and the standards required of all Trans USA representatives and to ensure the longevity of the overall organization, the administrative team and advisory board of Trans USA National Pageantry have implemented several changes to the registration process for Trans USA 2025:

Trans USA will move to a **judged, application-based process**. Applications for registration will comprise a basic information section; a required section of open-response questions; and an optional section in which candidates may submit supplementary materials such as resumes, platform proposals, and endorsements from their partner charities. Applications will be reviewed by a panel of community leaders, which will not overlap with the national judges panel for the competition, and contingent offers will be extended to the candidates selected no later than the close of the registration period. Contingent offers must be accepted, with full payment of the registration fee of **\$300**, within 1 week of receipt. The full Class of 2025 will be announced on **March 31, 2025**, in conjunction with International Trans Day of Visibility.

This change contributes to a more equitable process, as “first to pay” will no longer be a factor in the selection of a representative for a given area. Further, this competitive process will help to ensure that all selected representatives are prepared to complete their requirements and are qualified to assume the role of the national titleholder if crowned. As always, previous experience in pageantry is not required, and the ideal candidate for a Trans USA representative remains one who is actively engaged in their local communities, can develop a viable plan for contributing to the community as the national titleholder, and feels comfortable being an active and visible advocate at the national level.

While this change in registration fee may strike some given our previously low rates for early registration, our fee remains aligned with those of other major national systems and will continue to include the following for all contestants.

- State sash shipped to the contestant’s home address
- One covered catered meal at the National Awards Brunch
- Welcome bag at nationals with snacks, beverages, gift cards, a t-shirt, other items from our sponsors
- Option to purchase Trans USA merch at a discount

- Eligibility to earn money back from each souvenir book ad sold in their name (25%) and each fundraiser held for Trans USA (50%)
- Host hotel experience within walking distance of all major venues, basic needs, and city attractions
- Exclusive rates for professional photography with the renowned NV Gay
- Dresser fee of only \$25 total for all 4 nights
- A free copy of the national souvenir book
- And more to come!

With these changes and the upcoming announcement of our expanded board and administrative team, Trans USA will enter its next phase of national growth, further emphasizing our work beyond the stage and our commitment to fostering unity across the many facets of our national trans, non-binary, and gender-expansive community.

Those interested in joining our national family and beginning their journeys as state/regional representatives are invited to express their interest at <https://tinyurl.com/TUSA25Interest> or to reach out directly to the current court, while those committed to our growth as volunteer staff, sponsors, and organizers should reach out to admin@transusanationalpageantry.com for further information.

Sincerely and in solidarity,

The Trans USA Team

