



2023 Annapolis Pride Parade & Festival Fact Sheet

What is Annapolis Pride?

Annapolis Pride's mission is to advocate for, empower, and celebrate the LGBTQ+ community in Anne Arundel County to live fully and authentically. Our vision is a safe, equitable, and anti-racist community where people of all identities thrive.

How did the Annapolis Pride Parade and Festival get started?

A group of determined community members began creating the concept for Annapolis Pride during winter 2018. On May 25, the Annapolis Pride Facebook page launched with the iconic anchor logo created by Pomerantz Marketing and quickly began to gain followers. At the request of Annapolis Pride, Mayor Gavin Buckley declared June as LGBTQ+ Pride month for the first time in history for the City of Annapolis. The proclamation stated that Annapolis would host its first pride parade and festival in June of 2019. The first parade and festival were held on June 29 with nearly 6,000 people attending.

What's the theme of this year's parade and festival?

With more than 150 anti-LGBTQ bills pre-filed or introduced across 23 states in the first two weeks of 2023 and nearly 90% of transgender and nonbinary youth reporting that anti-trans bills have negatively impacted their mental health, the theme of the 2023 Annapolis Pride Parade and Festival is *Express Yourself: Protecting LGBTQIA+ Youth*.

What's the parade route?

The half-mile parade begins at West Street and Amos Garrett Boulevard and proceeds to Calvert Street.

How many marching groups:

We expect nearly 140 groups to march.

Where will the festival be held?

More than 200 artisans, businesses and community organizations will have tables in the People's Park, West Street, between Calvert Street and Church Circle and adjacent parking lots.

How many musical acts:

Our entertainment lineup on two stages at the festival featuring musical acts; Bryce Brown, L.Rodgers, Honey Sol, C. Rafter, Ronshaye Clark, M.E.G.A. YOUTH, Priddy Music Academy and more! Nationally-renowned indie artist whatever mike will headline the music portion of the festival.

Will there be food?

Yes, more than 35 food trucks and local restaurants will be selling food.

Is there a rain date?

It is a rain or shine event. If the weather is extreme, we will communicate appropriately.

Who is the Grand Marshal?

Youth advocate and PFLAG coordinator Molly Estabrook (*she/her*) is this year's grand marshal.

Who are the past grand marshals?

2022- Abbie Ellicott, Billie Hoard and Drake Smith

2021- no parade held

2020- virtual event with Skip Auld, Anne Arundel County Public Library serving as grand marshal

2019- Mayor Gavin Buckley and Parker Drapeau

Is the event family-friendly?

Yes! Everyone is welcome at the parade and festival. This year's event will feature a kid zone including face painting, a balloon artist and special passport program. Local advocacy group PFLAG will also provide support to parents with Queer children and answer questions on how to best support their LGBTQIA+ child.

Are there other things to do during Pride Month?

YES! You can find a complete list of pride events at www.annapolispride.org/pride-events/

What is the expected attendance?

Nearly 10,000 people attended the last parade and festival and we expect larger crowds this year!

How do I get real-time information about the event?

Annapolis Pride has collaborated with [Where in Annapolis](#) to provide real-time parade and festival information through their app which is available to download for free from Apple's App Store or Google's Play Store.

Who are the sponsors of the events?

More than 45 businesses and organizations are sponsoring this year's event. Constellation Energy and Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland are the Pride Sponsors.

What is LGBT Pride Month?

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month (LGBT Pride Month) is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall riots in Manhattan. The Stonewall riots were a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States.

In the United States the last Sunday in June was initially celebrated as "Gay Pride Day," but the actual day was flexible. In major cities across the nation the "day" soon grew to encompass a month-long series of events. Today, celebrations include pride parades, picnics, parties, workshops, symposia and concerts, and LGBT Pride Month events attract millions of participants around the world. Memorials are held during this month for those members of the community who have been lost to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally.