



## **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 2016 Pride Parade and Festival is "Celebrating 35 Years of PRIDE." We want to support the history of PRIDE in Columbus and its impact on the community as it has transformed since it first began 1981. Think about how you might reference where things have come since 1981 and what the next 35 years will bring!

### **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?**

Last year, we began step-off at 11 AM and the last group reached the end at 3 PM. 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 Broad 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, formerly incarcerated individuals and transgender community.

**How do we know what type of group we should register as?** The 2016 Rate Sheet provides some guidance about the definitions:

- Float, Flatbed or Vehicle \$175 Includes up to 20 walkers
- Walking Group A \$410 40 and over persons
- Walking Group B \$210 21 thru 39 persons
- Walking Group C \$105 10 thru 20 persons
- Walking Group D \$55 1 thru 9 persons

If you are unsure which of these definitions your group falls under, please contact us at (614) 299-7764 or [info@columbuspride.org](mailto:info@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 6 at 5 PM.

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

The majority of the parade down Broad and High Street is quite spacious. There will be turns from Broad to High and from High to Buttles. When the parade turns west on Buttles, it encounters a narrower street, overhead hazards, and other obstacles. 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 the turn at Buttles.

## **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 downtown Columbus into the Short North in support of the LGBT community. We strongly encourage you to surprise us and showcase your creativity. In fact, we offer awards to some of the best!

A panel of dignitaries and celebrities judges awards. Awards are presented at the Pride Brunch on Sunday. At the very least, we recommend that all groups have a large sign or banner at the beginning of their group to identify who they are to judges, spectators and media. Please remember that signs and banners will need to be visible on both sides of the route, by distance of up to 50 feet away.

## **This year's award categories are:**

### **Best Use of Stonewall Columbus Pride Theme (Celebrating 35 Years of PRIDE)**

- Overall organization that has best incorporated and promoted this year's theme across all marching contingents, floats, dancers, creative costumes, signs and giveaways through color, quotes, songs and cheers.
- Organization has followed all the Stonewall Columbus Pride Parade Rules from start of the Parade to the finish. Reps will be located at dispersal to ensure that each organization has followed the proper dispersal process. Any organization causing a scene or a disruption at the Parade exit areas will lose points.

### **Best Float**

- Clearest representation of organization's values and how they relate to Pride and the LGBTQ community.
- Use of theme incorporated into float, shirts, creative costuming, banners and posters, giveaways and any performance(s).
- Organization has followed all the Stonewall Columbus Pride Parade Rules from start of the Parade to the finish. Reps will be located at dispersal to ensure that each organization has followed the proper dispersal process. Any organization causing a scene or a disruption at the Parade exit areas will lose points.

### **Best Marching Contingent**

- Marching groups only. Floats and performances are not eligible for this award.
- Clearest representation of organization's values and how they relate to Pride and the LGBTQ community.

- Use of theme incorporated into float, shirts, banners and posters, giveaways and any performance(s).
- Organization has followed all the Stonewall Columbus Pride Parade Rules from start of the Parade to the finish. Reps will be located at dispersal to ensure that each organization has followed the proper dispersal process. Any organization causing a scene or a disruption at the Parade exit areas will lose points.

### **Best Music or Street Performance (3 Awards)**

- Float Performance
- Marching Band or Music Ensemble (no float)
- Dance Performance (no float)

Organization has followed all the Stonewall Columbus Pride Parade Rules from start of the Parade to the finish. Reps will be located at dispersal to ensure that each organization has followed the proper dispersal process. Any organization causing a scene or a disruption at the Parade exit areas will lose points.