

The American Indian Week Committee
Of New Mexico State University
Proudly Presents The

*2023 Miss Native American NMSU
Competition*



Application Due by: Monday, April 10, 2023



Prepared by:
The American Indian Week Committee of New Mexico State University

Contestants must carefully read this packet to understand and prepare for the expectations of serving as Miss Native American NMSU. Being selected as Miss Native American NMSU is a tremendous opportunity and a great responsibility.

PURPOSE:

Miss Native American NMSU's role is to serve as a goodwill ambassador on behalf of Native American students, staff, and faculty at New Mexico State University. The purpose of her title is to be a cultural representative for the Native American community in and around NMSU. As Miss Native American NMSU, her travels and visitations will serve to promote and increase the positive visibility of Native American people and students. This will include introducing the public to various cultural values, tribal issues, and trending topics for Native American peoples, especially Native American NSMU students. Another responsibility is to help peers understand and acknowledge the value of this position. This can be done in various ways, such as, volunteering, networking, serving in leadership roles, speaking to potential students, and giving back to those in need. Another way is to be responsive to the requests of Native American Communities for service, and to share the knowledge gained from those experiences.

DUTIES OF MISS NATIVE AMERICAN NMSU:

- Assist with requests received from AIP, IRD, or any of the AIP student organizations
- Within reason, be in attendance for student organization requests. This includes, but is not limited to tailgates, banquet arrivals, recruiting events, ASNMSU events, AIP events, etc.
 - If the event interferes with any obligations within the classroom, or any dire circumstances she may be excused. However, she must inform the event manager in a timely manner.
- Must remain in good standing, both academically and disciplinarily.
- Responsible for the caretaking of the crown and/or sash. She will be liable for such articles in the event of any damage or loss.
- Shall be responsible for providing semester (Fall and Spring) activity updates while serving in the capacity of this position to AIP, and the officers of the student organizations of AIP.
- Miss Native American NMSU shall be responsible for preparing proposal requests to AIP or NABSA for funding and/or reimbursements. (*This includes travel, lodging, meals, or crown and/or sash maintenance, etc.*)

Removal of Miss Native American NMSU:

- If 2 out of 3 American Indian Program student organizations (NABSA, UNAO, and AISES) gather sufficient evidence that Miss Native American NMSU is not abiding by the rules outlined in *Duties of Miss Native American NMSU*, and/or becomes disqualified for any reason they shall, with due process, vote to remove her. She may appeal to the American Indian Program Director.
- If Miss Native American NMSU is unable or incapable of fulfilling her responsibilities, the First Runner-Up candidate shall step forth and complete the term of Miss Native American NMSU.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

The application packet is **DUE before or on, Monday, April 10th at 8:59 a.m.** Contestants have the option to **hand-deliver** completed applications to the **American Indian Program office at the American Indian Student Center; or** submit to **nmsuunao@gmail.com**. The Pageant Packet consists of the following: Contestant Qualifications, Contestant Rules and Regulations, Competition and Judging Information, Contestant Application, Contestant Agreement, and Traditional/Contemporary Presentation Description.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Be enrolled as a full-time Undergraduate student (at least 12 credits) or Graduate student (at least 9 credits) at New Mexico State University's Main Campus (Las Cruces) and for the duration of reign.
- Have a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.0, on a scale of 4.0 at the time of the competition and maintain it throughout the reign. *(To be verified by the American Indian Program.)*
- Be an enrolled member of a Federally Recognized Tribe (by BIA designation) or a State-Recognized Tribe (as designated by respective states) *(Enrollment verified by the American Indian Program.)*
- Candidates **may not** hold any current crowns or titles when running for Miss Native American NMSU.
- Any previous winners of the Miss Native American NMSU pageants are **ineligible**.

PAGEANT ORIENTATION:

A Pageant Orientation will be held the week of the competition.

1. **This is a mandatory meeting for all contestants;** arrange to be on time!
2. Contestants will be interviewed by both, the American Indian Week Committee and the American Indian Program Director/Coordinator.
3. All necessary information regarding the pageant will be provided to each contestant.
4. Any questions or concerns will be addressed at this orientation session.

PAGEANT REHEARSAL:

The Pageant Rehearsal will be held on the week of the competition in the Corbett Center Auditorium. This will be a practice run of the pageant. Any questions, information and/or issues will be addressed at this time. The pageant rehearsal is **mandatory for all contestants**. Attendance is required to better prepare all parties, including contestants, for the pageant. If another rehearsal is needed, contact the American Indian Program and/or American Indian Week Committee. This information will be announced through email, as needed.

PAGEANT RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- The use of any drugs or alcohol throughout the duration of the pageant will not be **tolerated** and will result in **immediate disqualification** of the contestant.
- Parents, relatives and/or significant others **will not** be allowed to interfere with Contestants, Competition judges *(during the pageant)*, the American Indian Week Committee, or any associated parties.
- The use of any electronic devices (e.g. cell phones, tablets, etc.) by contestants for the purposes of communicating with others **will not** be allowed during the Pageant. However, they can be used for presentation purposes.
- Contestants must read and abide to all Rules and Regulations for the Corbett Center Student Union's Auditorium. (See attached Facility Use Agreement)

COMPETITION INFORMATION:

1. Public Speaking:

Time limit: 5-7 minutes.

