

Stonewall Columbus Pride March

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do we march?

The annual Stonewall Columbus Pride March brings together the LGBTQ+ community, our allies, and our supporters to stand up for rights and justice for all in these communities who are still oppressed and unheard, and to commemorate and celebrate our collective accomplishments and those of whom have paved the way before us.

Where does the money from registration fees and March donations go?

Bringing the Stonewall Columbus Pride March to life every year is expensive. Between supplies, equipment rental, insurance, security, and administrative overhead, the cost of the annual event has risen dramatically from our early days. In addition to this, the Stonewall Columbus Pride March ends at our very large Pride Festival, which is free to attend, but costs the organization money to produce. Any profit from the Stonewall Columbus Pride March and Festival goes directly back to The Center to provide many valuable services including: free counseling, health services, legal and financial seminars, and a number of support groups for our LGBTQ+ Veterans, senior adults, and transgender community—among others.

How can I participate in the Stonewall Columbus Pride March? Can I just show up that day and join somewhere?

As a permitted event, all participants in the Stonewall Columbus Pride March **must** be a part of a registered group, you can find the march registration [here](#). We cannot allow people to simply drop in and registrations will not be accepted the day of the March. To participate in the Stonewall Columbus Pride March, you must either form your own registered group or join an existing group.

What is this year's theme?

The June 2023 theme for Stonewall Columbus is **“Purpose. Passion. Power.”** Fifty-four years post the Stonewall Uprisings we have much to celebrate but far more left in our fight. In the month of June as our communities gather around the country to celebrate and recognize LGBTQ+ Pride across our intersectional identities we must ensure we do this in remembrance of our purpose, celebration of our passion, and as a demonstration of our power because we know as we fight to make and maintain spaces for queer identities to be seen and thrive, at the core this fight is about our Pride.

Columbus' first Pride march in 1981 saw 200 people marching from the Ohio State University to the Statehouse in commemoration of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising. In 2023 Columbus will recognize 42 years of leading the Ohio community in the celebration and recognition of the LGBTQ+ community across Central Ohio.

In the state of Ohio, our community can still be denied/evicted from housing or fired from our jobs just because of our sexual orientation or gender identity, so it is important for us to stand up and let our voices be heard. We stand ever firmly in line with the BIPOC members of our community, we stand shoulder to shoulder with our transgender community members, of all ages, we stand at the ready to uplift and make space for all members of our LGBTQ+ community and all our communities that demand inclusion, full enfranchisement, and equality before the law. Stonewall Columbus encourages our communities, queer and not queer, to remember the purpose of why we march, to show-up with your passion for the LGBTQ+ community, and believe in the combined power we have to create a space where queer identities can show up as their most authentic selves and be celebrated!

Where will we appear in the Stonewall Columbus Pride March?

We take many things into consideration when arranging the March, including tradition, recognition, groups with sound and more. Our primary goal is to make sure that the Stonewall Columbus Pride March is a reflection of the LGBTQ+ community's a compelling story from beginning to end. As we consider placement in the march we work to ensure that LGBTQ+ groups and organizations (local then national) are given priority placement, as this is a march we work to give appropriate placement to contingents without vehicles, we then consider our [Pride 365 partners](#) who's support is critical to empowering our organization's work, and then our community partners through whom we have expanded our opportunity to connect the LGBTQ+/queer community to services and resources our organization may not be able to directly provide. All other marching contingents are reviewed on date of registration and prior participation in the march.

How long is the March?

For participants, it typically takes about 60-75 minutes to travel the approx. 2 mile-route from formation to dispersal. This year, the March will kick off at 10:30 AM near the intersection of High St. and Broad St.

How long will our group have to wait in the staging area?

That depends on where you are placed in the March order and the policies that will be announced at March Ambassador Training. Based on past experiences, it could be anywhere from 1-3 hours before your group officially enters the March. We encourage you to plan for food, water, sunscreen, and other necessities. In the past few years, the March has grown to include over 200 groups, attracting thousands of spectators. While this is great news, it means that we have a very long event. Our desire to make sure the March is compelling for spectators and participants alike must be balanced against the need for public safety and organization.

How do we know what type of group we should register as?

Please review the [2023 Fee Schedule](#) for rates and registration types. If you are unsure which of registration type your group falls under, please contact us at (614) 299-7764 or pridemarch@stonewallcolumbus.org to discuss your situation.

What do I do if, after registration, we decide to change our plans (e.g., adding a sound system, adding a vehicle, more marchers than anticipated, etc.)?

Please contact pridemarch@stonewallcolumbus.org or (614) 299-7764 with any changes as soon as possible. Additional vehicles cannot be added after Monday, May 1 at 5 PM.

How much room will we have for our banner/equipment, etc.?

The March down High Street is quite spacious, however, there could be many turns depending on your location in line up. There will also be a turn for vehicles from High to Buttles for deconstruction and stopping. We recommend that you keep your banners and vehicles less than 16 feet wide and no more than 12 feet high.

Can I bring a pet?

Stonewall Columbus does not permit live animals in the March--walking or riding. This excludes certified service animals. The March is typically long, hot, and loud which can easily exhaust and frighten pets. For their comfort and the safety of the March, please leave your animals at home.

How are participating organizations recognized at the March?

There are numerous creative ways to make an impact at the March. Music, costumes, choreography, chants, or props can all help you stand out amongst the 200+ groups marching through downtown Columbus in support of the LGBTQ+ community. We strongly encourage you to showcase your creativity—always check-in with us if there are any questions!