

When is the 2017 Charlotte Pride Parade?

August 27, 2017 – from 1pm to 3pm

Staging times will vary and will be posted at a later date. You should expect to be onsite for staging and lineup beginning at 11am.

How can I march in the Charlotte Pride Parade?

Easy, submit an application at <https://cltpride.formstack.com/forms/2017paradeapp>.

How does the parade application process work?

Once you complete and submit your online application, our Parade Committee will review the application for completeness and accuracy. If everything looks good, we will email you a preliminary approval notice along with an invoice for your registration fees and the appropriate liability waiver. If we have any questions or need any additional information to complete your application, we will contact you.

How long will it take to hear back?

This varies. We are an all-volunteer team, but do try to review and respond as quickly as we can. Sometimes this can take a week or more.

Can I register to march in the parade the day of?

No. The deadline for parade registration is August 1, 2017, which will allow us enough time to finalize lineups and prepare for the mandatory Parade Orientation Meeting (see below).

How many parade entries will you have?

It depends. There are several factors we look at, one of which is the size of the staging area and related costs associated with putting on the parade. We also look at the types of parade entries applying. For 2017, we anticipate only being able to accommodate about 125 entries.

What if my organization is also participating as a vendor in the Charlotte Pride Festival?

Please be sure to indicate this in the comments section of your application.

Are there any awards for parade participants?

As with 2016, Charlotte Pride will be presenting awards in the following categories:

- Best float design
- Spirit of Pride: This is the best entry from a nonprofit organization that best displays the spirit of pride.
- The Queen's Award: This award goes to the most entertaining and crowd pleasing contingent.
- Best Choreography: This award goes to a band or marching contingent that performs in a musical and coordinated manner.
- Rainbow Award: This award goes to the most imaginatively decorated and colorful entry.

How much does it cost to march in the parade?

Well, it depends. We have different rates for different types of entries and whether the entry will have vehicles or not.

Our 2017 fee schedule is as follows:

Individual walking groups/nonprofit organizations: \$75.00

Small business/corporate entries: \$150.00

Each car, truck or van: \$35.00

Each float: \$35.00 (includes entry for the towing vehicle)

Motorcycles: \$25.00 (1-7); \$50.00 (8-14); \$75.00 (15+)

What route will the parade take this year?

The parade will start at North Tryon Street at 9th Street and continue south along Tryon, making a left turn onto Trade Street and continuing to College Street where the route ends. The route is approximately 0.75 miles long and will take about 25 minutes to march at parade speeds. Please note that this does not include distance from the staging area to the parade starting line.

What are the requirements and limitations of vehicles/floats (permits, size, etc)?

See Parade Rules & Regulations at <http://charlottepride.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/2017-Charlotte-Pride-Parade-Rules-Regs-.pdf>

Can I request a specific spot/location in the parade lineup?

We make every effort to accommodate parade location requests. However, for logistical and other reasons, this is not always possible. Requests for specific placement in the parade lineup will be considered, but we **CANNOT** guarantee fulfillment of such requests. Parade placement is at the sole discretion of Charlotte Pride.

When will I find out where I am in the parade lineup?

The final lineup will be released at the mandatory Parade Orientation Meeting (see below).

When and where does my parade entry need to arrive on parade day?

All this will be covered at the mandatory Parade Orientation Meeting.

What is the mandatory Parade Orientation Meeting, and why am I required to attend?

The Parade Orientation Meeting is a mandatory meeting for all parade entries. At this meeting, the Parade Committee will be discussing check in procedures, covering the parade rules and regulations, and providing an overview of the parade and what you can expect. Here we will present the final lineup along with your parade credentials. ***Please note that it is required that at least one member of your parade contingent be present at one of these meetings. This year's Mandatory Parade Orientation Meetings will be held on Thursday, August 9, 2017 at 6:30pm and on Saturday, August 12, 2017 at 10:30am. Both meetings will be held at the Charlotte Pride Offices at 1900 The Plaza (Holy Trinity Lutheran Church).***

Can I share a parade entry with another group/organization?

No. All parade entries must be unique registrations. Unlike vendor spaces at the festival, parade entries cannot be shared.

Can I bring my car onsite for load in/out?

City officials will be closing the streets to through traffic for the parade. Once the streets are closed, only authorized vehicles will be allowed in the staging area (those that have been registered).

Where do I park?

Charlotte Pride does not provide parking for the festival or parade. There are a number of public parking decks and lots, as well as on street parking available within easy walking distance of the parade staging area and along the parade route. Please make sure you adhere to all City parking rules and regulations. Charlotte Center City Partners has a useful parking map that we recommend utilizing: <http://www.charlottecentercity.org/transportation/parking/>

Are there limitations on items that can be given away along the parade route?

Yes. Parade entrants may not solicit donations or funds from parade spectators along the parade route. Gifts, merchandise, literature and other items of your choosing may be given out along the parade route (specifically, these items must be handed out). City ordinances and regulations prohibit any items from being thrown or tossed from vehicles or floats. Parade organizers will strictly enforce all applicable City ordinances and regulations.

What if it rains?

The Charlotte Pride Festival is a rain or shine event. In the event of severe weather, the Charlotte Police Department may request that the event be temporarily closed for the safety of the public.

Do you offer refunds?

At this time, we do not offer refunds for parade entry fees.

I have a different question.

Please email our Parade Committee at parade@charlottepride.org. We'll get back to you as soon as we have an answer.