

The South Carolina Leather Bootblack Contest



2010 Guidebook

2010 Bootblack Contestant Guidebook
Revised - May 24 2010
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The SC Leather Bootblack Contest

Fee and Application Requirements:

A twenty-five dollar (\$25) non-refundable* Contestant Fee must accompany applications postmarked prior to Friday, September 3, 2010. Contestant applications presented after September 3, 2010 require a thirty-five dollar (\$35) Contestant Fee. In person applications are to be paid by cash or money order - **no personal checks accepted** after Friday, August 27, 2010. **No credit cards accepted.**

Cutoff for applications is Friday, September 10, 2010. Any exceptions are on a one to one basis and arrangements made and approved by The SC Leather Contest board/directors prior to cut off date.

Contestants must be at least 21 years old, with current state of SC driver's license or ID. In order to verify your eligibility to compete, please attach a copy of your legal ID (driver's license, state ID, or passport) to The SC Leather Contest Application.

Completed and signed applications, Proof of Age and Residency and checks made payable to: The SC Leather Contest, and mailed to, PO Box 12471, Columbia, SC, 29211.

Personal Information and Photo. Upon acceptance, all contestants will be sent a questionnaire which will be used to develop write-ups for the program provided to attendees. A signed model release wavier and a "head and shoulders" photo will also be required for use on; the website, contest promotion and/or the program.

* In the event a contestant application is not accepted, any application fees will be reimbursed, by check, from The SC Leather Contest after September 19, 2010.

If you have any questions about any rules or requirements, The SC Leather Contest, contact information can be found on the back of this guidebook.

The SC Leather Bootblack Title **Requirements**

Contestant Requirements:

1. Contestant may be of any gender or gender orientation and may be of any sexual orientation.
2. Contestants must appear on stage in appropriate Leather and/or fetish gear, while conforming to local laws pertaining to nudity and obscenity. No full nudity, or genitals (Vagina, Nipple, Areola, Penis, Balls, Anus) showing. (SC Title 16, Chapter 15, Article 3. See below.)

South Carolina Laws

SC Title 16, Chapter 15, Article 3. Offenses Against Morality, and Decency, Section 16-15-365.

Exposure of private parts in lewd and lascivious manner, aiding or procuring person to perform such act, or permitting use of premises for such act prohibited; penalties. Any person who willfully and knowingly exposes the private parts of his person in a lewd and lascivious manner and in the presence of any other person, or aids or abets any such act, or who procures another to perform such act, or any person, who as owner, manager, lessee, director, promoter, or agent, or in any other capacity knowingly hires, leases, or permits the land, building, or premises of which he is owner, lessee, or tenant, or over which he has control, to be used for purposes of any such act, is guilty of a misdemeanor Section 16-15-375, subsection (6) "Sexually explicit nudity" means the showing of: (a) uncovered, or less than opaquely covered human genitals, pubic area, or buttocks, or the nipple or any portion of the areola of the human female breast; or (b) covered human male genitals in a discernibly turgid state.

The SC Leather Bootblack Contestant Qualifications

1. Contestants must be at least 21 years old.
2. Contestants must reside in SC, for a minimum of 6 (six) months prior to The SC Leather Contest event (March 18, 2010) and continue to do so during the title year, (Sep 18, 2010 - Sep 17, 2011), if they should win.
3. Contestants must plan to stay over-night, locally, a minimum of Saturday night, at their own expense. Photo shoot for winner, 1st & 2nd runner ups will take place Sunday morning.
4. Contestants must not have any current warrants of felony convictions and/or unresolved charges at time of application and up until the competition's end. Titleholders must remain free of any warrants of felony convictions and/or unresolved charges throughout their title year. Legal matters that may reflect badly on the SC Leather/BDSM community and/or any contestants, titleholders, sponsors, vendors, as well as the board of directors, staff, and volunteers of any of The SC Leather Contest titles will be subject to disqualification from contest and/or a possible removal of the awarded title.
5. Contestants will agree to and sign a model release wavier before being qualified for The SC Leather Contest title. Submitting a completed wavier entitles The SC Leather Contest rights to the use of all photographs, images, and other recorded measures acquired during the titleholder's title year, for documentation, archive and promotion, including but not limited to print media and website use.
6. Contestants agree to release The SC Leather Contest, its contestants, titleholders, sponsors, vendors, as well as the board of directors, staff, and volunteers from any personal injuries, economic loss, personal loss, or any liability. Contestants agree to pay all court costs in any litigation that may arise from any legal action taken by the contestant against the aforementioned.
7. Contestants must demonstrate an active interest in Leather/BDSM and South Carolina's Leather/BDSM community, fetishes and/or Master/slave dynamics, as determined by the judges.
8. Contestants are expected to conduct themselves in a way to bring credit to themselves, The SC Leather Contest, their sponsor(s) and any club, groups or organizations involved. It will be to the contestant's advantage to spend time with attendees and other contestants.
9. A contestant's use of illegal drugs or excess consumption of alcohol (judges or board discretion) during the contest may result in disqualification. Any alcohol consumption should be in moderation. Contestant should be aware that they are being observed at all times before the contest decision is made, and their conduct may reflect in the judge's decision.
10. Contestants must own their Leather/fetish clothing (a minimum of boots and a vest) and Bootblack tools. Props, aids and other Non-Bootblack tools may be borrowed. Personal Leathers/fetish wear, must be owned by the contestant.

