



General Rules

YOUR GROUP MUST COMPLY WITH ALL INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY MEMBERS OF AKRON PRIDE FESTIVAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND/OR THE MARCH COMMITTEE. You are responsible for **reading** and **understanding** this material. Please share this information with the members of your organization and group marching.

- **Group Leaders:** Group Leaders play an essential role in the march's success.
 1. Group Leaders are:
 - a. The official liaisons between Akron Pride Festival (APF) March, Akron Police Department (APD), and the participants in the march
 - b. Our point of contact in an emergency
 - c. Responsible for ensuring each marching group member adheres to these and other rules.

Every group must be accompanied by at least one Group Leader.

- **Mandatory Training:** 2026 Group Leader Training will be given to help understand how the march will operate and to answer any specific questions you may have for the March Committee. This meeting will be virtual, and the date choices are as follows:
 - Wednesday, August 12, 2026 (6:00pm - 7:00pm)
 - Thursday, August 13, 2026 (6:00pm - 7:00pm)
- Your group should choose a Group Leader who can attend one of the mandatory training sessions and will be designated during the registration process. For participants who cannot participate in any of the dates, you should reach out to the March Committee at March@akronpridefestival.org to make arrangements.
- **Group Leader Apparel:** All Group Leaders must wear a provided bracelet labeled group leader. This identifies them to the march organizers and the police as the individual responsible for their group.
- **Formation Area:** Group Leaders will check-in at the information tables, which will be located in the Spaghetti Warehouse parking lot. The check-in area will be open beginning at 8:30 am. Please note that only the group leader should check in.
- **Order of The March:** All organizations must line up in accordance with their assigned number and must do so by 9:30 am. Each organization must stay in its assigned spot for the duration of its participation in the march. This rule will be emphasized at Group Leader training and in all our communications with registering organizations. If your



group wishes to march with another group or set of groups, please indicate as such upon registering.

- **Registration:** All organizations, groups, families, or individuals participating in the march must register online by **Sunday, August 9, 2026**.
- **Marcher Registration Donation:** **THE MARCH IS FREE**, but please consider a donation when you register. Akron Pride Festival's (APF) fiscal sponsor is CANAPI, a 501c3 non-profit organization. With your support, we can continue making the march a better, more exciting event for the entire community every year.
- **Parking:** 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 staging area. 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.
- **Sound:** All groups must notify the March Committee in advance if they intend to use any sound amplification device (e.g., speakers, bullhorns, microphones, etc.) or play live music intended to reach the spectators. The march goes through residential neighborhoods and businesses, and we want to be respectful.
 - Groups with amplified sound systems may perform a 10-minute sound check prior to 9:45 am. To ensure a successful step-off ceremony and efficient communication between *APF* and groups, amplified sound must remain off from 9:45 am-10 am.
 - Amplified sound must be turned off as soon as the group reaches Lock 3.
- **Confidentiality:** *APF* does not release any personal contact information about individuals, families, groups, and/or organizations.
- **Solicitation of funds:** *APF* prohibits solicitation of funds during the march. If your organization is found soliciting funds, you will not be permitted to register next year.
- **Animals:** The members of the March Committee strongly suggest that you do not bring your companion pets to the march. It is a long day on hard, hot asphalt. Although our pets are part of our families, it seems more loving to leave them home, where they can be comfortable and secure. If you must bring your pets, you are responsible for their care and clean up. Large animals, such as horses, are not permitted in the March.
- **Movement of The March:** To avoid the creation of gaps, groups are expected to be moving forward along the route at nearly all times unless stopped by an *APF* volunteer or Akron PD. Please pay attention to instructions from *APF* volunteers about moving along and closing any gaps.



