



## **Columbus Pride Parade Frequently Asked Questions**

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

As a permitted event, all participants in the Stonewall Columbus Pride Parade must be a part of a registered group. We cannot allow people to simply drop in and registrations will not be accepted the day of the parade. To participate in the Stonewall Columbus Pride Parade, you must either form your own registered group or join an existing group.

### **What is this year's theme?**

The theme of the Stonewall Columbus 2017 Pride Parade and Festival is "On the River". This year we return to the original location of Columbus Pride. Thirty-six years ago this June, three young gay activists staged a civil rights march through the streets of Columbus to draw attention to the discrimination that was happening in our city. We honor their legacy and assume their mantle as we take to the streets once again this year. 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 behind our LGBTQ community and all of our communities that demand inclusion, full enfranchisement and equality before the law.

### **Where will we appear in the Stonewall Columbus Pride Parade?**

Stonewall Columbus determines the placement of floats and walking groups in the Pride Parade. We take many things into consideration when arranging the parade, including tradition, sponsor recognition, floats with sound, previous year's parade winners and more. Our primary goal is to make sure that the Stonewall Columbus Pride Parade is exciting for our spectators from beginning to end.

### **How long is the Parade?**

For participants, it typically takes between 60-90 minutes to travel the approx. 1.8 mile-route from formation to dispersal. This year, the parade will kick off at 10:30 AM!

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

That depends on where you are placed in the parade order and the policies that will be announced at Parade Ambassador Training. Based on past experiences, it could be anywhere from 1-3 hours before your group officially enters the parade. We encourage you to plan ahead for food, water, sunscreen, and other necessities. Portable relief facilities are set up at several points within the formation area on High Street. In the past few years, the Parade 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 parade is exciting for spectators and participants alike must be balanced against the need for public safety and organization.

### **Where do we get a float?**

Stonewall Columbus does not provide float rental. We recommend that you contract with our float partner, Creative Floats (<http://www.creativefloats.com>, (330) 432-3449, [aksterowicz@roadrunner.com](mailto:aksterowicz@roadrunner.com)). Creative Floats provides floats for a lot of parades in the area, so we recommend reaching out to them early. For more tips and ideas, visit our website at [columbuspride.org/float-tips](http://columbuspride.org/float-tips).

### **Where does the money from registration fees and parade donations go?**

Bringing the Stonewall Columbus Pride Parade 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 Parade ends at our very large Pride Festival, which is free to attend, but cost the organization money to produce. Any profit from the Stonewall Columbus Pride Parade 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, refugees and transgender community.

**How do we know what type of group we should register as?** Please review the 2017 Fee Schedule for rates and registration types. [Click here to view the Fee Schedule](#)

If you are unsure which of registration type your group falls under, please contact us at (614) 299-7764 or [parade@columbuspride.org](mailto:parade@columbuspride.org) to discuss your situation.

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

Please contact [parade@columbuspride.org](mailto:parade@columbuspride.org) or (614) 299-7764 with any changes as soon as possible. Additional floats cannot be added after Monday, June 5 at 5 PM.

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

The parade down High Street and Broad Street is quite spacious. There will be turns from High Street to Broad and from Broad to Starling if you have registered and paid for float parking or are instructed by Parade Volunteers to turn for Float deconstruction and stopping. We recommend that you keep your banners and vehicles less than 16 feet wide and no more than

13 feet high. Floats, including towed objects, must be less than 24 feet long, from front bumper to back bumper, to successfully navigate any turns.

### **Can I bring a pet?**

We strongly discourage bringing pets –either being in the parade itself or to the Festival as the noise and the weather can upset our furry friends. While some years have seen inclement weather there have also been years when the heat can be extreme.

### **How are participating organizations recognized at the Parade?**

There are numerous creative ways to make an impact and gain recognition at the Parade. Music, costumes, branded giveaways, choreography, chants, or props can all help you stand out amongst the 200+ groups marching through the Short North into downtown Columbus in support of the LGBT community. We strongly encourage you to surprise us and showcase your creativity!