



2025 CHICAGO PRIDE PARADE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Updated March 3, 2025

1. General

1.1. The "Participant" is referred to as the individual, organization, contingent, or company partaking in the Chicago Pride Parade. The Participant is responsible for all associated individuals involved with their contingent in the parade.

1.1.2. The Participant must be 18 years of age or older and have the authority to assume full responsibility for the behavior of all persons participating in the contingent falling under their application. The Participant further agrees to comply with and enforce all of PRIDEChicago's Rules and Regulations and applicable laws and regulations in connection with the event.

1.2. The Participant or their assigned Lead will be responsible for following and communicating all Rules and Regulations to the Participant's contingent and getting all relevant information to PRIDEChicago as needed.

1.3. PRIDEChicago's Parade Rules and Regulations are applicable to all Participants wishing to partake in the Chicago Pride Parade, and are intended to provide clarity on the rights and responsibilities of PRIDEChicago and its Participants.

1.4. Any violation of any of the Rules and Regulations will affect the Participant's continued involvement with PRIDEChicago and current/future Chicago Pride Parade(s).

1.4.1. PRIDEChicago reserves the right to deny or rescind applications to participate in the Chicago Pride Parade to any Participant that is non-compliant with the Rules and Regulations or is otherwise antithetical to the Mission, Vision, and Values of PRIDEChicago.

1.4.2. Failure to adhere to the Rules and Regulations by any Participant will result in the denial of participation in, or expulsion from, the Chicago Pride Parade with no refund.

1.5. Participants agree to report any known rules infractions to PRIDEChicago.

1.6. PRIDEChicago retains the right to update or modify the Rules and Regulations with written notice to Participants.

1.6.1. Participants are responsible to adhere to any new or changed Rules and Regulations promulgated after this form is published.

1.7. The Chicago Pride Parade is to inspire, educate, and commemorate the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) communities in Chicago, while celebrating our diverse culture. We expect all Participants to support the LGBTQ+ community and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with our values of respect, kindness, and positivity.

1.7.1. PRIDEChicago expects that the Participant and all their contingents agree to operate in a manner that is consistent with the celebration of the Chicago Pride Parade by respecting the rights of all members of the community to participate in the event; by not presenting images or behaving in a manner that promotes or may promote degradation, stereotypes, hatred, or violence toward any persons and groups.

1.7.2. PRIDEChicago requests all Participants try to reflect the Parade's theme in an acceptable and tasteful manner.

1.8. All Chicago Pride Parade participation opportunities are non-transferable. Only the logo/trademark of the organization/company entered by the Participant are permitted to be displayed in any opportunities related to the parade.

1.9. PRIDEChicago retains the right to refuse any application or entry without liability.

1.10. PRIDEChicago retains the right to cancel or modify the Chicago Pride Parade or PRIDEChicago events at any time, in part or in full, without liability or providing refunds.

1.11. Participants are responsible for their costs/expenses associated with participating in the parade.

1.12. There will be no refund of fees under any circumstances, no exceptions.

1.13. Parade Marshals will be in all areas of the parade to ensure all Rules and Regulations are being abided by.

1.14. Participants acknowledge PRIDEChicago has the right to remove without refund, and has the right to deny future registrations from any Participant for an infringement of the Rules or Regulations, or any behavior deemed unsafe or in violation of the Mission and Values of PRIDEChicago.

1.14.1. PRIDEChicago will have the sole right to determine any Participant's failure to comply with these Rules and Regulations. Participants acknowledge no legal proceedings in any form whatsoever shall be brought against the PRIDEChicago because of or in relation to a Rules and Regulation violation or any outcome.

1.14.2. There will be no refund of fees if a Participant is removed from the Chicago Pride Parade.

1.15. Participants must carry general liability insurance for the Chicago Pride Parade. Please ensure that the policy has PRIDEChicago as Additional Insured.

2. REGISTRATION

2.1. All registrations must be received through PRIDEChicago's registration platform as advertised on PRIDEChicago's website.

2.1.1. PRIDEChicago is not responsible for any transmission failure, interruption, or delay related to online registration. If you experience an issue, contact info@pridechicago.org.