- **Nudity:** The law prohibits nudity above the waist for women and below the waist for everyone. Police will be present at the march, and they will enforce this law. Local law takes precedent over federal law on this topic.
- **Throwing Objects or Distributions of Literature:** Objects may not be thrown or tossed to or at the participants or spectators. APF assumes NO responsibility or liability for injuries caused by such actions. You may hand out literature or objects one person at a time. As this is a march and not a parade, please do not distribute candy.
- **Campaigning:** APF does not endorse political candidates or parties. The march welcomes elected officials and candidates for office regardless of party affiliation. Political fundraising during any APF event is absolutely prohibited. For additional questions regarding appropriate participation by candidates for office, please contact the March Committee at March@AkronPrideFestival.org.
- **Litter:** APF is not responsible for litter generated during the march. We ask that you be considerate and dispose of any trash into a trash can or save until you find one. This will help us set an example for our community.
- **Vehicles/Floats:** APF does not permit cars, trucks, motorcycles, or horses in the march lineup due to safety concerns.
- **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 or their agents, employees, or to third parties. Applicant specifically agrees to indemnify and to hold APF 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.

Corporate Sponsorships

We welcome corporations as sponsors. If interested, please contact the March Committee at March@AkronPrideFestival.org.

Legal Agreement

By registering to participate in the march, you agree to the following statements regarding the phrase "Akron Pride Festival".

You acknowledge and agree that Akron Pride Festival exclusively owns all right, title, and interest in the trademark "Akron Pride Festival" and all related marks, logos, and designs, including, without limitation, all derivations thereof (collectively, the "Mark(s)"). You shall use the Mark(s) solely as provided by Agreement. You shall submit copies or samples of all materials containing or bearing the Mark(s) for Akron Pride Festival's review no later than July 15 or such other date agreed to by you and Akron Pride Festival in writing. You hereby



acknowledge the high quality of the goods and services sold under, and the valuable goodwill associated with, the Marks. You shall maintain the quality of goods and/or services offered in connection with or under the Mark(s), consistent with the high standards established by Akron Pride Festival prior to the date hereof and provide Akron Pride Festival with reasonable opportunity to inspect your products and/or facilities that bear or are otherwise related to Akron Pride Festival or the Marks to confirm compliance with the terms hereof. You shall not depict the Mark(s) in any manner that (i) is inconsistent with the use of the Mark(s) by Akron Pride Festival prior to the date hereof and such guidelines that may be provided by Akron Pride Festival with respect to the use thereof or (ii) could denigrate, disparage, tarnish, present in a false light, or otherwise reflect negatively on the LGBTQ+ community or LGBTQ+ persons, the Mark(s), or Akron Pride Festival. Akron Pride Festival reserves the right to revoke this license at any time for any breach of the Agreement, or for good cause. The Agreement, including, without limitation, the license granted thereunder, is non-transferrable, and You may not delegate, subcontract, assign, or otherwise transfer any of its rights or obligations under the Agreement. The Agreement is binding upon and insures to the benefit of the Parties hereto and their respective permitted successors and assigns. All use of the Mark(s) by You shall insure to the benefit of Akron Pride Festival.

You agree to comply with all local, state, and federal laws, and your actions shall not violate, infringe, or prejudice the rights of Akron Pride Festival or any third party. You agree and expressly warrant that all material produced, performed, displayed, and/or distributed by you in connection with Akron Pride Festival and its events are your original work or that you have permission to use such material, and that such material shall not infringe any copyright, defame any person or entity, or otherwise violate the rights of any person or entity. You agree to indemnify and hold harmless Akron Pride Festival, The City of Akron, and all other associations, sanctioning bodies and sponsoring companies, and all their respective agents, officials, servants, contractors, representatives, elected and appointed officials, successors, and assigns from and against all third-party claims, losses, liabilities, damages, and expenses (including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees) arising out of any use of such material in connection with Akron Pride Festival and/or its events, whether by you or your employees, contractors, agents, or representatives.

You and your heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns hereby release, waive, and forever discharge Akron Pride Festival, the City of Akron, and all other associations, sanctioning bodies and sponsoring companies, and all their respective agents, officials, servants, contractors, representatives, elected and appointed officials, successors, and assigns, from all claims, demands, damages, costs, expenses, actions, and causes of action, whether in law or equity, in respect of death, injury, loss, or damage to your person or property howsoever caused, arising by reason of your participation in Akron Pride Festival's events or other activities, whether as an exhibitor, spectator, participant, performer, competitor, or otherwise, whether prior to, during, or subsequent to Akron Pride Festival's events or other activities.