Should include self-introduction including a brief biography, and to address the questions: “*Why do you want to serve as Miss Native American NMSU?*” and “*How will the position enhance your college experience and education?*” Contestants are encouraged to utilize their Native language during their introductions. The use of PowerPoint (or equivalent) presentations will be allowed for this portion of the competition (biography, platform and questions).

2. Traditional/Cultural Activity:

Time Limit: 5-7 minutes.

Contestant shall demonstrate an activity relating to her associated tribe’s culture. The purpose is to present some knowledge of the contestant’s culture to fellow Native Americans and Non-Native Americans. Stage props are encouraged.

- Some examples include, but are not limited to:
 - Storytelling
 - Discussion/Presentation of tribal history or culture
 - Traditional Singing or Dancing
 - Traditional Art or Demonstrations (e.g. Rug Weaving, Pottery or Jewelry Making, etc.)
- Please remember to abide to all Rules and Regulations for the Corbett Center Student Union. (See attached Facility Use Agreement)

3. Impromptu Question:

The response shall be limited to 2 minutes per question.

Contestants shall answer two random questions as follows:

- One question be drawn at random by the contestant from a bin of pre-written questions; and
- One question will be asked by a randomly selected student body member.

4. Contemporary Talent:

Time Limit: 5-7 minutes.

Contestants shall demonstrate an activity (i.e. talent) that demonstrates a contemporary view. The purpose is to present something unique about the contestant’s contemporary viewpoint. Stage props are encouraged.

- Some examples include, but are limited to:
 - Dance
 - Acting
 - Poetry Readings
 - Personal Hobbies (hunting, riding, training, arts and crafts, etc.).
- Please remember to abide to all Rules and Regulations for the Corbett Center Student Union. (See attached Facility Use Agreement)

JUDGING INFORMATION:

Judging will be based on *five* categories:

1. Public Speaking
2. Traditional / Cultural Activity
3. Impromptu Question and Answer
4. Contemporary Talent
5. Overall Presentation

The Judging Panel will consist of three individuals affiliated with NMSU (can be adjusted at the discretion of the committee). During the pageant, each Contestant will be judged by the maximum possible points (10 points) available for each category. The winner of the competition will be determined by adding the points of each of the five categories together; in the event of a tie the winner will be chosen by a coin toss.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES (winners will be announced at pageant):

- **Miss Congeniality** - will be chosen by most votes from the current Miss Native American NMSU Contestants.

Miss Congeniality:

Miss Congeniality reflects the respect and admiration of her fellow competitors, whom are also competing for the Miss Native American NMSU title. This title is awarded to one of the competing contestants who has shown to be the most charismatic and inspirational participant throughout the weeklong competition.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please **type or print** all parts of the application before submitting to the American Indian Program or the American Indian Week Committee.
- 2) Make sure you **understand all rules and regulations** pertaining to the pageant.
- 3) Attendance at both the **orientation and rehearsal is required!**
- 4) You are **encouraged** to attend all events happening throughout the American Indian Week.
- 5) You are **encouraged** to enjoy the competition and have a spirit of cooperation throughout the pageant.
- 6) You **must complete and submit** the following **before or by the deadline specified** in the packet:
 - ☐ Contestant Application
 - ☐ Contestant Agreement
 - ☐ Traditional/Cultural Presentation Description
 - ☐ Contemporary Presentation Description
 - ☐ Tribal Enrollment Documentation (Degree of Indian blood verification)
- 7) All information submitted to the American Indian Program or American Indian Week Committee will be kept **CONFIDENTIAL**. The American Indian Program will be the only entity to verify student status and GPA.

Please **submit all parts of this application** to the American Indian Program at the American Indian Program Office, or to the American Indian Week Committee at nmsuunao@gmail.com

If there are any questions, concerns, or comments, please contact nmsuunao@gmail.com



Facility Use and Services Agreement

Decorating: The Department/Organization has reviewed the following decorating requirements with the Conference Services

Event Planner and agrees that any and all representatives of the Department/Organization shall adhere to the stated requirements. In the event that decorations/decorating are the responsibility of a party other than the Department/Organization, the Department/Organization agrees to relay all decorating requirement information to the responsible party. Decorations and access times must be discussed and approved prior to the scheduled event. Access to the facility during any time other than agreed upon times, will not be allowed.

