

ATLANTA  
**PRIDE**

Atlanta Pride Volunteer Handbook  
2026 Edition

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## ***Thank you for choosing to support Atlanta Pride.***

Your time, passion, and commitment help us create a safe, joyful, and affirming space for LGBTQ+ people and allies across the Southeast. Whether this is your first festival or your tenth, we are grateful to have you in our Pride family.

Your decision to volunteer with us is more than an act of service; it's a statement of love, solidarity, and community. Atlanta Pride has been a beacon of resilience, celebration, and progress since 1970. We are the oldest organization in Georgia dedicated to serving the LGBTQ+ community, and every hour you give helps us carry that legacy forward. You are joining a powerful history of changemakers, trailblazers, and everyday heroes who believe in the power of visibility and togetherness.

This handbook will help you prepare for your experience, and I encourage you to read it carefully. I'm your point of contact if you ever feel unsure, overwhelmed, or have questions. I am here to help make your volunteer experience meaningful and enjoyable.

We see you. We appreciate you. We couldn't do this without you!

In Pride,

Kaleb Solberg (He/They)  
Community Engagement Coordinator  
Kaleb.Solberg@atlantapride.org  
678-235-9406



## ***About Atlanta Pride***

Atlanta Pride is the oldest and largest Pride organization in the Southeastern United States. Our annual October festival, coinciding with National Coming Out Day, is the largest free Pride celebration in the country, drawing over 350,000 attendees and thousands of volunteers from across Georgia and beyond.

The festival celebrates identity, visibility, and love, and it powerfully demonstrates our community's enduring strength. For over five decades, Atlanta Pride has stood as a symbol of resistance, remembrance, and resilience for LGBTQ+ people, particularly in the South, where advocacy and safety are often hard-won.

Pride is more than a weekend. Year-round, Atlanta Pride invests in community programming such as town halls, art exhibits, youth engagement, health and wellness events, and civic education initiatives. We offer grants to local Pride organizations across the state, amplify grassroots voices, and serve as a cultural and political hub for queer life in the Southeast. Through your volunteerism, you become part of this critical work.



## ***Mission & History***

***Atlanta Pride cultivates vibrant and inclusive community for LGBTQ+ people in the Southeast by amplifying diverse voices, fostering meaningful connections, and celebrating the rich cultural expressions that unite and uplift our community.***

This mission is not just aspirational. It guides every decision we make: from our festival committee to our philanthropy and community programming.

Pride must be more than a party: it must be a platform for visibility, equity, healing, and progress.

## ***Historical Highlights***

### **Founded in 1970 after the Stonewall Uprising**

Atlanta Pride began in response to the “Lonesome Cowboys” raid and the wave of LGBTQ+ activism that emerged nationwide following Stonewall. Our first events were acts of resistance and survival.

### **First march organized in 1971**

The inaugural Atlanta Pride Parade traces its roots back to an unpermitted march that LGBTQ+ activists organized along Peachtree Street in June 1971. Activists had to stay on the sidewalks and stop at traffic lights because the City would not authorize an official event.

### **Moved to October in 2009**

Atlanta Pride intentionally shifted the festival's hosting to October to align with National Coming Out Day and respond to environmental conditions in June.

### **Expanded programming beyond the festival**

What began as a single annual event has become a year-round organization committed to education, advocacy, and celebration. Today, Atlanta Pride runs dozens of community events, engages in policy advocacy, and funds grassroots LGBTQ+ initiatives across Georgia. Atlanta Pride continues to grow and evolve, driven by a deep commitment to inclusivity, accessibility, and empowerment. Volunteers play a key role in this legacy, making every step forward possible.



# 2026 FESTIVAL & PARADE

OCTOBER 10-11, 2026  
PIEDMONT PARK



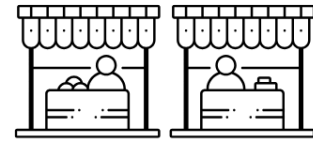
### Entertainment

Provide input on the entertainment lineup and maintain the stage schedule during the Festival.



### Family Fun Zone

Design and coordinate activities for children and young adults in the Festival's family-friendly area.



### Marketplace

Provide load-in and load-out support to Marketplace vendors during the Festival.



### Festival Information (Festival Services)

Provide information to festivalgoers, including maps and event schedules.

### Festival Donations (Festival Services)

Coordinate the collection of donations during the Festival.



### History & Legacy

Organize and maintain historical exhibits during the Festival, including the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

### Volunteer Care

Support the volunteers who power Pride by delivering water and meals, providing short-term relief, and ensuring team members feel supported and ready to serve.





# 2026 FESTIVAL & PARADE

OCTOBER 10-11, 2026  
PIEDMONT PARK



**Operations**  
Coordinate deliveries, manage inventory, and support festival logistics.



**Parade**  
Support parade setup and breakdown, assist judges, coordinate awards, and help collect donations during the Parade.



**Photography**  
Capture moments throughout the Festival and Parade by supporting event photography needs.

### Premium Area

Welcome and assist donors and sponsors in the Premium Lounge, including maintaining food and beverage areas.