The SC Leather Bootblack **Expectations**

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1. Over the contest judging periods, contestants will be required to give a brief introduction that will share with the judges their abilities and passions for the Leather, BDSM and/or Fetish lifestyles through Bootblacking. Other portions being judged on are in the forms of their "Leather Image", "Public Speaking" and "Bootblack Skills" segments. Judges will also be able to question contestants about personal history, experience, social affiliations, and other topics related to BDSM/Leather aspects. Contestants are expected to present in a Leather Formal Wear style during portions of the SC Leather Bootblack Title Contest.
2. Contestants will be observed, by the judges throughout The SC Leather Contest duration for social interaction with attendees of the event, as well as how they handle themselves, handle public situations, their stations, and their behavior. Contestants will be judged on how they perform their bootblack skills, how they make it interesting, sexy, intriguing and different. This observation time begins at the start time of The SC Leather Contest Event, and continues until the winner is announced. This observation time begins at the start time, approximately 11am, of The SC Leather Contest Event, and continues until the winner is announced, approximately 11pm.
3. In the event that the winner resigns, has their title removed or for any other reason, as determined by The SC Leather Contest board, is not able to fulfill or carry out their term as titleholder, the first runner-up at the preliminary level agrees to assume the SC Leather Bootblack title, privileges and responsibilities of the winner. Similarly, the second runner-up agrees to do the same should the winner and first runner-up be determined ineligible to hold the title during the official title year term.
4. You are welcome to participate in any social/cocktail parties throughout the event if you desire.
5. Unacceptable behavior during the Contest, as well as during the title year may result in disqualification and/or removal of their title. Such behavior may include but is not limited to, substance abuse, being intoxicated and other conduct unbecoming a titleholder. Sexual favors are NEVER required of any contestants. The other judges and/or the contest board will make this decision. Once made, this decision is final.
6. Contestants must refrain from inappropriate fraternization with judging personnel. Contestants are expected to conduct themselves throughout the weekend with honor, integrity, and collegiality. Cheating of any kind, disrespecting The SC Leather Contest staff and judges, during the weekend will be grounds for disqualification. Contestants must remain above reproach at all times.
7. Contestants must attend all mandatory meetings the day of contest to receive their contestant numbers and review the contest details and for any judges meetings requiring contestant's presence.
8. Photo Shoot. Each contestant will have a short photo shoot with The SCLC official photographer. Photos will be used for publicity at future events and functions of The SCLC.
9. Winners must agree to represent The SC Leather Contest and/or whatever title that is won by performing outreach in at least 4 (four) lifestyle groups/clubs within SC, including at least one outreach for the pansexual Leather/BDSM groups and one outreach for the gay Leather/BDSM groups.

The SC Leather Bootblack **Judging Categories and Scoring:**

Beginning with the Individual Interviews Saturday morning and ending with the evening portion(s) on Saturday night, the judges will be “observing” all of the contestants.

For the “Individual Interview” with the judges, consider appropriate non-formal, Levi, Leather and/or fetish clothing.

For “Leather Image”, Public Speaking/Introduction” and “Formal Attire/on-Stage Interview”, you should wear your best Leather, appropriate for Bootblack, apparel.

