



2025 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 was launched with the iconic anchor logo created by Pomerantz Marketing, and it 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 in attendance.

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

The theme of this year's event is Growing in Pride. Growing in Community. Just like a tree grows, so does our pride as individuals and in community. When the community is challenged, we need to grow together!

What's the parade route?

The parade route will begin at Bladen and Calvert streets, go through Church Circle, then wind down West Street, ending at Amos Garrett Blvd.

How many marching groups:

We expect nearly 100 groups to march.

Where will the festival be held?

For the second year, the festival will be held on the grounds of Maryland Hall and the Bates Athletic Complex. We are expecting more than 190 vendors and organizations to set up at the festival.

How many musical acts:

Our entertainment lineup on two stages at the festival includes “The Gathering Gloom,” a Cure tribute band as our headliner. Other musical acts include Honey Sol, Naptown Brass Band, Priddy Music Academy, and more!

Will there be food?

Yes, more than 20 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?

We are honored to welcome Col. Bree Fram, aeronautical engineer, author, podcaster, speaker, and colonel in the United States Space Force, as our grand marshal.

Who are the past grand marshals?

2024 - Christian Siriano

2023 - Molly Eastbrook

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 at the Bates Athletic Complex, including kids activities, a moon bounce, and more.

Are there other things to do during LGBTQ+ History Month?

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

What is the expected attendance?

Nearly 11,000 people attended the last parade and festival, and we expect larger crowds this year!

Who are the sponsors of the events?

More than 40 businesses and organizations are sponsoring this year's event. Absolute is the presenting sponsor, and other sponsors include PNC Bank, Visit Annapolis, A Team Family Law, and Leo Annapolis as recurring sponsors.

What is LGBT History Month?

Most people are familiar with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month (LGBT Pride Month), which 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.

LGBTQIA+ History Month, recognized in October each year, acknowledges the history, achievements, and cultural contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals. The celebration of LGBTQ+ History Month increases the visibility of LGBTQ+ people and their stories, fostering understanding and acceptance by recognizing historical figures, movements, and ongoing challenges within the community. An important date during the month is National Coming Out Day on October 11. October also commemorates other significant events, such as the first March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in 1979.