- A. The Department/Organization must bring all supplies that will be required for decorating.
- B. Decorating at above arm's reach must be done from ladders. For safety, Department/Organization agrees that no one will be allowed to stand upon items such as chairs, tables or anything other than a ladder.
- C. Emergency exits and service doors must not be blocked with any decorations, equipment or chairs.
- D. Painters tape (blue) or removable poster mounts (magic mounts, 3m brands) are the only acceptable fastening material to be used on walls. Nails, tacks, other types of tape, screws or staples must not be used to fasten decorations to the walls, doors, curtains, glass or any other part of the facility.
- E. Decorations, banners, or other items, must not be attached to, or suspended from any ceiling, door or window without prior notification and approval. (Attaching or suspending any item from the Corbett Center Ballroom acoustic cloth wall paneling is strictly prohibited).
- F. Caution in the use of flammable material is essential. Fire codes prohibit the use of hay, straw, cornstalks, or other dry tinder in the building.
- G. Use of paint or aerosol spray products is prohibited.
- H. Candles are prohibited (lit or unlit).
- I. Glitter, confetti, rice, flower petals, stones and other hard to clean materials are prohibited.
- J. Large containers of water and fountains are prohibited without prior notification and approval.
- K. "Light Show" projectors and similar equipment which use any type of liquid are prohibited (i.e., fog machines).
- L. All equipment, supplies, and decorations brought into the facility shall be removed immediately following the event. NMSU and Conference Services are not responsible for equipment or supplies left behind following an event.
- M. Department/Organizations and guests are not permitted in any storage rooms, service areas or restaurant kitchen areas.
- N. General routine cleaning of facilities is the responsibility of NMSU staff. If more than routine cleaning is required in the facility after the event, a cleanup fee will be charged to the customer following the event. Clean up fees will be applied where trash is not deposited into trash receptacles; decorations are not disposed of or removed; extensive cleaning is necessary due to excessive spilled food, beverages or other hard to remove items.
- O. The Department/Organization is responsible for the actions of their guests, staff and contractors (caterers, decorators, and entertainers).

Miss Native American NMSU Contestant Packet

Contestant Application

Contestant's Name: _____ Aggie ID: _____

Cell Phone #: _____ Texting OK?: ☐ Yes or ☐ No Home Phone #: _____

NMSU Email Address: _____

NMSU Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ (MM/DD/YY)

Escort's Name – *optional*: _____

Parent(s) – *optional*: _____

Tribal Affiliation(s): _____

Clan(s) - *optional*: _____

Hometown: _____

High School Attended: _____ Graduation Date: _____

College of Study or Graduate Program (Arts & Science, Business, Education, Engineering, Etc.):

Major: _____ Minor: _____

Classification: ☐ Freshman ☐ Sophomore ☐ Junior ☐ Senior ☐ Graduate

Plans after graduation: _____

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, April 10th, 2023 by 8:59 A.M.

Submit to the American Indian Program Administrative office at the American Indian Student Center (*East of CCSU*), or to
nmsuunao@gmail.com

If there are any questions, concerns and/or comments, please address them to nmsuunao@gmail.com

Miss Native American NMSU Contestant Packet

Contestant Agreement

In signing and accepting this entry, I _____.

(Print name)

the undersigned contestant, my heirs, executors and administrators waive and release any and all claims of damages, demands, and actions, whatsoever in any manner, against the American Indian Program, American Indian Week Committee, and all other sponsors, officials and directors as a result of my participation in the Miss Native American NMSU Pageant.

Furthermore, I hereby grant full permission to the usage of any photographs, videotapes, recordings, or any other record of this event for any purpose, whatsoever. AIP and the AIW Committee reserve the right to decline my entry, without further explanation.

In signing and accepting this entry, I, the undersigned contestant, my heirs, executors and administrators fully understand all rules set forth before me in the application packet and will abide by all rules, if I am selected as the 2023 Miss Native American NMSU.

In signing and accepting this entry, I, the undersigned contestant, my heirs, executors and administrators fully understand that if I am unable to fulfill my duties as Miss Native American NMSU, I will notify AIP and/or the AIW Committee, as soon as possible, so that my position will be filled. I will also return the crown and sash to the American Indian Program and/or the American Indian Week Committee within 24 hours of notifying the parties mentioned above.

In the event that Miss Native American NMSU is disqualified or resigns from her position at any time throughout her reign, if chosen as the First Runner-Up of Miss Native American NMSU, I, will be notified to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of Miss Native American NMSU, I, the undersigned contestant, my heirs, executors and administrators fully understand that I will step in to fulfill the position as the current Miss Native American NMSU. As Miss Native American NMSU, I will assist in the planning for next year's pageant and American Indian Week.

Contestant's Signature

Date

Pageant Committee Representative's Signature

Date

Miss Native American NMSU Contestant Packet

Activity & Talent Description

The American Indian Week Committee requires each contestant to describe Presentations. Please be as descriptive as possible. This information is for the Judges and Master/Mistress of Ceremony to use.

Traditional/Cultural Presentation Description

Please print or type a brief statement about your traditional/cultural presentation. Please include with your packet. Please be as descriptive as you can. If you need more space please attach a separate sheet with “Traditional/Cultural Presentation Description” on the top, to identify correctly.

[illegible]

Contemporary Presentation Description

Please print or type a brief statement about your Contemporary Presentation. Please include with your packet. Please be as descriptive as you can. If you need more space please attach a separate sheet with “Contemporary Presentation Description” on the top, to identify correctly.

[illegible]

Do not forget that all activities should be in compliance with all rules and regulations of Corbett Student Union Center. (See attached Facility Use Agreement)