

Pride Month

What is it?

Pride Month is celebrated annually every June in remembrance of those who were involved in the Stonewall Riots and as a form of celebration for the LGBTQ+ community. Pride Month falls in the month of June to pay tribute to the countless activists and allies who demanded an establishment where LGBTQ+ people could go and be open about their sexuality. The Stonewall Riots took place on June 28th, 1969 and lasted 6 days. Led by black, trans, and bisexual women, the riots paved the way for the gay liberation movement and are a testament to the strength of the community. Although there is a long way to go, the official recognition of Pride Month in 2000 and the legislation for Same Sex Marriage Rights in 2015 prove as reminders of just how new this movement is and how revolutionary activists such as Marsha P Johnson and Brenda Howard were. Pride Month which initially began as a New York City Pride March in 1970 is now celebrated as one of the largest and most well known parades with over 2 million people in 2019.

Current Conditions

Although we have come a long way we are far from equal. Here is a list of statistics as to why Pride Month is necessary and why continuing to fight against these stigmas and inequities is still imperative towards gay liberation.

- 1 in 8 - the number of LGBTQ people who have experienced unequal treatment from healthcare staff.
- 1 in 5 - the number of LGBTQ women living in poverty.
- <\$12,000 - the annual income earned by 22% of LGBTQ people.
- 350,000 - the number of people in the LGBTQ community that are transgender women.

These [statistics](#) are a clear indication that as a community we have not reached equity but don't worry, there are ways to help this pride month.

How do we celebrate?

There are many different ways to celebrate Pride Month but the most important thing is that you are embracing who you are as well as celebrating the individuality of those around you! Pride month is known for its vibrant colors, rainbow flags, elaborate costumes, makeup, glitter and sparkle. It is celebrated with the community in various different ways like rallies, pride parades, concerts and more! This an opportunity for everyone to educate themselves on the history of the LGBTQ+ community and take part in celebrating the people within it. There are also commemorations and memorials held for members of the community who have lost their life to anti-LGBTQ+ violence or HIV/AIDS. Common ways to celebrate include repping your rainbow flag either on social media, in the backgrounds of your meeting or even on your house. Representation is important. You can also watch movies or read books created by LGBTQ+ people. But most importantly, this Pride Month and every month, intentionally fight against the stigmas which continue to perpetuate this cycle of inequities.

Information used from: <https://nationaltoday.com/pride-month/>

