



2024 Akron Pride Festival March
Saturday, August 24

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I participate in the march? Can I show up that day and join somewhere?

As a permitted event, all participants in the march are encouraged to be a part of a registered group. Because we want everyone to feel a part of the march, we encourage anyone who supports equity to find or create a group to join the march.

What is this year's theme?

Our main theme for this year's Equity March is "Stand Up, Lift Up." We want to bring focus to all members of our community and bring understanding to the thought that any oppression or discrimination experienced by one community impacts other communities too. From social justice issues impacting the Black-Indigenous-People of Color (BIPOC) community, to legislation impacting women's access to healthcare, and the legislation sweeping states that impact the transgender community and LGBTQAI youth - working towards a community where everyone can be their authentic self and feel safe and included is the goal and why we are marching for the Seventh year in Akron! Standing together as a community and lifting each other up by becoming active in other marginalized community issues is how we achieve change. There is strength in numbers, and we are Stronger Together.

Where will we appear in The March?

The process of assigning the marching order is handled by Akron Pride Festival (APF) over the course of several weeks. We have many factors to balance in making this decision including tradition, special needs groups such as families, seniors, and people with disabilities, sponsor recognition, avoiding conflicting sound systems, and more. Our primary goal is to make sure that the march remains a wonderful experience for everyone who participates and an exciting, worthwhile experience to our millions of spectators from beginning to end.

How long is the march?

We begin step-off at 10 am at Spaghetti Warehouse and the last group will reach dispersal at approximately 11:00 am. The march is a 0.6 mile walk.

Do you offer Training?

Yes! We have mandatory Group Leader/Volunteer Training. 2024 Group Leader Trainings will virtual, and the dates are as follows:

- Wednesday, August 14, 2024 (7:00pm - 8:00pm)
- Thursday, August 15, 2024 (7:00pm-8:00pm)

Your group should choose a Group Leader or someone who can attend one of the mandatory training sessions. For participants who cannot attend any of the dates, please contact Isaac or Lucas at March@AkronPrideFestival.org to discuss alternative training options.

[REGISTER FOR TRAINING HERE](#)



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How long will our group wait in our designated staging spot in the formation area?

That depends on where you are placed in the march order and the policies that will be announced at the Group Leader Training. Please plan to arrive an hour before your Step Off Time. We encourage you to plan ahead for food, water, sunscreen, and other necessities.

Will there be parking available for those who march?

All marchers may park in Downtown Akron near lock 3 or Spaghetti Warehouse. Due to minimum parking availability, we encourage you to carpool with your team. Another option is to take **Metro Bus**, **LYFT**, or **UBER** to pride - enjoy the festival and let them drive for you! General parking will not be available in the Spaghetti Warehouse parking lot and march staging area.

Why do you call it a march rather than a parade?

The first LGBT Pride was held on the first anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in NYC. It was an unpermitted, explicitly political protest of anti-LGBT policies and attitudes. Our commitment at Akron Pride Festival is to recognize our Pride event as a March until complete and full equality and equity has been achieved for all LGBTQ+ people.

Where does the money from the march donations go?

To bring The Equity March to life is expensive. Therefore, donations are applied to cover event costs such as supplies, equipment rental, and security. Of the proceeds not used for Akron Pride Festival 2023: 100% will be used for Akron Pride Festival 2023. This will help us continue celebrating with you for years to come.

What accommodations are available for a person with disabilities to participate in the march?

There will be accommodations available. All information will be given at the mandatory group leader training. If you have any specific concerns, please contact Isaac or Lucas at March@AkronPrideFestival.org.

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

At Group Leader training, you will have opportunities to update some information, such as the number of marchers and your group description. For changes, please get in touch with Isaac or Lucas at March@AkronPrideFestival.org as soon as possible.

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

The march is .6 miles long and will only utilize one car lane. Please keep this in mind when making your banner or signs.

Also, keep in mind that the formation area will be very crowded during set-up. Care should be taken with banners, signs, musical instruments, props, etc., to ensure that they don't get stepped on or take up excessive space while waiting to begin the march. *APF* is not responsible for damage to any personal property during the march.



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How are participating organizations recognized at the march?

There are numerous creative ways to make an impact and gain recognition during the march. Music, costumes, branded giveaways, choreography, chants, or props can all help you stand out among the groups marching through Akron to support the LGBTQ+ community. We strongly encourage you to surprise us and showcase your creativity. 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 spectators and media. Please remember that signs and banners will need to be visible on both sides of the route, up to 50 feet away.