

# UPLIFT

TRI-STATE GULF COAST USA



## *Founding Class of 2026*

Official Application Packet

*Community First. Crown Second.*

*An initiative of Gala Glitterati Group, LLC*

Florida • Alabama • Mississippi

[galagitteratigroup.com](http://galagitteratigroup.com)

## WELCOME

# From the Director

**Dear Future Founding Class Member,**

Thank you for considering Uplift Tri-State Gulf Coast USA for your pageant journey. This is the founding year of a system we have built deliberately, with care, around three things: real community impact, intentional inclusion, and the kind of sparkle people remember for years.

If you are reading this paper application, it is because you chose the path that fits you best — whether that is because the online form does not work for your situation, because you prefer pen and paper, because you do not have reliable internet, or simply because you wanted a physical record of what you are agreeing to. All of those reasons are valid. The paper path carries exactly the same weight as the online path. You will be judged on exactly the same package as every other contestant in your division.

**We want you to know a few things up front:**

- Every contestant pays the same. Directional entry is free for everyone. State fees are reduced by County placement — top placers pay nothing.
- Every contestant is judged on the same package. Phone photos are scored alongside professional photos. Wardrobe is capped at \$50 per outfit and \$100 per gown.
- Every age, body, ability, ethnicity, and identity is welcome. Our 14 age divisions cover infants to 100+. Our 15 open titles celebrate identity, ability, and contribution.
- Free voting is always available. Every voting window includes a free Alternate Method of Entry (AMOE) that carries equal weight to paid votes. The AMOE form is included in this packet.
- Your work matters. The Closet Challenge runs free at every level — collecting clothing, building the future Uplift Closet, supporting sustainability — and earns a Champion title of its own.

If you have any questions while completing this packet, email [info@galagliteratigroup.com](mailto:info@galagliteratigroup.com) or write to us at the address on the back page. A real person reads every message.

*We are so glad you are here. Welcome to the Founding Class.*

Warmly,

**The Uplift Director Panel**

Gala Glitterati Group, LLC

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

# How to Complete This Packet

Read this page carefully before you start filling anything out. It will save you time and prevent the most common mistakes.

## Step-by-step instructions

### **Step 1. Fill out the Application Form (pages 4–8)**

Use blue or black ink. If you make a mistake, draw a single line through it and write the correct answer next to it — do not white-out. If you run out of room on any answer, continue on a separate sheet and label it with the question number.

### **Step 2. Complete the Parent / Legal Guardian section (page 9)**

Only required if the contestant is under 18 on August 1, 2026. If the contestant is 18 or older on that date, skip this page.

### **Step 3. Sign the Photo & Likeness Release (page 10)**

Required for everyone. If the contestant is a minor, the parent or legal guardian signs on the contestant's behalf.

### **Step 4. Sign the Code of Conduct Acknowledgment (page 11)**

Required for everyone. This is your commitment to the Community First. Crown Second. principles.

### **Step 5. Optional: AMOE Voting Form (page 12)**

Only fill this out if you want to cast a free vote by mail. You do not need to use it to apply.

### **Step 6. Attach your photos and intro video info (back of packet)**

See the Submission Package checklist on the next page for exactly what to send.

### **Step 7. Mail or email the completed packet**

Instructions on the back page. Email is the fastest method. If you mail, postmark by July 25, 2026.

**SUBMISSION PACKAGE**

# What to Send With Your Application

*Use this as a final checklist before you submit. Every item must be included for your application to be processed.*

## Required for everyone

- This completed application packet, signed where indicated**
- One headshot photo — clear photo of your face, any format. Phone photos are perfectly fine.
- One casual photo — everyday outfit, full body preferred.
- One formal photo — dressed up. Thrifted, secondhand, and back-of-closet are welcome and encouraged.
- One 30–60 second introduction video — phone video is fine, no editing required. Provide a link in the field on page 6, OR mail a USB drive with the video file.
- Brief community involvement statement (filled in on page 7 of this packet)

## Required for contestants under 18

- Completed Parent / Legal Guardian section (page 9), signed by parent or legal guardian
- Signed Photo & Likeness Release (page 10), signed by parent or legal guardian

## Optional

- Paid add-on selections (page 8) — 8 categories, \$25 each, payment instructions sent separately. The 8 free awards require no payment.
- Open Title entries (page 7) — no additional fee
- Closet Challenge participation (page 8) — free at every level
- AMOE voting form (page 12) — only if voting by mail

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*If you are missing any required item, your application cannot be processed until it is received. We will contact you by email or phone to let you know what is missing — but the application deadline (July 25, 2026, postmark) still applies.*

APPLICATION — PART 1 OF 5

# Contestant Identity

Please print clearly in blue or black ink.