2.2. Participation in the parade is by application only. All parade applications are subject to review and approval.

2.2.1. Non-registered, unapproved groups will not be permitted to join the parade.

- 2.3. The act of receiving an online registration shall not be deemed to impart or imply any obligation for PRIDEChicago to accept any registration.
- 2.4. The Chicago Pride Parade does not have unlimited spaces. Registration will close once spaces are filled.
- 2.5. Upon PRIDEChicago's review of registration, the Participant will be notified electronically of their acceptance into the Chicago Pride Parade.
- 2.6. Payment is due upon receipt of the invoice. Registrations will be considered incomplete until payment is received, and will become void if payment is not received by May 15 in the year of the upcoming parade.
- 2.7. The Participants must agree to the terms and conditions outlined in the Liability Release, Rules Acknowledgement, and Photo Release (collectively the "Participation Agreement") to be considered for participation in the Chicago Pride Parade.
- 2.8. After an application is accepted, there shall be no cancellations or refunds under any circumstances.
- 2.9. All Participants must meet category eligibility requirements as outlined in the online application. If requested by PRIDEChicago, Participants must provide proof of qualification for the selected category. Should there be a dispute, PRIDEChicago reserves the right to deny registration on the grounds of ineligibility or offer the Participant an opportunity to re-register under the appropriate category with payment of the appropriate fees. PRIDEChicago will not reserve entry space during a dispute or re-registration process.
- 2.10. Parade placement cannot be exchanged, shared, traded, or moved.
- 2.10.1. Participant entries cannot be sponsored by or display logos or trademarks from third party businesses or organizations without the advance express written permission of PRIDEChicago. Such permission, if granted, will include additional fees and conditions and must take place 30 days prior the Parade date.
- 2.10.2. Participants found in violation of this regulation will be billed for the full amount of a second contingent in the appropriate category.
- 2.10.3. Participants in the nonprofit category found in violation of this regulation will be billed the local business, or national business, rate.
- 2.11. Participants wishing to be near another entry should indicate the request on their registration form, but there is no guarantee that a Participant will receive the location of choice as requested.
- 2.12. PRIDEChicago reserves the right to change the parade placement of any Participant at any time.
- 2.13. Should a physical Parade not be permitted for any reason, no refunds will be given under any circumstance. No exceptions.

3. Logistics, Operations and Safety

3.1. There will be a mandatory virtual information session for all Participants (or their Lead) to attend. This session will explain the parade route, ensure that Participants are aware of all Parade Rules and Regulations, day-of logistics, and answer any questions.

3.1.1. PRIDEChicago will announce the session details, via email to all Participants (and their Lead) once a date and time are secured.

3.2. PRIDEChicago will assign a line-up number for each registered entry. Accordingly, vehicles and marchers will be assigned a position in the Assembly Area, which will be communicated to Participants in the lead-up to the parade.

3.3. Participants will be given a separate arrival time for their marchers and vehicles.

3.3.1. Vehicles should aim to arrive at the Assembly Area as close to their scheduled time as possible; too early or too late can cause significant issues with parade order.

3.3.2. Marchers should only arrive at the Assembly Area at their scheduled time.

3.4. Participants are not allowed more than one vehicle in the Assembly Area. Separate delivery of materials to the Assembly Area is prohibited.

3.5. Sound systems must remain powered off at the Assembly Area and also at the Disassembly Area. Units are limited to a 5-minute sound check while in the Assembly Area.

3.6. Participants will receive a position number, which should be printed on 8-1/2" x 11" paper and, on parade day, must be attached in the upper left of a contingent banner, vehicle window, or carried by a monitor, whichever is most visible to the television announcers.

3.7. All vehicles in the Assembly Area must have someone with a key to the vehicle, who is always present and able to move the vehicle if necessary.

3.8. At step-off, entries will proceed down the street in numerical order. Parade Marshals will be on hand to assist. Be ready to step off when it's your turn.

3.9. Individuals riding on a float or vehicle must be on it before it leaves the Assembly Area. No one will be permitted to board a float or vehicle at the parade start or during the parade route.

3.9.1. Jumping on and off a float or vehicle on the parade route is prohibited.

3.10. All contingents are required to maintain a continuous forward motion during the parade. Non gap between entries of more than 20 feet. Parade Marshals will assist in maintaining a consistent flow of traffic for the duration of the parade.

3.11. Entries are not allowed to stop on their own accord, including, but not limited to the television zone, unless otherwise directed by a Parade Marshal. All performances or maneuvers must be "on the move."

3.12. All entries must drive in a safe and orderly fashion. Unsafe driving, such as sudden acceleration, swerving, speeding and screeching of tires may result in immediate removal from the parade with no refund.

3.13. If a vehicle experiences mechanical difficulties on the parade route, it is the responsibility of the Participant to move the vehicle to the side of the street.

3.14. Alcohol and all other controlled substances are not permitted in the Assembly or Disassembly Areas or along the parade route. Any individual, group, or float found with alcohol or prohibited substances will be removed immediately with no refund.

3.15. The Participant specifically agrees that PRIDEChicago assumes no responsibility for damages to persons or property however caused, as a result of or pertaining to the participation and/or activities of the Participant.

3.16. The use of pyrotechnics, open flames, confetti, paper streamers, and water guns are prohibited by the City of Chicago.

3.17. For safety reasons, all individuals must be prepared to show identification or proof of affiliation with a Parade Participant.

