



## Stonewall Columbus Pride Parade 2017 Rules

YOUR GROUP MUST COMPLY WITH ALL INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY MEMBERS OF STONEWALL COLUMBUS & STONEWALL COLUMBUS PRIDE. You are responsible for reading and understanding this material. Please share this information with the members of organization and anyone responsible for any floats or vehicles you may have in the Parade.

- **Parade Ambassadors:** Parade Ambassadors play an important role in the success of the Pride Parade as leaders of their group. They are the official liaisons between Stonewall Columbus Pride and your group. They serve as the point of contact in case of emergency and are tasked with making sure everyone in their group adheres to the parade rules. Every group **MUST** be accompanied by at least one Parade Ambassador. Groups with more than 40 marchers (walkers) and/or multiple floats require additional Ambassadors. The correct number of Ambassadors required for your entry will appear in your registration form based on your registration selections. Groups with over 40 marchers must have two Ambassadors. For each additional one hundred marchers after forty, you need to have an additional Parade Ambassador (e.g. 140 marchers = 3 Parade Ambassadors; 240 marchers = 4; etc.)
- **All Parade Ambassadors are required to attend one mandatory training session** before the day of the parade. Ambassadors will be notified with dates and times for available training sessions.
  - **Mandatory Trainings:** 2017 Parade Ambassador Trainings will take place:
    - **Thursday, June 1 @ Thompson Recreation Center:** 6 – 7:30 PM
    - **Additional Training Date(s) and Location TBD**
  - Your group should choose as Parade Ambassador(s) people who can attend a mandatory training sessions. For out-of-town participants, if all possible Parade Ambassadors live more than 90 minutes away from Columbus, please contact <mailto:parade@columbuspride.org> or (614) 299-7764 to discuss alternative training options.
  - **Ambassador Apparel:** All Parade Ambassadors must wear the special Ambassador apparel provided by Stonewall Columbus. This identifies them to the Parade organizers and to the police as the individuals responsible for each

group and its vehicles. Ambassadors will pick up their apparel at check-in and will drop it off in labeled bins at the end of the parade.

- **Staging Area:** Parade Ambassador check-in and information tables are located in the Staging Area on High St. Parade Ambassadors must check-in during their designated arrival times. Participants that arrive earlier than scheduled will be asked to return at their scheduled arrival time. Parade Ambassadors must bring a photo ID to the check-in table in order to pick up their Ambassador apparel.
- **Order of Parade by Section:** All organizations must line up in the section to which they have been assigned, and must do so at the designated time and location. Each organization must stay in its assigned section for the duration of its participation in the Parade. Any group that moves to another section or enters the Parade route from any point other than the Staging Area will be denied registration in the Parade the following year. This rule will be emphasized at Parade Ambassador training and in all our communications with registering organizations.
- **Registration:** All participants in the Parade must register online before June 5, 2017 (5 PM). Registration includes fees depending on the type of entry and number of marchers. Please see the [2017 Participant Fee Schedule](#) on our website for details. All floats and marching groups must be registered with Stonewall Columbus to enter the Parade. Parade registration applications will not be accepted after the stated deadlines. Fees for Parade No Shows on the day of the event will not be refunded.
- **Decorations:** All vehicles MUST be decorated and must make a positive statement appropriate to the day's event. Creative costuming, floats and decorations are strongly encouraged. Stonewall Columbus prohibits the display of logos, slogans, trademarks of any business other than the business listed on your application and Stonewall pre-approved logos.
- **Sound:** Any float or walking group that intends to use any sound amplification device (e.g. speakers, bullhorns, car radios, microphones, etc.) or play live music (e.g. marching bands) must notify Stonewall Columbus on the application. It is our goal to spread these floats and walking groups throughout the Parade to decrease the probability of having competing sound.
- **Confidentiality:** Stonewall Columbus does not release any personal contact information about individuals or organizations.
- **Movement & Performance:** To avoid the creation of gaps, groups are expected to be moving forward along the route at nearly all times unless stopped by a Parade volunteer or the Columbus Police Department (CPD). If your group will be performing choreographed maneuvers, please plan ahead to incorporate as much forward movement into the routine as possible. Please notify the Parade Coordinator if your group intends to stop at any point during the route. Please pay attention to instructions from Parade volunteers about moving along and closing any gaps.
- **Live animals:** Stonewall Columbus does not permit live animals in the Parade, walking or riding. The Parade is typically long, hot and loud which can easily exhaust and

frighten pets. For their comfort and the safety of the Parade, please leave your animals at home.

