

**Q: Why is the festival fenced?**

**A:** The Pride Northwest board had been thinking about fencing the festival grounds for a number of years, mostly for safety reasons. In recent years nearly all the large festivals in Waterfront Park started fencing. In addition, by having a fenced festival we can better control the behavior of the protesters at our event. We can also ask them to leave if they become obnoxious—something we can't do if the event isn't fenced.

**Q: Why does the Pride security protect the protesters?**

**A:** Religious protesters attend our event almost every year. Their goal is to provoke a response from the attendees. A verbal response is good, but the protesters are also looking for the opportunity to have an altercation between them and our attendees, creating the possibility for lawsuits and negative publicity directed at the queer community. Since we started fencing, the protesters tend to gather on public streets during the parade. It is Pride Northwest's goal to diffuse any situations that might become inflammatory and lead to an altercation. Therefore, we try to place a barrier of security personnel between the protesters and parade attendees. Since the entire goal of the protesters is to provoke a response, we encourage attendees to ignore them and keep their distance.

**Q: Why does Pride Northwest ask for a donation at the gate?**

**A:** Pride's yearly budget has increased significantly. Some of the increases are beyond our control. Permit fees and insurance costs have increased astronomically. Others are a result of a larger festival and increased services and entertainers. In the past, Pride board members and volunteers went around with buckets asking for donations to help with the cost of the event. This approach was not particularly successful for a number of reasons. The board decided asking people for a donation at the gate would be a better way to fund the event—and it was. The donation is voluntary, and no one will be turned away for not donating.

**Q: Why does Portland Pride have corporate sponsors?**

**A:** Portland Pride cannot be funded entirely with donations and booth fees. Rather than charge admission or raise booth fees, Pride Northwest has several corporate sponsors.



Portland Pride originally was scheduled in June to commemorate the Stonewall riots in New York

Some of them are national, but most are local. Some sponsors give us money, and others donate goods and services we need. We have a formal criteria for evaluating our sponsors and try to find the ones that are the best fit.

**Q: Why are the booth fees so expensive?**

**A:** Portland Pride's booth fees are quite moderate compared with other Pride organizations around the country. Larger Prides such as San Francisco are an order of magnitude more expensive. We have different rates for profit and not-for-profit organizations and for those who sell things or take donations and those who do not. The rates increase after May 1 and then again after June 1. We do what we can to make sure that organizations and businesses that want booths can afford to do so. In addition, organizations can share a booth, and sometimes sponsors will donate their booths. The money from the booth spaces goes to support the event. Money for canopies, tables and chairs goes directly to our supplier. There is no markup on those items.

**Q: Why isn't the event called "Gay Pride"?**

**A:** The official name of our event is "The Portland Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans Pride Celebration." Informally we refer to it as Queer Pride, and our themes often reflect this. Pride Northwest is committed to being as inclusive as we can, both in our event and on our board. Calling our event "Gay Pride" dismisses the fact that many, many people who do not identify as gay attend our event and are part of our community. The LGBTQI community is very diverse, and as an organization we wish to acknowledge and honor that diversity. [Q]

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there's no place like home....

## You always have a home at PFLAG!

Portland Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) welcomes community members to its monthly meeting at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson, Portland, OR. 7pm, second Tuesday of each month.



www.pflagpdx.org



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