### General Volunteers

Support volunteer coordination by assisting with scheduling, placement, and responding to needs during the Festival.



### Wellness Zone

Help maintain a calm, inclusive, low-stimulation space where attendees can decompress and access supportive resources.



### Community Marches

Support the Trans March, Bi & Pan March, and Dyke March by helping with lineup, route flow, and participant safety.





# VOLUNTEER GUIDE SHEET

## KEY INFORMATION

**Check-In:** Arrive 20 minutes early at the Volunteer Booth (near Greystone Pool House) or Parade Assembly point.

**Parking:** No volunteer parking is provided. Use rideshare or take MARTA (Arts Center Station for festival; Civic Center Station for parade). No neighborhood parking available.

### CHECK-IN

- Bring your photo ID, phone, sunscreen, and QR code confirmation.
- Receive your festival t-shirt and credentials at check-in.
- Meet your committee lead for updates.

### EXPECTATIONS

- Treat everyone with dignity and respect — as a volunteer, you represent Atlanta Pride!
- Volunteers are expected to be sober and professional during shifts.
- Wear your official volunteer t-shirt and closed-toe shoes at all times.
- Stay at your assigned location unless directed otherwise.
- Follow instructions from your committee lead or Atlanta Pride staff.

### SAFETY & POLICIES

- Know where the nearest exits, first aid tents, water stations, and info booths are located.
- Report injuries, issues, or unsafe behavior to your lead or staff — do not call 911 unless directed.
- Follow instructions for weather emergencies or evacuations.
- Prohibited: alcohol, drugs, weapons, smoking/vaping, accessing unauthorized areas.

### CODE OF CONDUCT

- Respect all identities and pronouns.
- Respect the privacy of others.
- Report harassment, discrimination, or unsafe behavior immediately.
- Do not speak to press or represent Atlanta Pride officially.

**Questions? Contact: Kaleb Solberg (He/They), Community Engagement Coordinator**  
**[volunteers@atlantapride.org](mailto:volunteers@atlantapride.org) | (678) 235-9406**



**THE ATLANTA POLICE DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCING ALL APPLICABLE STATE LAWS AND LOCAL ORDINANCES, INCLUDING PUBLIC DECENCY, ALCOHOL, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, AND PUBLIC SAFETY. TO VIEW THE FULL VOLUNTEER HANDBOOK, VISIT: [ATLANTAPRIDE.ORG/VOLUNTEERHANDBOOK](https://atlantapride.org/volunteerhandbook)**



# COMMUNITY STANDARDS

Atlanta Pride is committed to ensuring our events remain safe and inclusive for all participants. Hate speech, harassment, and targeted disruption, whether verbal, written, or symbolic, have no place here. This includes language or actions that demean, intimidate, or incite harm toward individuals or groups based on identity.



**CELEBRATE SAFELY. CELEBRATE TOGETHER.**

**BY ENTERING, YOU AGREE TO:**



**Be kind and respectful to all.**



**Celebrate without disrupting others.**



**Stay in public areas and follow staff guidance.**



**Support authorized vendors only.**



**Help keep this space safe and inclusive.**

IF YOU NEED HELP OR SEE SOMETHING CONCERNING, NOTIFY A STAFF MEMBER OR VOLUNTEER IMMEDIATELY. TOGETHER, WE CAN KEEP THIS A SPACE FOR EMPOWERMENT, VISIBILITY, AND SOLIDARITY.

**Any violation of these community standards may result in immediate removal from the event at the sole discretion of Atlanta Pride.**

# ***KNOW WHO'S WHO***



# ***Dress Code & Identification***

Wear your official volunteer t-shirt (provided at check-in): This shirt identifies you as an approved volunteer and helps festival-goers find trusted support. It must be worn at all times during your shift.

## ***Wear comfortable, closed-toe shoes.***

You may be standing, walking, or assisting with logistics for long periods. For safety, please don't wear open-toe shoes, sandals, flip-flops, or heels.

## ***Dress for the weather:***

October weather in Atlanta can vary. Hats, sunglasses, rain ponchos, and layers are strongly encouraged. Keep sunscreen on hand and reapply as needed.

## ***Avoid clothing with offensive or inappropriate content:***

This includes shirts with political messages (unless they align with Pride's values), profanity, or imagery that could be interpreted as exclusionary or inflammatory.

## ***Bring minimal personal items:***

Lockers or secure storage will not be available. Bring only what you can carry, and keep your phone charged for communication.

While enjoying the festival off hours, please ensure that you are NOT wearing your volunteer shirt. All volunteers are encouraged to participate outside of their volunteer hours, but please do so in non-volunteer attire.

If your role requires specific attire (e.g., vests, name badges, or gloves), it will be issued during orientation or check-in. Please return all borrowed gear at the end of your shift.