- **Audience Consideration:** Remember that your audience, the LGBTQ community and its supporters, has changed over the years. More families, churches, young adults, children and ally businesses are participating and viewing the parade. We ask that you keep this year's parade FULL OF FUN AND IN GOOD TASTE! Stonewall reserves the right to pull any float, vehicle, walking group, or other from the parade if entry, presentation, or participants are found to be: participating in illegal activity and/or inappropriate or offensive activity to/for the general audience.
- **Firearms:** Firearms, loaded or unloaded, concealed or exposed, are strictly prohibited from any float or walking group throughout the Parade or at any booth or area at the Pride Festival. Exclusions include Stonewall hired Columbus Police officers pertaining to security contracts.
- **Parade Drinking:** We have been advised by the CPD that you will be cited for dinking on the floats, in cars, or while walking on the Parade route. Without question, they WILL REMOVE YOU from the Parade. Please follow all open container laws, etc., as the CPD will be enforcing their alcohol policies during the Parade. We have a wonderful reputation with the CPD and the City of Columbus. Please do your part to ensure this reputation remains intact.
- **Throwing Objects or Distribution of Literature:** To ensure the safety of the participants and to limit the amount of litter generated by the Parade, the throwing of items (e.g. confetti, beads, coupons, candy, etc.) is prohibited. The use of confetti guns are also prohibited at this event. The throwing of anything from a float may result in a monetary fine deemed appropriate by Stonewall Columbus. You may hand out objects or literature one person at a time.
- **Litter:** In order to assist in the cleanup efforts, Pride Volunteers will be handing out brightly colored trash bags at the Staging Area, on the Parade route and at the festival grounds. We are asking participants and attendees to use those bags to pick up any trash they see in their area and then deposit the bag beside any nearby trash receptacle. This is just one more way to show your PRIDE to our neighbors, our businesses and our city! We need your help! So please grab a bag and help us succeed with this new community effort.
- **Campaigning:** As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Stonewall Columbus, does not endorse political candidates or parties. The Pride Parade welcomes elected officials and candidates for office every year regardless of party affiliation. Political fundraising during the Parade is absolutely prohibited. For more additional questions regarding appropriate participation by candidates for office, please contact [parade@stonewallcolumbus.org](mailto:parade@stonewallcolumbus.org) or (614) 299-7764
- **Anheuser Busch InBev/Bud Light Only:** Anheuser Busch InBev/Bud Light has been a Parade sponsor since the mid 80s. For many years their donation was one of the few from the business community. We owe them great thanks for marching with us the early

days of our movement. Please show them we appreciate their many years of sponsorship by not displaying other beverage companies on your floats, vehicles or signage. We know that many of our groups are supported by other companies. We appreciate and celebrate the other beverage companies who sponsor LGBTQ community events. On Pride day, we celebrate Anheuser Busch as one of the first businesses to become a Stonewall Columbus sponsor. Please show your respect for their years of sponsorship by not displaying other beverage logos in the Parade.

- **Hold Harmless/Indemnity:** All participants are responsible for any and all acts and/or omissions on their part, or on the part of their agents, volunteers and/or employees that may result in injury or damage to themselves their agents, employees, or to third parties. Applicant specifically agrees to indemnify and to hold Stonewall Columbus and its agents, volunteers, and employees free and harmless and to defend it from any and all claims arising out of such acts or omissions.

## Sponsorships

We welcome corporations and organizations as sponsors. If interested, please contact our Executive Director Karla Rothan. Please note: any float/marching contingent with corporate logos/images not previously authorized or approved by Stonewall Columbus will be subject to ejection from the Parade.

## Additional Rules for Floats

If you are going to have a vehicle or float in the Parade, you must adhere to the above General Rules and to these additional rules. You are responsible for reading and understanding this material. Please share this information with the members of your organization and anyone responsible for any floats or vehicles you may have in the Parade.

- **Dimensions:** Permitted dimensions of a float or vehicle are 24ft L x 13ft H x 16ft W. Any float greater than 13 feet in height places the people on the float at risk of becoming entangled in traffic lights, overhanging trees, etc. Floats that are longer than 24 feet that cannot negotiate turns on the route endanger spectators.
- **Parade Ambassadors:** Unfortunately, any vehicle arriving without at least one trained Parade Ambassador will not be allowed to enter the Parade. Your fee will not be returned in such a case. It is the responsibility of the Parade Ambassador to work with the police in the event of accident or mechanical failure of their vehicle.
- **Public Hazards:** Stonewall Columbus reserves the right to refuse entry to any vehicle deemed to pose a public hazard. Please do not use a vehicle that is prone to overheating or breaking down as this can cause serious delays in the Parade.
- **Decorations:** All vehicles MUST be decorated and must make a positive statement appropriate to the day's event.
- **Safety:** The speed limited throughout the Parade is 5 miles per hour unless specifically ordered to speed up to close a gap by a Parade volunteer or CPD. Participants may not mount or dismount a moving float or vehicle – the vehicle must come to a complete stop while people are mounting and dismounting. No parade participants should exit their

float unless clearly instructed by their float driver. Please appoint a float driver and let them know that it is their responsibility to let the group know when they are fully stopped for unloading. Your drivers must stay with your floats and vehicles at all times so that they can be moved in case of an emergency.