## 1.1 Legal Name

First name

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Last name

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Middle name (optional)

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Preferred / stage name (optional)

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## 1.2 Date of Birth & Age Division

Date of birth (MM / DD / YYYY)

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Age on August 1, 2026

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Confirm your age division by checking ONE box below. Age is determined as of August 1, 2026.

- Tiny Spark Division (0–11 Months)
- Little Light Division (1–2 Years)
- Rising Star Division (3–4 Years)
- Bright Bloom Division (5–6 Years)
- Dream Builder Division (7–9 Years)
- Young Visionary Division (10–12 Years)
- Trailblazer Division (13–15 Years)
- Changemaker Division (16–18 Years)
- Emerging Leader Division (19–24 Years)
- Luminary Division (25–34 Years)
- Legacy Leader Division (35–49 Years)
- Golden Impact Division (50–64 Years)
- Timeless Inspiration Division (65–79 Years)
- Living Legacy Division (80–100+)

APPLICATION — PART 1 OF 5 (CONTINUED)

## Contact Information

### 1.3 Mailing Address

Street address

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City

State

County

ZIP code

### 1.4 Phone & Email

Mobile phone (primary)

Alternate phone (optional)

Email address (we'll send your contestant number here)

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### 1.5 Minor Status

- The contestant is 18 OR OLDER on August 1, 2026. Skip to Part 2.
- The contestant is UNDER 18 on August 1, 2026. A parent or legal guardian must also complete page 9 and sign page 10.

*Why we ask: ZIP determines your directional county assignment (Miss West Bay County Uplift, for example). Age confirms your division. Email and phone are how we send your contestant number, directional confirmation, and competition updates. We do not share or sell contact information.*

APPLICATION — PART 2 OF 5

## Submission Package Details

### 2.1 Photos

Confirm each photo by checking the box. Attach photos to the back of this packet (paperclip, do not staple). If sending by email, attach as JPG or PNG files named with the contestant's last name and the photo type (e.g., Smith-Headshot.jpg).

- Headshot attached / emailed
- Casual photo attached / emailed
- Formal photo attached / emailed

### 2.2 Introduction Video (30–60 seconds)

Choose ONE method:

- I am providing a video link below (YouTube, Vimeo, Google Drive, or Dropbox).

Video link

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OR

- I am mailing a USB drive with the video file (mp4, mov, or m4v).

*Label the USB with the contestant's name. Drives will be returned with directional confirmation if a self-addressed stamped envelope is included.*

APPLICATION — PART 3 OF 5

# Tell Us About Yourself

Use additional sheets if you need more room. Label each sheet with your name and the question number.

## 3.1 Why are you applying to Uplift Tri-State Gulf Coast USA?

2-4 sentences is plenty.

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## 3.2 What does "Community First. Crown Second." mean to you?

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## 3.3 If you became a titleholder, what cause or community would you champion this year?

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APPLICATION — PART 3 OF 5 (CONTINUED)

## Community Involvement

### 3.4 Describe your community involvement over the past year.

Volunteer work, service hours, organizations, projects, or causes you've contributed to. Be specific — names of organizations, approximate hours, what you actually did.

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### 3.5 Open Titles (optional)

Check any Open Titles you identify with or qualify for. There is no additional entry fee. Open Title winners auto-advance to the next level regardless of overall placement. Self-identification is honored — we do not require documentation. How open titles are decided: for most titles there is no separate vote — at the Directional and County levels each open title goes to the entrant with the highest Main Title vote result among those who entered it, and at State and the Tri-State Finals open titles are decided by in-person judging. The two exceptions are Miss Kindness and Miss Inspiration, which are chosen by a peer vote of the contestants within each age division (you may vote for yourself; a single entrant wins by default). For experience-based titles (Caregiver, Survivor, Military Family, Entrepreneur, Community Hero, Leadership) you may optionally name someone to speak to your story, or have them submit a short nomination form on your behalf — it is never required and never scored.