3.18. It is the Participants' responsibility to be adequately prepared for parade day. It is recommended that you provide food, water, and sunscreen for your marchers.

3.19. PRIDEChicago does not supply tents, tables, extension cords, chairs or any supplies. Participants are responsible for bringing what they need.

3.20. The sale of any kind of goods or services to the crowd along the parade route is prohibited.

3.21. Animals are not allowed in the parade with the exception of certified service animals. Please contact PRIDEChicago if you have questions related to service animals.

3.22. Nudity and obscenity are not permitted as defined by the City of Chicago Ordinance 8-8-080. Any Participant, or contingent, therein not in compliance, will be removed from the parade route.

3.23. Parking will not be provided. Participants must make their own parking and travel arrangements. Public transportation is recommended.

3.23.1. Unattended vehicles in the Assembly and Disassembly Areas will be towed at the owner's expense.

3.24. Police and Fire Department traffic lanes must be kept open at all times.

3.25. Each Participant is required to have their own trash bags for depositing garbage from their entry. Garbage should also be placed in cans along the street.

3.26. Copyright release for performances or broadcasts is the sole responsibility of the Participant. PRIDEChicago assumes no responsibility or liability whatsoever.

3.27. If Participants choose to have live performers or music, please ensure that the artist and music chosen is reflective of the LGBTQ+ community.

3.28. Chicago Police officers will be stationed along the parade route. Barricades will line most of the parade route with Parade Marshals stationed in front of them. A private security company will provide additional assistance.

3.29. The Participant is fully responsible for ensuring that they comply with applicable federal, state, county and city laws and ordinances, which may apply to any aspect of the Participant's participation.

3.30. The Participant is fully responsible for any claims, demands, injuries, damages, etc. by/to persons or property resulting from any actions or activities, omissions, statutory violations, or any kind of illegal or wrongful actions or activities of their doing. Infractions may require the Participant's removal from the Parade with no refund.

4. Entry and Vehicle Regulations

4.1. Maximum 100 people per entry. PRIDEChicago reserves the right to limit the number of marchers in the parade on behalf of any Participant.

4.2. Banners for marching contingents should be no larger than 10' long by 2' wide.

4.3. Only one vehicle per registration is allowed. All vehicles must be decorated.

4.4. Trucks over 40 ft. in length will not be allowed. In addition, delivery trucks, semi trucks, or moving trucks/vans are not allowed.

4.5. No float or vehicle should be taller than 12 ft from the ground, cannot be longer than 40 ft (60 ft if a vehicle pulling a float), and cannot be wider than 9 ft (one traffic lane wide).

4.6. Only 20 people per float maximum. Other vehicles are only allowed the number of passengers up to their designated seating capacity.

4.7. Each person must have a solid object to hold onto while riding the float. Once the parade is underway, riders are not permitted to jump on or off of the float.

4.8. All Participants are required to provide Monitors to walk alongside their entry throughout the parade route. These Monitors are responsible for ensuring the safe and smooth progression of the parade. Monitors are not allowed to distribute samples.

4.8.1. Participants with floats must provide a minimum of four (4) Monitors to march alongside the float; one for each wheel of the vehicle to ensure the Participant's marchers are directed away from the float, specifically keeping areas in front of wheels clear of pedestrians.

4.8.2. Participants with walking groups or those with standard-sized cars must provide a minimum of two (2) Monitors; one on each side of their unit, specifically keeping areas in front of wheels clear of pedestrians.

4.8.3. Any Participant without designated Monitors will not be able to participate in the parade.

4.9. Each vehicle that enters the parade line-up area and/or participates in the parade must have liability insurance, registration, and the driver must have a valid driver's license in the class appropriate to the vehicle; copies of which will need to be available for presentation at all times on the day of the parade.

4.9.1. The Participant understands that any driver who is unable to produce a valid license or insurance will be removed from the parade with no refund.

4.10. The City of Chicago requires that each entry using a private motorized vehicle (including cars, trucks or motorcycles) must complete the CHICAGO POLICE PARADE PARTICIPANT FORM. The driver of the vehicle must have a completed copy of the form in their possession on parade day. The Chicago Police Department may request to see the form. Vehicle drivers without the completed form will not be allowed to participate.

4.11. Only street legal vehicles will be allowed entrance onto the parade route. Prohibited vehicles include, but are not limited to, mini motorbikes, motor scooters and/or three- and four-wheel all-terrain vehicles.

4.12. The City of Chicago allows only two motorcycle units of 50 motorcycles each. No other entries in the Parade are allowed to have motorcycles. All motorcycles must complete and carry the CHICAGO POLICE PARADE PARTICIPANT FORM.

4.12.1. The Participant agrees that all drivers of motorcycles, or any other vehicle that requires such protective gear, must wear the appropriate riding gear as required by law.

