

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I participate in the march? Can I show up that day and join somewhere?

As a permitted event, all participants in the march are encouraged to be a part of a registered group. Because we want everyone to feel a part of the march, we encourage anyone who supports equity to find or create a group to join the march. We will do our best to put people who are not registered into the march.

In what order will we appear in the march?

The process of assigning the marching order is handled by the Stark Pride Festival (SPF) March Committee over the course of several weeks. We have many factors to balance in making this decision including tradition, special needs groups such as families, seniors, and people with disabilities, sponsor recognition, and more. Our primary goal is to make sure that the march remains a wonderful experience for everyone who participates and an exciting, worthwhile experience to our millions of spectators from beginning to end.

How long is the march?

We begin step-off around 1:00-1:15 pm at the Canton Cultural Center for the Arts and the last group will reach dispersal at approximately 1:45 pm. The march is 0.6 mile long.

How long will our group wait in our designated staging spot in the formation area?

That depends on where you are placed in the march order and the policies that will be provided upon at the march check-in. Please plan to arrive by 12:30 pm. We encourage you to plan ahead for food, water, sunscreen, shade, and other necessities.

Will there be parking available for those who march?

All marchers may park at the Canton Cultural Center for the Arts at Market Ave N, Canton, OH. Due to minimum parking availability, we encourage you to carpool with your team. Another option is to take [SARTA](#), [LYFT](#), or [UBER](#) - enjoy the festival and let them drive for you!

Why do you call it a march rather than a parade?

The first LGBT Pride was held on the first anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in NYC. It was an unpermitted, explicitly political protest of anti-LGBT policies and attitudes. Our commitment at Stark Pride Festival is to recognize our Pride event as a March until complete and full equality and equity has been achieved for all LGBTQ+ people.

Where does the money from the march donations go?

To bring the march to life is expensive. Therefore, donations are applied to cover event costs such as supplies, equipment rental, and security. Any proceeds not used for Stark Pride Festival 2024 will be applied to Stark Pride Festival 2025. This will help us continue celebrating with you for years to come.

What accommodations are available for a person with disabilities to participate in the march?

There will be accommodations available. All information will be given via email. If you have any specific concerns, please contact info@starkpride.org.

What do I do if, after registration, we decide to change our plans (e.g., more marchers than anticipated, etc.)?

For changes, please get in touch with us at info@starkpride.org *as soon as possible*.

How much room will we have for our banner/equipment, etc.?

The march is .6 miles long and will utilize 2-lane lanes. Please keep this in mind when making your banner or signs.

Also, keep in mind that the formation area will be very crowded during set-up. Care should be taken with banners, signs, musical instruments, props, etc., to ensure that they don't get stepped on or take up excessive space while waiting to begin the march. *SPF* is not responsible for damage to any personal property during the march.

How are participating organizations recognized at the march?

There are numerous creative ways to make an impact and gain recognition during the march. Banners, costumes, branded giveaways, choreography, chants, or props can all help you stand out among the groups marching through Canton to support the LGBTQ+ community. We strongly encourage you to surprise us and showcase your creativity. At the very least, we recommend that all groups have a large sign or banner at the beginning of their group to identify who they are to spectators and media. Please remember that signs and banners will need to be visible on both sides of the route, up to 50 feet away.

Where can I tell my family and friends where they can view the march?

March viewers can sit or stand on the sidewalks along Market Ave N between the Cultural Center and 5th Street NW. we recommend they stand on the sidewalk on the west side of Market Ave N