# ***Safety & Emergency Procedures***

## ***Prohibited Items & Actions:***

To protect yourself and others, the following are strictly prohibited:

- Firearms, fireworks, knives, or any other type of weapon.
- Alcohol, recreational drugs, or working under the influence.
- Unaccompanied children or pets (except registered service animals).
- Unauthorized use of carts, bikes, scooters, or personal vehicles on festival grounds.
- Piedmont Park is smoke-free due to a City of Atlanta ban on smoking and vaping in all outdoor parks and recreational facilities. This includes the use of all tobacco products, such as cigarettes, cigars, pipes, e-cigarettes, and vapes.

## ***Emergency Contacts & Reporting:***

If you need to report a concern and can't find a staff member, contact Volunteer Headquarters. Your supervisor will coordinate with security or medical teams in emergencies to handle the situation appropriately.

Volunteers should not call 911 unless specifically instructed to do so. Most of the emergency responders will already be on site, so please follow your committee's protocol for reporting emergencies.

If you have questions, please contact the  
Community Engagement Coordinator or your Committee Chair(s).

Following these safety procedures and knowing your resources, you help us make Atlanta Pride joyful, safe, accessible, and affirming for all.

# Atlanta Pride Staff



Chris McCain,  
Executive Director  
(he/him)



Steven Igarashi,  
Director of  
Communications  
& Community Engagement  
(he/him)



Ashley Botzis,  
Administrative  
Coordinator  
(she/her)



Kaleb Solberg,  
Community  
Engagement  
Coordinator  
(he/they)



Marshmallow Cofer,  
Operations Manager  
(she/her)

# Atlanta Pride Board of Directors



Nicoal Campbell,  
Board Chair  
(they/she)



Toby Vargas-Jaume,  
Board Vice Chair  
(he/him)



Chris Ruiz,  
Board Secretary  
(he/him)



Chicora Martin,  
Board Treasurer  
(they/them)



Forest Evans,  
Director  
(she/they)



Luis Feliciano,  
Director  
(he/him)



Dr. Christopher A. Thompson,  
Director  
(he/him)



Tony Uceda,  
Director  
(he/him)



Farah Witt,  
Director  
(she/her)

# Committee Chairs Directory



Vonda Bentley-Gulka,  
Backstage Security  
(she/they)



Kim Montgomery,  
Backstage Security  
(she/her)



Andrew Harvey,  
Entertainment  
(he/him)



Lauren Virdure,  
Entertainment  
(she/her)



Clovis Goss,  
History & Legacy  
(they/them)



Glen Paul Freedman,  
Government Affairs  
(he/him)



Christina Diggs,  
Family Fun Zone  
(she/her)



Maura Mickunas,  
Family Fun Zone  
(she/her)



Jasmin Allgood,  
Festival Services  
(she/they)



Rob Taylor-Couch,  
Festival Services  
(he/him)



Robert McCarrier,  
Marketplace  
(he/him)



Jen Smith,  
Marketplace  
(she/her)



James Aydlett,  
Operations  
(he/him)



Benjamin Merva,  
Operations  
(he/him)



Tim Garrett,  
Parade  
(he/him)



Don Melville,  
Parade  
(he/him)



Jimarko Duhart,  
Volunteers  
(he/him)



Morgan Roth,  
Volunteers  
(he/him)



Elaine Marie  
Serrano,  
Community Marches  
(she/ella)



Larry Brown,  
Premium Area  
(he/him)



Brian Boring,  
Volunteer Care  
(he/him)

**Volunteer General Inquiries: [volunteers@atlantapride.org](mailto:volunteers@atlantapride.org)**

# ***Volunteer Terms & Conditions***

I agree to be a volunteer at the Atlanta Pride Festival, produced by the Atlanta Pride Committee, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "APC").

I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the Pride Volunteer Information Handbook, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference and attached hereto.

I understand that I am a volunteer and that I represent Atlanta Pride.

I agree to treat each guest of the event with dignity and respect.

I understand that I may be relieved of my volunteer duties at any time and for any reason by the Atlanta Pride Volunteer Coordinator, other Festival Committee Co-Chair(s), or the Executive Director.

I understand that I may not serve as a volunteer if I am under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and that I may not consume alcohol or drugs during my shift(s).

By signing this release, I give permission to Atlanta Pride to use my photograph in any materials produced by Atlanta Pride.

I understand that I am not an official spokesperson, employee, staff member, Festival Committee Co-Chair or Board Member of Atlanta Pride.

I understand that I am not authorized to speak on behalf of Atlanta Pride, and I may not obligate Atlanta Pride in any contractual matter, nor do I have decision-making authority with regard to public safety matters.

I agree to abide by all rules set forth by Atlanta Pride and further agree to hold harmless the City of Atlanta, Piedmont Park Conservancy, and Atlanta Pride for any acts performed by me outside the scope of my activities as a volunteer.

I understand that if I am unwilling to agree to all the terms and conditions above, I will be unable to volunteer for the 2026 Atlanta Pride Festival.

***\*Note, you will agree to these terms and conditions when you sign up to volunteer\****



**Mailing Address: 1530 DeKalb Ave NE, Suite A, Atlanta GA 30307**  
**(404) 382-7588 | [volunteers@atlantapride.org](mailto:volunteers@atlantapride.org)**