

**Miss Dia de Portugal RI Pageant**

An Official Event of

Day of Portugal and Portuguese Heritage in RI, Inc. [www.dayofportugal.org](http://www.dayofportugal.org/)

**Pageant Rules and Regulations**

***Mission Statement***

*The Miss Day of Portugal Pageant represents the pride and tradition of the Portuguese Heritage by promoting self-confidence and self-esteem in our young women while fostering respect and encouraging individualism in a fun and engaging environment.*

**I.** **Contestant Eligibility\***

**Age Categories:**

Miss Mini 4-6 years of age by the date of the pageant

Miss Mini Juvenil 7-9 years of age by the date of the pageant

Miss Juvenil 10-13 years of age by the date of the pageant

Miss Junior 14-17 years of age by the date of the pageant

Miss Senior 18-23 years of age by the date of the pageant

*\* The committee reserves the right to adjust the above categories according to number of contestants competing.*

1. Contestants must be single, having never been married and never having had any children.
2. Contestants must be of Portuguese descent and encouraged to communicate in both Portuguese and English; however speaking fluent Portuguese is not necessary and will not be part of judging criteria.
3. A contestant that is not of Portuguese descent, but was adopted by Portuguese parents, has the same rights as that of a biological child.
4. Rhode Island residency is not a requirement to participate in the Miss Dia de Portugal RI pageant. However, non-Rhode Island residents must be a member of a Portuguese Club or Committee that is located in Rhode Island.
5. Rhode Island residents will be allowed to run independently. (IE represent a local organization with no Portuguese affiliation like a tanning salon, hair salon, etc.)
6. Contestants must not have any immediate family members sitting on the Miss Dia de Portugal Committee or affiliated in any way with the Miss Dia de Portugal RI pageant.

**II.** **Competition Rules:**

1. Contestants will be judged on presentation, talent and knowledge of Portuguese culture.

2. Contestants will have a maximum of 2-3 minutes to complete the talent portion of their presentations. Talents may include, but are not restricted to, singing, folklore dancing, tap dancing, ballet, gymnastics, playing a musical instrument, drama, poetry, dance, etc. If required, a partner and musicians will be allowed to participate in the contestant’s talent portion **without any penalties**.

3. Contestants are responsible for selecting and outfitting their talent with equipment if necessary. The Pageant Committee must authorize the use of any special accommodations or requests as needed.

4. Contestants must fully complete and submit entry forms by the deadline as posted by the Pageant Committee. Entries submitted after the deadline and incomplete entries may not be accepted.

5. Contestants are required to submit a 5x7 photograph (headshot only).

6. Contestants must participate in all pageant rehearsals. Rehearsals will run for approximately 3-4 weeks, 1-2 times a week, leading up to the pageant.

7. Failure to appear at two or more rehearsals, without prior approval of the committee, will result in possible expulsion from the pageant at the committee’s discretion.

8. On the day of the pageant, contestants are allowed to be accompanied by only one female attendant to assist in the dressing room.

9. Contestants must conduct themselves in a professional manner befitting of a representative of Miss Dia de Portugal RI.

10. Contestants are responsible for their personal expenses.

11. The Pageant Committee is not responsible for any personal goods lost or stolen.

12. Contestants will be asked to participate in the Day of Portugal Parade.

13. Rules and regulations are subject to change, if necessary, without advance notice by the Pageant Committee.

**III.** **Question & Answer Portion**

1. The question and answer portion of the pageant will include age appropriate questions on topics of Portuguese history and culture.

2. Contestants competing in the Miss Mini Juvenil, Miss Juvenil, Miss Junior and Miss Senior age categories will receive a list of questions to study prior to the pageant. During the question and answer portion of the pageant, they will be asked to answer one of the questions specific to their age category selected at random.

3. Contestants in the Miss Mini category will not be required to participate in the question and answer portion.

4. Contestants will have the option to answer their question in either Portuguese or English, with no penalty should the contestant choose to answer in English.

**IV.** **Jury**

1. The jury will consist of five individuals who are members of the Portuguese community, fluent in Portuguese and knowledgeable of Portuguese history and culture.

2. Judges must have no relation to or acquaintance with any contestant

**3. All decisions of the Jury are considered final and no appeals will be considered.**

4. Judges are not allowed to discuss any details about contestants with any other members of the jury.

5. Judges will be seated separate from the audience and are not allowed to speak to any contestants nor members of the audience.

6. Jury members may not be an active member of an organization being represented in the pageant.

**V.** **Evaluation**

1. Judges evaluation ballots will be kept ***strictly confidential*** and results will not be revealed to anyone with exception of the Pageant Committee.

2. NO results will be shared on the day of the contest. NO EXCEPTIONS.

**VI.** **Titles and Awards**

1. Winners in each age category will be determined by the highest total scores assigned by the judges and may include: Miss (Category), 1st Runner-up, 2nd Runner-up as determined in advance by the Pageant Committee. Additional prizes may be presented for Miss Congeniality/Miss Simpatia and Miss Photogenic/Miss Fotogenia at the discretion of the committee.

2. Title winners agree to represent Miss Day of Portugal in all Day of Portugal events and when called upon during the year of the reign.

3. Winners of each category will ride in the Day of Portugal RI parade during Day of Portugal weekend with winners of each category. Contestants who do not win their respective divisions may still participate in the parade but are not required to be in the titleholder section.

*For more information, contact pageant coordinator:*

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