- |                                                    |                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Black Uplift         | <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Survivor Uplift        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Hispanic Uplift      | <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Military Family Uplift |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Asian Uplift         | <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Entrepreneur Uplift    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Indigenous Uplift    | <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Community Hero Uplift  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Multicultural Uplift | <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Leadership Uplift      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Disabled Uplift      | <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Kindness Uplift        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Adaptive Uplift      | <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Inspiration Uplift     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Caregiver Uplift     |                                                      |

APPLICATION — PART 4 OF 5

# Optional Add-Ons & Closet Challenge

## 4.1 Paid Add-On Categories (8 — \$25 each)

There are eight paid add-on categories at \$25 each, with no limit. You may add or change selections any time before the Directional voting window opens (August 1, 2026). Payment instructions are sent by email after we receive your application. The eight free awards are listed in section 4.2 below and cost nothing.

- |                                                         |                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photogenic (\$25)              | <input type="checkbox"/> Congeniality (\$25)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cover Model (\$25)             | <input type="checkbox"/> Spirit of Uplift (FREE)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Smile (\$25)              | <input type="checkbox"/> Director’s Choice (FREE)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Eyes (\$25)               | <input type="checkbox"/> Judge’s Choice (FREE)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Hair (\$25)               | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Excellence (FREE)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Style (\$25)              | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service Award (FREE) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Dressed (\$25)            | <input type="checkbox"/> Uplift Project Award (FREE)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People’s Choice (FREE — voted) |                                                         |

Number of add-ons selected

Total add-on cost (\$25 × count)

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## 4.2 Free Awards (8 — no entry fee)

These eight awards cost nothing and cannot be purchased. You do not check a box to buy them. People’s Choice is decided by public voting (paid and free votes count equally), every approved contestant is automatically eligible, and it is the one award voted at all four levels — Directional, County, State, and the Tri-State Finals (Main Title voting, by contrast, ends after County). Director’s Choice, Judge’s Choice, and Rising Uplifter are chosen at the panel’s discretion. Spirit of Uplift, Volunteer Excellence, the Community Service Award, and the Uplift Project Award are decided from materials you submit during the season (documented service hours, completed-project write-ups, and similar evidence). Submission instructions are sent to accepted contestants. The free awards are: People’s Choice, Spirit of Uplift, Volunteer Excellence, Community Service Award, Uplift Project Award, Director’s Choice, Judge’s Choice, and Rising Uplifter.

## 4.3 Closet Challenge

Free at every level. Collect gently-used clothing, build the future Uplift Closet, support sustainability. Scored by pounds collected, with bonus points for diversity of sizes and types.

- Yes — I will participate in the Closet Challenge alongside my main competition.
- Yes — I am entering the Closet Challenge ONLY (not the main pageant).
- No — main competition only.

APPLICATION — PART 5 OF 5

# Accessibility & Agreements

## 5.1 Accommodations

Do you need any accessibility accommodations to complete the application process or participate in events? Examples: ASL interpreter, large-print materials, mobility access, sensory accommodations, support person, written instead of verbal interview, etc. No detail is too small — we will work with you.

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## 5.2 Required Agreements

Check each box AND sign and date below. All six are required to compete.

- I have read and agree to the Master Rulebook.
- I have read and agree to the Code of Conduct.
- I have read and agree to the Terms of Service.
- I have read the Privacy Policy and understand how my information will be used.
- I understand wardrobe is capped at \$50 per outfit and \$100 per gown, and that professional photography provides no scoring advantage.
- I commit to titleholder appearance obligations (minimum one per year) if I win a title.

## 5.3 Contestant Signature

By signing below, I confirm all information in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If the contestant is under 18, a parent or legal guardian must sign instead on page 9.

Contestant signature

Date

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Printed name

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**REQUIRED IF CONTESTANT IS UNDER 18**

# Parent or Legal Guardian

*This page is required if the contestant is under 18 on August 1, 2026. The parent or legal guardian completes ALL fields and signs at the bottom.*

## Your Information

Parent / guardian first name

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent / guardian last name

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone

\_\_\_\_\_

Email

\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to contestant (mother, father, legal guardian, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

Street address (if different from contestant)

\_\_\_\_\_

City

\_\_\_\_\_

State / ZIP

\_\_\_\_\_

## Your Statement

By signing below, I confirm that I am the parent or legal guardian of the contestant named on page 4 of this application. I have read this entire packet, including the Photo & Likeness Release on page 10 and the Code of Conduct Acknowledgment on page 11. I consent to the contestant's participation in Uplift Tri-State Gulf Coast USA and agree to the terms on the contestant's behalf.

### I also confirm:

- I will be the primary point of contact for the contestant for all communications.
- I have read and signed the Photo & Likeness Release on page 10.
- I understand the contestant cannot compete without my signature on this page.

Parent / guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Printed name

\_\_\_\_\_

**REQUIRED FOR ALL CONTESTANTS**

# Photo & Likeness Release

*Please read carefully before signing. This release governs how Uplift Tri-State Gulf Coast USA and Gala Glitterati Group, LLC may use photos, video, and other recordings of the contestant.*

In consideration of my participation in Uplift Tri-State Gulf Coast USA, I (or my parent or legal guardian, if I am under 18) grant Gala Glitterati Group, LLC and its affiliated entities, agents, and assigns (collectively, "GGG") the following permissions:

1. GGG may photograph, video record, audio record, and otherwise capture my image, likeness, voice, and performance during the competition, at sponsor events, at community appearances, and at any other Uplift-related activities.
2. GGG may use these recordings in any current or future media format, including print, broadcast, web, social media, promotional materials, sponsor materials, and historical records of the 2026 Founding Class.
3. I understand I will not receive payment, royalties, or other compensation for the use of these recordings. I waive any right to inspect or approve finished uses of the recordings.
4. I release GGG, its officers, directors, employees, contractors, volunteers, sponsors, partners, and any persons acting on its behalf from any liability arising from the use of these recordings, including any claim of defamation, invasion of privacy, or violation of personality rights.
5. This release continues indefinitely. I may withdraw this consent in writing at [info@galagitteratigroup.com](mailto:info@galagitteratigroup.com) for future recordings, but withdrawal does not require GGG to remove already-published materials.
6. I confirm that I have the legal right to grant this release. If I am signing on behalf of a minor contestant, I confirm I am that contestant's parent or legal guardian.

**I have read this Photo & Likeness Release in full and I grant the permissions described.**

Signature (contestant 18+ OR parent/guardian)

Date

Printed name

If signing on behalf of a minor, contestant's name

REQUIRED FOR ALL CONTESTANTS

# Code of Conduct Acknowledgment

The Uplift Code of Conduct is what makes "Community First. Crown Second." real. Every contestant, parent, sponsor, volunteer, judge, and staff member agrees to it. The full Code is available at [galaglitteratigroup.com/legal/code-of-conduct.html](http://galaglitteratigroup.com/legal/code-of-conduct.html). Below are the seven core commitments.

- 1. Lead with kindness.** Treat fellow contestants, judges, volunteers, sponsors, and audience members with respect, both in person and online. Disagreement is fine; cruelty is not.
- 2. Community First. Crown Second.** Use the Uplift platform to build others up. Service over self-promotion. Visible contributions over performative posting.
- 3. Compete with integrity.** No fraudulent voting, no misrepresenting your background, no buying placements, no harassment of judges or other contestants, no doctored submission materials.
- 4. Respect the wardrobe cap.** \$50 per outfit, \$100 per gown. The cap is the cap. We verify with receipts at State and Tri-State.
- 5. Show up.** If you commit to an appearance or event, you arrive prepared, on time, and ready. If a true emergency prevents this, you communicate as early as possible.
- 6. Speak up about wrongs.** If you witness harassment, discrimination, unsafe conditions, or rules violations, report it to [info@galaglitteratigroup.com](mailto:info@galaglitteratigroup.com). We protect reporters from retaliation.
- 7. Wear the crown lightly.** If you win, you represent every contestant who didn't. Carry yourself accordingly.