20% = Individual Interview (In-Private, Questions from the judges)

This is an individual contestant's interview and questions from the judging panel. Contestants will be prepared to give a brief summary (5 minute max), to the judges, of as to what they bring to the lifestyle through Boot Blacking to the judges. Each contestant will then have a 10-minute (Max.) interview with the panel of judges concerning, but not limited to, technique, skill, knowledge, history (both skill and personal). Contestants are expected to NOT discuss these interviews with anyone until after The SC Leather Contest, 2010 winner is announced.

15% = Public Speaking/Introduction. (Held during the “Meet the Contestants” social, this is a formal attire event for contestants.)

Contestants will have 3-5 minutes each, to introduce themselves to the audience. During the “on-stage” portion, contestants may talk about themselves and the club, organization or business sponsor they represent. Contestant's attitude, viewpoint and character will also be principal in the judges’ decisions.

15% = Leather Image (Appearance in Leathers). (During the “Meet the Contestants” social, this is a formal attire event for contestants.)

The judging panel will be observing the contestants attire, how they conduct themselves, as well as their social interaction with contest attendees. People with money can buy Leather clothing; Leatherfolk need not have any on in order to be recognized. With that said, the judges will look for a combination of attire and presence.

10% = Question from the judges. This is held during the evening contest portion.

Questions will be randomly drawn. Contestants will have 3 minutes to answer. Contestants will be judged on how quick they think and the audience appreciation of their reply, as seen by the judges.

30% = Bootblack Skills

Contestants must own and will provide their own bootblack supplies. Contestants will be provided a stool/chair for seating.

Each contestant shall bring a pair of ‘in-need’, polish-capable army-style boots found at most thrift stores and Army/Navy supply houses. The boots will be collected and contestants shall draw a pair by way of a lottery. One boot shall be boot blacked and judges shall judge according to before and after results. A time period of 1 hour (Max.) will be allowed to perform this task.

In addition, contestants will perform public Boot Blacking during set times for the contest. This will be a 2 hour (Max.) timeframe in which contestants have a chance to boot black for attendees publicly and to be observed by the judges for social interaction with event attendees. Judges will be asking questions during this time frame in order to understand technique and/or see Boot Blacking skill.

* - Gratuities for any Bootblack services performed at The SC Leather Contest may be accepted and used in whatever way the contestant(s) wishes.

10% = Contestant Baskets.

Contestants are required to bring a basket, to be raffled off, that reflects what is important to them, their group, personality, hometown, sponsors and/or a theme of the competitor's choosing. The proceeds will aid in the cost of The SC Leather Contest Title's travel fund. Basket raffle ticket sales by the contestants will be part of the judging contest and promoted all during the event, until a designated cut-off time to be determined and announced the day of the contest. Many of your local businesses, groups, individuals and organizations will be very willing to donate for a contestant's basket. Baskets must be completed and received by The SC Leather Contest organizers, prior to the day of the contest.

Note: If you do not have means to do this, please let us know, and we will find resources for you.

Points awarded for Basket Raffle sales are by totals. Example: Contestant with the highest ticket sales is awarded 10 points, 2nd highest sales is awarded 9 points, 3rd highest sales is awarded 8 points, etc. In the event of any ties:

Example 1: Highest sales awarded 10 points, 2-way tie for 2nd highest sales are both awarded 8 points, 3rd highest is awarded 7 points, etc.

Example 2: 3-way tie for 2nd highest sales are each awarded 7 points and 3rd highest is awarded 6 points, etc.)

Single Contestants

In the event that any of The SC Leather Contest title competitions are limited to a single contestant, that contestant must score a minimum of 75% of the total possible points (75 out of 100). The producers reserve the right to deviate from this procedure if they feel the circumstances warrant further consideration.

Please note that the title will not be awarded if none of the contestants meet the minimal levels, as determined by the members of The SC Leather Contest judges and producers. The decisions of the The SC Leather Contest judges are FINAL.

Tie Breaker

In the event of a tie for any final placement will be the Bootblack Skills points will determine the higher ranking. Other categories follow in the following order: Leather Image, Public Speaking/Introduction, Individual Interview, Question from the Judges, Basket Raffle Ticket Sales.

The SC Leather Bootblack Recognition and Awards

The Winner(s) will receive a sash, a medallion, a trophy and an additional photo shoot.

