

Blue Ridge Pride Festival 2020

A Community of Allies

September 26, 2020 | 11 am to 7 pm
Pack Square Park, Asheville NC



Vendor Load-In & Festival Guide

Welcome! We're so glad you are joining us this year! The theme of this year's festival is *A Community of Allies*. The Blue Ridge Pride Festival is rooted in a celebration of the LGBTQ community and our fight for equality and respect. But, as our allies have multiplied in number, so has the cause for celebration. So has the need for collaboration.

Ours isn't the only community still suffering under the weight of bigotry and misinformation. We are stronger – and our lives are richer – when we all stand together and listen to one another. America has always been at its greatest when we have come together – not as one – but as a teeming multitude of peoples.

What excites us most is the sheer diversity of exhibitors and vendors that the festival attracts. To see retailers, artists, churches, community service groups, healthcare providers, social justice organizations, political candidates, service companies –and, yes, big corporations – all gathered together on one common is but another example of the value of coming together. It is another example of the diversity and inclusion that we seek to foster. We welcome everyone who comes in good faith to celebrate, congregate, educate, and learn.

Before You Come

- **Confirm your booth number and drop-off time.** If you have not received your information 7 days before the festival, please contact Vendor@BlueRidgePride.org. Our emails are sometimes blocked. If you plan to participate in the Procession, you will need to be in the procession organizing area by 9:40. If you drop-off conflicts with this, contact us to arrange an earlier time.
- **Confirm Your Profile / Links.** We will use information you provided to create an online vendor directory that includes your booth location, Facebook and web links, phone, and address. Festival visitors will be able to access this from their smartphone. We suggest that you test your links on our vendor home page. If you wish to edit it, click the edit link.
- **Identify Your Drop-Off Location.** Check the map on page 3. Use these GPS addresses to get you to your point of entry. They are nearby buildings.
- **Trucks:** Some of you have spaces that block the drop-off traffic. You may have to set up early or late. Please contact us ahead of time if you are uncertain. We cannot allow trucks to block set-up.

Drop-Off

- **Do Not park or stand illegally – even for five minutes.** Last year, a car blocked our fire engines on emergency call. Other cars blocked vendor trucks from setting up on College Avenue. This year, enforcement will be strict.
- **Entry.** How you enter and exit the park, and where you unload / reload, depends on your booth location. The map on the following page uses color-coding to explain this. Most of you will follow either the red or the purple route.
- **Registration.** At your drop-off, look for the official-looking person with the clip-board. They will check you in, confirm your order and assign volunteers to help you as needed.
- **Unloading.** You share a 30-minute unloading window with 30-40 others. Please be on-time and quick. [You are welcome to come before 8:00 am, but we may not have a full contingent of volunteers to assist you.]
- **Safety.** Remain with your vehicle at all times during unloading. Everyone will be passing through a fire lane used by the fire department. Don't block it! They won't take it kindly.
- **Parking.** We have identified two nearby parking lots on the map. Each is within 2-3 blocks.

- **Deadline.** All vehicles must be cleared from the festival grounds by 10:00 am. None will be allowed after that under any circumstances.

Settling In

- **Spaces:** Grass spaces will be marked by numbered flags with dots identifying the corners of each 10x10 square. Pavement spaces will be marked with chalk numbers and boundary marks. Please set up within your boundary.
- **Anchors.** The city requires that all tents be anchored with weights. You may not anchor tents to trees or other objects.
- **Electricity.** The city does not permit power generators in the park. You must supply your own extension cords. You may need one as long as 50'.

While You Are with Us

- **Trash.** Please come prepared to contain your trash. You may not use the event's waste containers as they will be separated by compostable, recyclable and landfill. Please do not use nearby dumpster. These are the property of local merchants.
- **Food & Beverages.** Non-food vendors and exhibitors cannot sell or give away beverages of any kind without the express, written consent of Blue Ridge Pride Center, Inc. This includes sodas, juices, water and alcoholic beverages. No one may sell or serve alcoholic beverages without the express, written consent of Blue Ridge Pride Center, Inc.
- **No Pets.** The City of Asheville does not allow pets on Festival sites.
- **Disruptions / Security.** We hope that this will be an event-free festival. When people attempt to disrupt festivals like ours, they are trying to get a reaction. Please do not rise to their bait. We will have people circulating the festival. If you have concerns, please contact one of them, the festival information booth, or a local law enforcement official.
- **Accessibility.** We have tried to anticipate and minimize any accessibility issues. If you notice something we've missed, or someone in need of assistance, please let us know.
- **First Aid:** The EMT squad is stationed in the parking lot of the Fire Department.

Heading Out

- We strongly discourage early exits. They disrupt the festival. If you exit before 7 pm, you must do so on foot and without dollies or other moving equipment. You can bring your car back to the loading area only after 7 pm.
- We expect everyone to abide by the "leave no trace" principle. We reserve the right to charge any exhibitor / vendor a \$50 cleaning fee.

Help Us to Improve Future Festivals

- It is one our goals to make this festival a success for you. Please feel free to share feedback and ideas during and after the festival. You can best reach us at vendor@blueridgepride.org.

Welcome!

The Blue Ridge Pride Team

Note: These guidelines are highlights. See the 2020 Vendor Agreement and Guidelines for a complete set of rules and guidelines. Available online / on request.