4.13. The Participant agrees that the driver of any vehicle must follow Illinois' distracted driving laws.

4.14. Any drivers found to be intoxicated or with controlled substances or alcohol on their persons or in their vehicles will be removed from the parade with no refund.

4.15. The Participant acknowledges that upon completion of the parade route, floats will be ushered into an immediate Disassembly Area where Participants have 10 minutes to disembark and disassemble before the float leaves the area.

4.16. The Participant is responsible for the cost of towing in the event the Participant's float/vehicle becomes disabled and / or delays the parade.

5. Float Specifications

5.1. Floats must not be higher than 12 ft from the ground, cannot be longer than 40 ft, and cannot be wider than 9 ft (one traffic lane wide). Floats that go beyond either of these measurements will not be permitted to proceed down the parade route.

5.2. Keep structures lightweight to avoid top-heaviness and balance problems, entries can be no higher than 12 ft from the ground.

5.3. If a vehicle is pulling a float, then the total length of the vehicle and the float combined must not exceed 40 ft.

5.4. Tied-down helium balloons are welcome, provided they are not higher than 12 ft from the ground. Helium balloons should not be released into the air.

5.5. Signs and flags are encouraged. Messages must be consistent with PRIDEChicago's Mission, Vision, and Values. Signs and flags cannot be higher than 12 ft from the ground.

5.6. Sound equipment, signage or other items, must be firmly attached to the float.

5.7. Floats should arrive ready-made, with only final touches being applied within the holding area. Floats and vehicles are not permitted to idle in the Assembly Area.

6. Sampling Distribution and Regulations

6.1. Sampling is the act of handing out 'samples' or free items. Examples of samples could include pens, shirts, fans, bags, etc.

6.1.1. The items sampled should relate to the Participant's group.

6.2. Items must not be thrown into the crowd. Participants are responsible for ensuring that their marchers hand the sampling product to crowd members for safety purposes. Do not in any fashion encourage viewers to come onto the parade route.

6.3. Sample distribution is not allowed in the Assembly or Disassembly Areas at any time.

6.4. Unwrapped food and beverage items may not be sampled or distributed along the parade route.

6.5. Leaflets and flyers should not be distributed along the parade route.

6.6. Contingents are not allowed to solicit money along the parade route.

7. Accessibility

7.1. The Participant is responsible for ensuring their float or entry is made accessible for their contingents wishing to participate.

8. Payments

8.1. All payments are to be made by May 15 in the year of the upcoming parade. Acceptable forms of payment are ACH or credit card. Cash and/or checks will not be accepted.

8.2. All credit card payments are subject to additional processing fees.

8.3. Registration is only complete on receipt of payment and signed Participation Agreement.

8.4. Prices subject to change without notice.

9. Cancellations and Refunds

9.1. The Chicago Pride Parade will take place rain or shine, unless lightning or other severe weather.

9.2. In the event of cancellation for any reason there will be no refunds. No exceptions.

9.3. If the parade route is altered on or before parade day or the Chicago Pride Parade is cancelled for any reason, Participants will not be reimbursed for any expenses incurred in and for parade registration, participation in, assembly and final presentation of their entry.

9.4. If an entry is removed from the parade line-up or the parade procession on parade day for any reason, no refunds will be provided.

9.5. No refunds will be issued based on contingent placement.

10. Marketing and Logo Use

10.1. No Participants may display the PRIDEChicago logo without prior written permission granted by PRIDEChicago.

10.2. No group may display logos other than their own. No third-party branded sponsorship of any kind is permitted on the parade route.

10.3. The Participant will not present any messages – verbal, written, in imagery or otherwise that promote or condone violence or the incitement of hatred as defined in the City of Chicago's Anti-Discrimination Policy or go against PRIDEChicago's Mission, Vision and Values.

10.3.1. PRIDEChicago has the right to review and approve or deny the wording of any sign carried or otherwise displayed in the parade.

10.4. The Participant will respect the rights of all members and supporters of our communities, and tailor their messaging to be in solidarity.

10.5. Participants are notified that their photo or likeness may be captured and used as part of PRIDEChicago event promotion.

11. Safety / Security Officers

11.1. All Participants are responsible for the safety and security of their own goods and equipment.

11.1.1. PRIDEChicago assumes no liability for damaged, lost, or stolen goods and equipment.

11.2. Any additional licensed security is the sole responsibility of the Participant.

11.3. Participants must adhere to all applicable federal, state, county and local laws and ordinances at all times in connection with the Chicago Pride Parade.

12. Prohibited Items

12.1. Fireworks, firecrackers or pyrotechnic acts of any kind are not allowed. Neither are laser pointers or laser guns, super soaker water guns, drones or smoke machines.

12.2. Firearms are not allowed.

12.3. Barbecuing along the parade line-up or on parade vehicles is prohibited.