

# Empowerment Academy 2023 Fall Pageant

Darcy Castro Productions LLC  
Darcy Castro, Executive Director

## *Contestant Handbook & Agreement for Participation*

### Welcome!

The Empowerment Academy 2023 Fall Pageant is a great place for you to gain valuable personal and professional experience in a supportive environment. Beginners all the way up to seasoned pros have something to gain from this fun program. ***The Empowerment Academy Fall Pageant does not have a contract.*** Winners are allowed and encouraged to compete in other systems. This experience is designed for you to focus on personal growth under the leadership of Darcy Castro and the Empowerment Academy that operates by the core values of integrity, kindness and respect.

### Prizes



Division winners will receive a crown and sash.



Runners-up will receive a high-quality, printable certificate.



Optional winners will receive an award.



The contestant with the overall highest accumulation of points across their division and optionals will be the HIGH POINT WINNER and receive a special award!

### Contestant Criteria

- 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

### Divisions

***Miss 17-29***

***Ms. 30-49***

***Elite 50+***

***Miss Fall Sunset***

- All age division placements will be determined as of the contestant's age on the final pageant day, October 21, 2023
- Miss Fall Sunset is an optional division open to all contestants that identify as special needs or disabled

### Competition Elements

1. 30-second max recorded video introduction
2. 1:30-minute max “All About Me” presentation (can be video, slideshow or any other creative digital medium). Topics can include your platform, accomplishments, goals, education, professional experience and/or anything that gives the big picture of who you are and what makes you unique.
3. 1-min max evening wear recording
4. Your highest score from one optional

### **Optionals**

**(Must select at least one. First optional is included in the divisional registration fee. The more optionals the greater the chance to win High Point!)**

- Talent – Recorded 2-minute time limit, performance or non-performance
- Academic, Service or Business Role Model – Submit a digital portfolio of your work and achievement
- 2<sup>nd</sup>-Hand Couture – 1-minute max recorded modeling walk in an outfit designed of thrift, recycled or 2<sup>nd</sup>-hand items. Get creative! Provide a written statement explaining the significance of your creation
- Fitness, Health & Wellness – Submit a 1-minute max recorded creative presentation about your fitness, health and wellness goals and how they benefit you
- Fall Fun Fashion – 30-second max recorded fall-theme fun fashion modeling
- Photogenic
- Essay – 1-2 page max on the topic “My Fondest Memories of Fall”

### **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.

### **Fees**

\$149 – Division registration + one optional

\$25 – Each additional optional

-or-

\$249 – “All-in Package” (includes division registration and all optionals!)

\*Payment plans available upon request\*

\*Empowerment Academy Spokesmodels, Titleholders, Leadership Award winners and past participants receive a \$25 discount!\*

### **Important Dates to Remember**

\* Registration closes October 15th

\* All materials due no later than October 16th

\* Final pageant results broadcast online at 5:00pm ET October 21

### **To Participate:**

1. Submit your pageant application by filling out the registration form at <https://form.jotform.com/210666190625152>

2. Venmo your pageant fees promptly to @Darcy-Castro
3. Submit large files via Google Drive or Dropbox. Submissions must be original files, not YouTube links, in order to be included in the final pageant broadcast
4. DO NOT ADD MUSIC BACKGROUND TO YOUR EVENING WEAR OR RECORDED INTRODUCTION.

### **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
- Agree that 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.

### **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

### **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**

Darcy Castro creates content that speaks to the hearts of women from all walks of life. Her Empowerment Academy and Strong Women = Strong World initiative foster a climate of growth and respect for women of all abilities and 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](http://DarcyCastro.com).