

CHARLOTTE PRIDE VENDOR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

How does the application process work?

Once you complete and submit your online application, we will review the application for completeness and accuracy. We may attempt to contact our new vendors via phone to review the application and confirm information.

If everything checks out and vendor space remains for your type of vendor, we will email you a preliminary approval notice along with an invoice for your registration fees. Once we receive payment for your registration fees, you will receive a final approval notice from us.

Please note that your application is not considered complete or approved until payment is received and you are sent a final approval email. Payment is due within 30 days of your preliminary approval email or your registration is subject to cancellation and your space reservation will be released to the next available vendor.

Additionally, all vendors will be required to attend an in-person or online meeting to ensure all policies are followed appropriately.

Charlotte Pride reserves the right to approve or deny a vendor application for any reason.

How long does it take to hear back?

Beginning in February, vendors will be notified on the last day of the month, as long as their application was received by the 15th of that month.

Notification Deadlines and Dates:

Submission by Feb. 15 – Notice by Feb. 28

Submission by March 15 – Notice by March 31

Submission by April 15 – Notice by April 30

Submission by May 15 – Notice by May 31

Submission by June 1 (Final Deadline) – Notice by June 15

Please do not email requesting status updates before your submission notice date. If you have not be contacted by your appropriate notification date, please email vendors@charlottepride.org.

How many vendors will you have?

It depends. There are several factors we look at, one of which is the size of the footprint. We also look at the types of vendors applying and we do limit applications if we get too many of a single type of vendor applying (i.e. t-shirt vendors, pride merchandise vendors). Not only do we want to have a successful event for ourselves, but we also want the event to be successful and profitable for our retail/commercial vendors.

How many food vendors will you have?

For 2019, we are only looking for 7 to 9 food vendors. We do limit food vendors based on type of food served so that we ensure a good variety for our festivalgoers. Please note that we receive an abundance of "Carnival" type food vendor applications.

What is the difference between a regular vendor and a food vendor?

Food vendors are subject to applicable Temporary Food Establishment regulations established by the Mecklenburg County Health Department and are required to obtain a permit to serve food at the festival. The primary distinction is with cooked or prepared foods that require temperature control for food safety reasons. If you do not follow the required guidelines, CFD or MCHD may shut down your booth. No refunds will be given for food vendors who do not properly fulfill these requirements.

Food vendors will apply through the Food Vendors Application.

Vendors selling only dipped ice cream, popcorn, candy apples, cotton candy, cakes/muffins, funnel cakes, soft pretzels and/or prepackaged chips or candy are not considered food vendors. These type of Vendors are Snack Vendors and need to apply as a regular vendor.

Please contact our Vendor Coordinator at vendors@charlottepride.org if you would like

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clarification or a determination about whether you will be considered a food vendor. If you apply under the wrong application, your submission will not be considered and will be rejected.

How much does it cost to be a vendor?

We have different rates for different types of vendors.
Nonprofit rates range from \$200-\$400, based on gross receipts.
Retail/Commercial/Service vendor rates start at \$600.
Food vendor rates start at \$1,200.
Registration fees cover both days of the festival.
Neighborhood Market spots are \$300.

What are the festival hours?

August 17, 2018 – noon to 10pm
August 18, 2018 – noon to 6pm
Vendor booths must be open during festival operating hours.

Is there a one-day option?

We do not offer a one-day option.

What if my organization is also participating in the parade?

Please complete the separate parade application to be considered to participate in the parade.

What do the registration fees include?

Standard registration fees include the space and the tables/chairs (based on booth size selected). Tents and electricity are not included in the standard fee but can be added for an additional charge. We also offer rental for additional tables/chairs, tent sides/walls, and tent anchors. Tent anchors are required for those bringing their own tents. All food vendor spaces include electricity.

How big are the vendor spaces?

Single vendor spaces are 10x10, and include one table and two chairs.
Double vendor spaces are 10x20, and include two tables and four chairs.
Triple vendor spaces are 10x30, and include three tables and six chairs.
Food vendor spaces are the same size, but include only tables.

What size are the tables that are provided in the booth?

All tables are 6'x30". We do rent additional tables, if needed.

What if I need additional tables or chairs?

Additional tables and chairs will be available for rent for additional fees of \$15/table, \$5/chair.

I need a little more space than a 10x10 spot, what can I do?

Vendors are not permitted to use the sidewalks or tree planters. Doing so may cost you penalties and fines from the City. Please contact our Vendor Coordinator at vendors@charlottepride.org if you do not think you can fit inside a 10x10 space.

Can I bring my own tent?

Absolutely! Maximum tent size should be 10' x 10'. We do not charge a fee to bring your own tent. Please note, that all tents do require appropriate weights. You must have appropriate weights or your space may be shut down. Please see below for information on anchor requirements.