The winner of The SC Leather Bootblack Title will receive a sash from The SC Leather Contest. This sash will be returned at the end of their reign to The SC Leather Contest to be given to the winner(s) of the next year's Contest.

The winner of The SC Leather Bootblack Title will get a patch for their Leathers from The SC Leather Contest. This patch, indicating they won one of The SC Leather Contest titles, is theirs to keep and wear during and after their title year at events they attend to fulfill their reign's requirements.

The SC Leather Bootblack will also receive a medallion, a trophy and an additional photo shoot on Sunday morning, while displaying the new SC Leather Bootblack sash have their picture taken and be documented towards preserving the history of The SC Leather Contest.

A minimum of \$100, raised through Baskets raffle ticket sales, will be given to the winner, by The SC Leather Contest to go towards travel expenses. 50% at the 2010 contest weekend, and 50% 6 months from the 2010 contest date. Basket funds are not intended to provide for all the costs incurred by traveling to the required events during the reign. Portions of travel costs not covered by this travel fund will be the responsibility of the titleholder.

The first and second runners-up will receive trophies and medallions. All contestants who complete the entire list of scheduled events will be awarded a medallion and a special "thank you" gift bag.

The SC Leather Bootblack **Winning The Title**

The winner of The SC Leather Bootblack Title will receive a sash from The SC Leather Contest. This sash will be returned at the end of their reign to The SC Leather Contest to be given to the winner(s) of the next year's Contest.

The winner of The SC Leather Bootblack Title will get a patch for their Leathers (vest) from The SC Leather Contest. This patch, indicating they won one of The SC Leather Contest titles, is theirs to keep and wear during and after their title year at events they attend to fulfill their reign's requirements.

SC Leather Bootblack will also receive a medallion, a trophy and an additional photo shoot on Sunday morning, while displaying the new SC Leather Bootblack sash have their picture taken and be documented towards preserving the history of The SC Leather Contest.

Titleholders shall promote The SC Leather Contest event, websites and its sponsors, as well as its board of directors, staff, and volunteers in a positive manner, such as; in person at events when representing The SC Leather Contest. Mention of The SC Leather Contest in; print media indicating a titleholders' title; and as links in personal website noting their title, during their title year.

Titleholders shall be aware at all times, that they are seen, publically, as not only representing The SC Leather Contest, its sponsors, as well as the board of directors, staff, and volunteers, but as representatives of the greater SC Leather/BDSM community as well.

Sponsors of The SC Leather Contest 2010, MAY request 2010 titleholder(s) to attend annual events or functions, but sponsors or clubs will be responsible to supply accommodations, and furnish a complimentary event package to the title holder. Within reason, The SC Leather Contest 2010, titleholder(s) will attempt to accommodate these requests and serve as an ambassador for The SC Leather Contest to the best of their ability.

The SC Leather Contest 2010, titleholders will be expected to attend and host The SC Leather Contest 2011 "Meet the Contestants" social at The SC Leather Contest September 17, 2011.

Titleholders will communicate with a designated SC Contest Staff in order to verify that requirements are being met within the title year.

Titleholders are reminded they signed a release and will have their picture taken and be documented towards preserving the history of The SC Leather Contest. Completed waiver entitles The SC Leather Contest rights to the use of photographs, images, and other recorded measures, during the titleholder's title year, for documentation and promotion, including but not limited to print media and website use.

Winners of any of The SC Leather Contest titles agree to attend the following contest year to hand over their title and sash to the newest winner/titleholder(s).

Winners must agree to represent The SC Leather Contest and/or whatever title that is won by performing outreach in at least 4 (four) lifestyle groups/clubs within SC. These representations must be done in person. This can be done in the form of presentations, demos, helping a group's events, any presence in a group's functions.

As an added requirement for fulfilling the number of Leather/BDSM events or functions designated, contest winners need to have at least one outreach for the pansexual Leather/BDSM groups and one outreach for the gay Leather/BDSM groups.

Titleholders must remain free of any warrants of felony convictions and/or unresolved charges throughout their title year. Legal matters that may reflect badly on the SC Leather/BDSM community and/or any contestants, titleholders, sponsors, vendors, as well as the board of directors, staff, and volunteers of any of The SC Leather Contest titles will be subject to disqualification from contest and/or a possible removal of the awarded title.

The South Carolina Leather Contest, Inc.
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