

Frequently Asked Questions

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

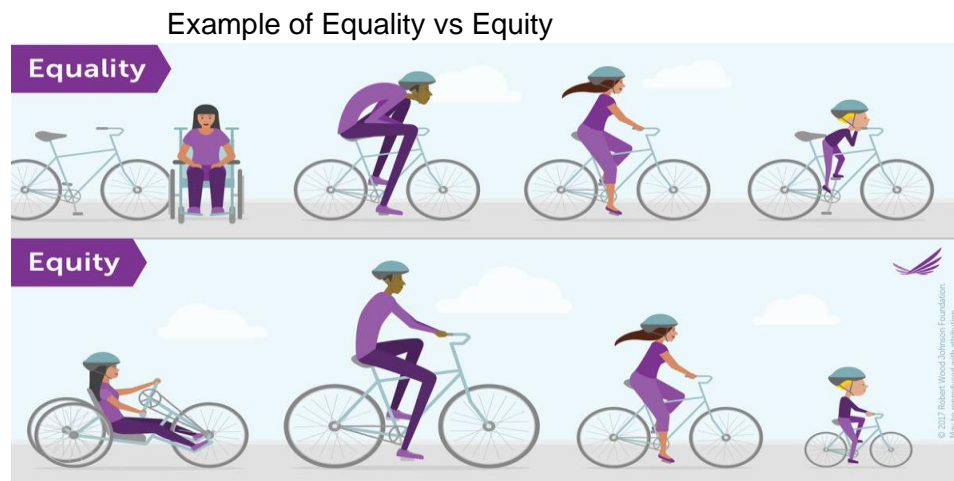
As a permitted event, all participants in the Equity March are encouraged to be a part of a registered group. Because we want everyone to feel a part of the march, we encourage anyone who supports equality and equity to find or create a group to join the March.

This year when you register for the march you have the option of using

- **Register as a Volunteer:** This will be the option you choose to use quick registration. You will be signed up and will keep track of your groups marcher interest in your own way as in past years.
- **Group:** If you register this way, you are creating a CERVIS account where you will be provided a link that your individual marchers can sign up through to join your group. You will have the ability to modify your groups marchers and information. Please do not register through Group if you do not need or see value in this functionality.

What is this year's theme?

Our main theme for this year continues to be "The Akron Equity March." Equality has to do with giving everyone the same resources, whereas equity involves distributing resources based on the person's needs; see example below. Over the last year we have seen a surge of legislation that directly impacts the LGBTQAI+ community, including bills that specifically target the transgender, women and those able to hve children, and Black-Indigenous-People of Color (BIPOC) communities. we want to stand in solidarity as a community and strive for a time where everyone within the LGBTQAI+ community, including allies, feel safe within their city. We want to continue in our sixth-year marching to show that Akron is a city that wants equality and equity for all.



*Image from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation on Health Equity



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 began 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 Training. 2023 Group Leader Trainings will be virtual, and the dates are as follows:

- Wednesday, August 16, 2021 (7:00pm - 8:00pm)
- Thursday, August 17, 2021 (7:00pm-8:00pm)

Your group should choose a Group Leader 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](#)

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 near Spaghetti Warehouse. Please DO NOT park in the Spaghetti Warehouse parking lot due to safety concerns and the amount of marchers in the lot for staging. 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!

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?

Bringing 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 2024. 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.

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 LGBTQAI+ 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.