

Heritage of Pride March - Rules and Info

ALL GROUPS MUST COMPLY WITH INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY MEMBERS OF HERITAGE OF PRIDE, INC.'S ("NYC Pride") EXECUTIVE BOARD AND The March COMMITTEE STAFF.

On March day, Executive Board members and March Committee Staff can be identified by select colored t-shirts. Please consult the t-shirt color guide or contact march-help@nycpride.org for more information.

Signing Up for The March

Registration: All participants in The March must register online between DECEMBER 3, 2019 and APRIL 1, 2020. Registration fees are dependent on the type of organization and the type of entry.

- Please note: if we reach capacity prior to APRIL 1, 2020 we will close registration early. See our [website](#) for details.
- In 2020, we are working hard to keep the length and duration of The March within a reasonable amount of time. All contingents are limited in their group size to 200 marchers per registered group.

Group Leader Information

Group Leaders: Group Leaders are the **official** liaison between NYC Pride, New York Police Department (NYPD), and the participants in The March. They are the point of contact in an emergency situation, and are the members of each marching group that are tasked with making sure everyone adheres to rules. Every group who marchers **MUST** be accompanied by at least one Group Leader. Groups must have one (1) Group Leader for every fifty (50) marchers in your organizations contingent.

- **Mandatory Training:** Group Leaders **MUST** attend one (1) training prior to The March. Your group should choose Group Leader(s) people who can attend any one of the mandatory training sessions. Training sessions will be held in May and June of 2020. Exact dates, venue, and formats TBD.
 - **Out-of-town participants:** NYC Pride will be hosting Webinar Training Sessions. For further information about these, please contact march-help@nycpride.org.
- **Group Leader Apparel:** All Group Leaders must wear the apparel provided by NYC Pride. Group Leaders **MUST** bring a photo ID to the Group Leader check-in table in order to pick up their T-shirts. This identifies them to The March organizers and to the police as the individuals responsible for each group and its vehicles.

Formation Area: The check-in area will be open at 9:00 a.m., but not all groups will be permitted to check-in at this time. *You will receive an email with your specific check-in time.* Only Group Leaders need to check in at the check-in area. You **MUST** strictly adhere to the check-in time that you receive. Groups who arrive before their check-in time will be asked to come back at their assigned time.

The March - Day Of Information

Formation Area: The Formation Area is the set of streets (this year 33rd Street to 26th Street and 6th Ave to Madison Ave) where NYC Pride has all the different groups set up and wait to march.

Formation Section: The specific block that your group will be lining up on.

It can get very hectic at time over the course of the day so we ask all groups to stay in their Formation Section until step off and to move in a quick and steady manner when getting onto The March route.

Order of March by Section: All groups **MUST** line up in the section in which they have been assigned at their designated time. Each group **MUST** stay in their assigned section for the duration of its participation in The March. **Any group that moves to another section or enters The March route from any point other than the Formation Area will be denied registration in The March the following year.**

Order of March within Section: You must also follow the group number which has been assigned to you. Section Handlers and Crew (volunteers with The March) will be at your assigned block. They will help to keep The March moving along smoothly.

Please note: Section Handlers and Crew are Heritage of Pride volunteers working to make The March a great experience for everyone. The drivers of your vehicles **MUST** follow all instructions given by March volunteers and staff. Not following these instructions could lead to accidents and will end with the termination of drivers and marching groups will not be permitted to participate in next year's March.

Moment of Silence: There is one Moment of Silence at 10:58 a.m., prior to step-off at 11 AM. We require that everyone in The March stop walking, talking, dancing, etc. in order to remember those from our community whom we have lost to AIDS, AIDS-related complications, and hate crimes. Additionally, we ask for quiet during the singing of the National Anthem and any opening remarks prior to the step-off.

Sound: All groups must notify HOP in advance if they intend to use any sound amplification device (e.g. speakers, bullhorns, car radios, microphones, etc.) or play live music (e.g. marching bands) intended to reach the spectators. HOP obtains the necessary permits for sound amplification in New York City.

- Since the Formation Block is in a residential neighborhood, groups with amplified sound systems may **ONLY** perform 10 minute sound checks as directed by our volunteer team on the ground.

Solicitation of funds: NYC Law prohibits the solicitation of funds during any parade.

If your organization is found soliciting funds, you will not be permitted to participate in next year's March.

