



2026 Titleholder Rules

Eligibility

1. Must be between 18–26 years old at the time of the Miss He Sapa Win Pageant.
2. Must be currently enrolled in school (high school, college, graduate, or trade).
3. Must be of Oceti Sakowin descent and provide proof if needed.
4. Must be drug and alcohol free.
5. Must have never been married or given birth.
6. Must have knowledge of your Tribe.
7. Must have no criminal convictions beyond minor traffic violations, and must not have any criminal charges pending at the time of application.
8. Any misrepresentation of eligibility or failure to fulfill titleholder duties may result in forfeiture of the title, crown, and sash.
9. You are eligible to compete if you have never held the title of Miss He Sapa Win, or if you only assumed the title as a runner-up and served for less than a full year.
10. The titleholder must be in good mental and emotional health and able to fulfill the duties of the title throughout the reign. If circumstances change significantly, she must notify the directors promptly.

Conduct & Representation

11. Must be respectful of her title and conduct herself with class and dignity in the public eye, at events, and on social media; both public and private accounts.
12. Shall not post pictures of a significant other on public or private social media accounts during the reign.
13. Shall not post or display content involving alcohol, drugs, or vulgar language on any social media platform during the reign.
14. Social media posts must remain family-friendly, wholesome, and aligned with the values of the Black Hills Pow Wow and Oceti Sakowin people.
15. Shall not make major appearance changes from the time of crowning until the end of the reign.
16. Will hold only the Miss He Sapa Win title during the reign and may not compete for or accept any other pageant title while reigning.

Duties & Appearances

17. Must be available for crowning ceremonies, publicity events, parades, gatherings, and other designated appearances.
18. Must wear dance regalia for the entire Black Hills Pow Wow.

19. Shall attend each grand entry at the Black Hills Pow Wow.
20. Must attend the Black Hills Pow Wow to crown the successor.
21. It is mandatory for the titleholder to represent the BHPW at local pow wows, as well as big powwows, throughout the reign.
22. The titleholder is encouraged to make a minimum of one public or community appearance per month during the reign and must show proof in case needed for the social media channels (in addition to required pow wow appearances).
23. The titleholder shall serve as a goodwill ambassador for the Oceti Sakowin community, using her platform to promote cultural awareness, youth empowerment, and community wellness.
24. Has strong public speaking skills and is comfortable speaking publicly on behalf of the pageant and community when called upon.

Crown, Sash & Materials

25. Must be available to provide a photo for publicity purposes (website, powwow poster, etc).
26. The titleholder is responsible for the care, maintenance, and safekeeping of the crown and sash throughout the year.
27. Lost or damaged crowns or sashes may be the financial responsibility of the titleholder.
28. If you can not fulfill your year as Miss He Sapa Win, the next runner-up will receive the sash and crown and take over the duties of being Miss He Sapa Win.
29. Successor Transition: The outgoing titleholder is expected to support and encourage the newly crowned Miss He Sapa Win during the transition.
30. Must provide her own transportation to events.

Communication with the BHPW Board and Pageant Director

31. Must maintain open and timely communication with the pageant director throughout her reign.
32. Must notify the director in advance if she is unable to attend a required or requested appearance.
33. Repeated unexcused absences from required events may result in a review of her titleholder status.
34. May have to present to the BHPW Board quarterly about their reign.
35. The titleholder agrees that all decisions made by the pageant director, with BHPW board support, regarding conduct or eligibility are final.

Photography & Media

36. The titleholder agrees that photos taken at official pageant events may be used by the Black Hills Pow Wow for promotional purposes or on social media channels.
37. The titleholder should not make official statements to the media on behalf of the pageant or organization without prior approval from directors.