*Violations of this Code may result in disqualification, forfeiture of titles or prizes, and removal from future Uplift events. Director Panel review processes are described in the Master Rulebook.*

**I have read, understood, and agree to the Uplift Code of Conduct.**

Signature (contestant 18+ OR parent/guardian)

Date

Printed name

ALTERNATE METHOD OF ENTRY — OPTIONAL

# Paper Voting Form (AMOE)

This form lets you cast a free vote by mail. You do not need to use it to apply. The AMOE exists to ensure free voting is always available, alongside the paid online voting at [galaglitteratigroup.com](http://galaglitteratigroup.com).

## AMOE Rules

1. One entry per envelope. Multiple forms in one envelope count as a single entry.
2. Each AMOE entry is the equivalent of one (1) free online vote and carries identical weight. Two categories accept public votes: the Main Title (your contestant's age division), voted at the Directional and County levels, and People's Choice, voted at all four levels through the Tri-State Finals. Indicate which one your vote is for in the box below. Open Titles are not separately voted (they are derived from Main Title results), and Miss Kindness and Miss Inspiration are decided by a contestant peer vote — none of these accept public or AMOE votes. All other awards are judged or recognition-based and do not accept votes.
3. The form must be hand-written. Photocopied, typed, or otherwise mechanically-reproduced forms will be discarded.
4. All fields below must be filled out completely and the form must be signed. Incomplete forms will be discarded.
5. Postmark must fall within the voting window for the round you are voting in. Mail received outside the window will not be counted.
6. You may submit one AMOE per voting window per contestant. Duplicate entries for the same contestant from the same voter will be flagged and only the first received will count.
7. AMOE entries are subject to the same anti-fraud review as online votes. The Director Panel may request additional verification.

## Your Vote

**Vote for ONE contestant per envelope. Fill in your information completely.**

Contestant name being voted for (first and last)

Contestant's directional / county (if known)	Voting round & category (e.g. "Directional — Main Title" or "Directional — People's Choice")
----------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## Your Information (the Voter)

Voter first name	Voter last name
Voter mailing address	
Voter city	Voter state / ZIP
Voter phone	Voter email
Voter signature	Date

*Mail completed AMOE forms to the same address as your application (see back page). Voting windows are published at [galaglitteratigroup.com/uplift/pageant.html](http://galaglitteratigroup.com/uplift/pageant.html).*

HOW TO SEND YOUR PACKET

## Submission Instructions

Use ONE of the following methods. Email is the fastest. Mail is recommended if you are including a USB drive or original photos you want returned.

### Method 1 — Email (fastest)

Scan or take clear photos of every signed page (especially pages 4–11). Attach photos and the introduction video link (or the video file itself if under 25 MB). Send to:

**info@galagitteratigroup.com**

Subject line: 2026 Application — [Your Last Name, First Name]

*What we'll do: confirm receipt within 24 hours, send your contestant number within 48 hours, and follow up with payment instructions if you selected any add-ons.*

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### Method 2 — Postal Mail

Mail the complete signed packet, attached photos (paperclipped, not stapled), and your USB drive (optional) to:

**Uplift Tri-State Gulf Coast USA**

c/o Gala Glitterati Group, LLC

[Mailing address — to be confirmed]

Lynn Haven, FL [ZIP]

*Confirm the current mailing address at [galagitteratigroup.com/uplift/contact.html](http://galagitteratigroup.com/uplift/contact.html) before mailing, or call ahead. Application packets must be postmarked by July 25, 2026.*

*If you'd like the USB or original photos returned, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) of appropriate size.*

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## Need Help?

If you have any questions, problems with the form, or need accommodations to complete this packet, reach out:

Email: [info@galagitteratigroup.com](mailto:info@galagitteratigroup.com)

Web: [galagitteratigroup.com/uplift/](http://galagitteratigroup.com/uplift/)

Web (full online application): [galagitteratigroup.com/uplift/apply.html](http://galagitteratigroup.com/uplift/apply.html)

**Welcome to the Founding Class.**

*Community First. Crown Second.*