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How do I weigh my tent down if I bring one with me?

The Charlotte Fire Department (CFD) requires a 40lb weight/anchor for each tent leg. This is equivalent to a filled 5-gallon water bucket with lid. All participants bringing their own tents must supply 40lb weights on each leg of their tent.

Is water available on site?

Hydrant water will be available at multiple locations to fill buckets and other utility needs. Drinking water will be available for purchase through our information/ticket tents.

What about electricity?

We will have a limited number of vendor spaces available on our power grid, and these are available on a first come, first served basis. We do charge access fees to help us offset the cost of the generators. If you need electricity, be sure to indicate this on your application, otherwise it will not be available later.

The electricity available will be 110v/15A. If you need something different you will need to contact our Vendor Coordinator at vendors@charlottepride.org.

Food vendor spaces already include electricity.

Can I bring my own generator if I have one?

No. For safety and security reasons, we do not allow any personal generators of any kind.

Can I use the outlets in the tree planters?

No, the City of Charlotte controls the tree planter outlets and they may not be used. More than likely, the City will turn them off for the duration of the festival.

Where is the festival at this year?

The festival will be held right in Uptown Charlotte and we will be utilizing much of the same footprint as last year. The footprint will cover South Tryon Street from Stonewall to Trade, utilizing each of the cross streets along this route (Levine, MLK, and 3rd).

Can I request a specific spot/location at the festival?

We make every effort to accommodate vendor location requests. However, for logistical and other reasons, this is not always possible. Requests for specific placement on the festival footprint will be considered, but we can **NOT** guarantee fulfillment of such requests. Vendor placement is at the sole discretion of Charlotte Pride.

Can I share a space with another vendor?

Yes. We allow our vendors to share spaces at no additional charge. Booth fees for shared spaces will vary based on the type/size of the vendors occupying the space. Fees are automatically calculated on the application.

Can I use a trailer or vehicle as my booth?

You can, but this will likely affect your load in/out time and location; vendors with vehicles or trailers in their spaces will need to load in late Friday evening or very early Saturday morning. Please contact our Vendor Coordinator at vendors@charlottepride.org with further questions.

When is load in/out?

The Charlotte Pride Operations Team will provide specific load in/out instructions and times once final logistics have been worked out, typically about a week before the festival. All vehicles must be clear of the festival footprint an hour before the festival opens on Saturday and Sunday, and no vehicles will be allowed back onto the site until enough patrons have left that it is deemed safe. The safety of the public is our highest priority.

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

Yes. Vendors will receive instructions prior to the festival about when and where to load into the site. Cars will be allowed on site for the times specified in those instructions, but not before or after those times. Cars will not be permitted on site for load out until it is deemed safe to do so by the Charlotte Police Department and Charlotte Pride.

Where do I park my car after load in?

There are a number of public parking decks and lots, as well as on street parking available within easy walking distance of the festival footprint. Charlotte Center City Partners has a useful parking map that we recommend utilizing: <http://www.charlottecentercity.org/transportation/parking/>

Can we leave our merchandise out overnight between Saturday and Sunday?

There will be very limited overnight security on the festival footprint, primarily for the stage and operational items. Charlotte Pride cannot guarantee the safety of merchandise and other equipment left out overnight. Charlotte Pride is not liable for any vendor property left on site and leaving anything overnight is done at your own risk.

Is there help available to unload/load my vehicle?

Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee any help for vendor load-in/load-out. Please plan to complete that with your team.

Can I sell "Charlotte Pride" merchandise?

"Charlotte Pride", "Charlotte Pride Festival & Parade", Charlotte Pride logo(s), and their derivatives are trademarks of Charlotte Pride, Inc., and may not be used without permission. Please contact our Communications Director, Matt Comer, matt@charlottepride.org for more information.

What about any permits, licenses, insurance or sales tax?

Vendor is responsible for obtaining, at own expense, any necessary permits, licenses, and/or insurance that may be required by the City of Charlotte and/or Mecklenburg County, and/or the State of North Carolina. Vendor is responsible for any applicable North Carolina sales/use tax registrations, collections and remittances.

Can I sell/distribute beverages?

Beverage sales are a major fundraising activity for Charlotte Pride and help pay for the festival. We reserve all rights to the sale and distribution (including free) of all alcohol and other beverages during the event. You may not sell or distribute any beverages without prior consent from us.

Can I buy ice at the festival?

Absolutely! We sell bags of ice through our information/ticket tents. Bags are \$10/each.

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?

Requests for refunds must be received no later than June 1. No refunds can be processed after this date. All refund requests, if approved, will be subject to a \$75 processing fee.