Animals: The March strongly suggests that you do **NOT** bring pets. 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. For the same reasons, we prefer that people not ride horses in The March. For horses and other Beasts of Burden please contact march-help@nycpride.org.

Movement & Performance: To avoid the creation of gaps, groups are expected to be moving forward along the route at all times unless stopped by a March volunteer or NYPD. If your group will be performing choreographed maneuvers or other exhibitions, please plan ahead to ensure that the routine incorporates forward movement. Groups are **NOT** permitted to pause at the Grandstand or Broadcast Booth to perform. Please pay attention to instructions from March volunteers about moving along and closing any gaps.

Balloons: Due to the height restriction, balloon installations must be approved directly with the Event Organizers. If you intend to have balloons within your group, please reach out to march-help@nycpride.org.

Nudity: The law prohibits nudity below the waist. Police will be present at The March and it is assumed that they will enforce this law.

Alcohol and Drugs: Alcohol and Drugs are not permitted at The March. NYPD/Police will be present at The March and will enforce all New York City and State laws.

Throwing Objects:

OBJECTS MAY NOT BE THROWN OR TOSSED FROM VEHICLES TO OR AT THE PARTICIPANTS OR SPECTATORS.

Heritage of Pride, Inc. assumes NO responsibility or liability for injuries caused by such actions.

Campaigning: As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Heritage of Pride, Inc., does not endorse political candidates or parties. The March welcomes elected officials and candidates for office every year regardless of party affiliation. **POLITICAL FUNDRAISING DURING ANY HOP EVENT IS ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED.** HOP asks that candidates refrain from campaigning during The March.

Litter: Heritage of Pride, Inc. is not responsible for litter generated during The March. If large amounts of your organization's literature are found on or near The March route, formation area, or dispersal area, Heritage of Pride, Inc. will forward bills for sanitation to your organization.

Additional Rules for Vehicles

If your group is going to have a vehicle in The March, you must adhere to the above General Rules and to these additional rules. Groups are responsible for reading and understanding this material. Please share this information with the members of your organization and anyone responsible for any floats or vehicles you may have in The March.

Floats & Vehicles: All vehicles and floats must be registered with Heritage of Pride, Inc. in order to enter The March. Vehicles will be accepted only as space allows.

Vehicle Registration Dimension Breakdown:

- **Standard Vehicle** - Vehicles that are the size of a standard pick-up truck or SUV. This includes cars, minivans, and small trucks that do not exceed 20ft in length.
- **Mid-Sized Vehicle** - Vehicles that measure between 21 ft and 39 ft. This includes box trucks, 12 person and passenger vans.
- **Large Vehicle** - Vehicles that measure 40ft or more, and **do not** have a trailer or anything being towed behind it. This includes all bus types.
- **Float** - A float is defined by anything that has a separate axle and must be towed behind another vehicle regardless of size.

YOUR VEHICLE CANNOT EXCEED 14 FT IN HEIGHT.

ANY VEHICLE EXCEEDING these measurements WILL NOT BE ALLOWED into The March. Please note that our Vehicle Coordinators will measure vehicles as they arrive on the morning of The March. Your fee will not be refunded if your vehicle is barred from The March.

Float and Vehicle Permits: Permits will be distributed at Group Leader training sessions. If you are unable to attend an In Person Training Session, we will have a Vehicle Permit Pick Up station prior to the day of The March (*exact time and location TBA*) This procedure ensures that no permits are lost in the mail.

Sound Systems and Devices: Sound systems on Floats may only be tested for a maximum of 10- minutes with strict instruction by our volunteers. You are not allowed to start a sound check without the clearance from our volunteers. Early in the day Formation Block sound system checks must be silenced by 10:30 a.m. in preparation for the Moment of Silence held at 10:58 a.m. ***Any violation of this policy will result in your organization being refused entry onto the route and next year's March.***

Public Hazards: Heritage of Pride, Inc. reserves the right to refuse entry to any vehicle deemed to pose a public hazard. Please do not use a vehicle that is prone to overheating or breaking down as this can cause serious delays in The March.

Safety: The speed limit throughout The March is 5 miles per hour unless specifically ordered to speed up to close a gap by a HOP volunteer or NYPD. Participants may not mount or dismount a moving float or vehicle - the vehicle must come to a complete stop while people are mounting or dismounting.