

Pride Safety

June is Pride Month—a time to celebrate and uplift the LGBTQIA+ community through parades, social gatherings, and advocacy events. As we come together in joy and solidarity, it's important to prioritize safety. Here are some key tips to keep in mind while participating in Pride celebrations.

Plan Ahead

Before heading out, take the time to research the event details, including the location, schedule, and any security measures that may be in place. Make sure your phone is fully charged, and consider bringing a portable charger to stay connected throughout the day.

Stay Aware of Your Surroundings

Situational awareness is one of the best ways to protect yourself and others. Pay attention to anything that feels unusual, trust your instincts, and move away from potential danger. If you're indoors, identify exits in advance, including less obvious ones, like kitchen doors in restaurants. If attending with a group, agree on a meeting spot in case you get separated.

Dress Comfortably & Practically

Choose footwear that allows you to move quickly if needed—comfortable shoes are a must. Dress for the weather, whether that means sunscreen and a hat for sun protection or a light rain jacket for unpredictable conditions. If you're carrying a bag, opt for a secure crossbody or backpack to keep your belongings safe in crowded spaces.

Hydrate & Protect Your Health

Staying hydrated is crucial, especially during outdoor events in the summer heat. Bring a reusable water bottle to refill throughout the day. If you choose to drink alcohol, do so responsibly and never leave your drink unattended. Pack any necessary medications, such as inhalers or EpiPens, in a readily accessible location.



Stick Together

Whenever possible, attend events with a buddy or a group. The rule of thumb is: Come together, leave together. Avoid walking alone, especially in areas with a history of hate crimes. Consider sharing your location with trusted friends or family using apps like [Life360](#), so someone is always aware of your location in an emergency.

Protect Your Digital Privacy

Be mindful of what you share on social media in real time. Avoid geotagging your location while the event is still happening, and consider using encrypted messaging apps like Signal or WhatsApp for sensitive communications. This helps protect both your privacy and the safety of others around you.

Know Your Rights

If you interact with law enforcement, stay calm and remember your rights. You generally don't have to consent to searches without a warrant. If you witness an arrest, record from a safe distance and note any badge numbers or details. Knowing how to respond can help protect yourself and others in tense situations.

Avoid Confrontations

If confronted by an aggressor, disengage and leave the situation safely. Verbal retaliation can escalate violence, and some groups may deliberately provoke attendees to disrupt events. Organizations like the Proud Boys and Patriot Front have attempted to incite chaos at Pride gatherings in the past—don't take the bait. If you witness harassment or an attack, prioritize safety, but document the incident if possible. Reports can be submitted via [SAFER's incident form](#).

Support & Look Out for Others

Pride is about community, so keep an eye out for those who might need help. If you see someone being harassed, ask, "Do you need help?" before stepping in. Offer to walk with someone who feels unsafe, and familiarize yourself with bystander intervention techniques, such as distraction or delegation. Small acts of solidarity can make a big difference.

After the Event

Once the celebration winds down, check in with friends to make sure everyone gets home safely. If you experienced or witnessed any hate incidents, report them to organizations like [SAFER](#) or the [Anti-Violence Project](#). Documenting these events helps track patterns and advocate for better protections in the future.

Learn More & Stay Prepared

For additional safety tips, check out resources from [SAFER \(Security Alliance for Equal Rights\)](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to the safety and security of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Final Thought

Pride is a time for joy, resistance, and togetherness. Staying safe ensures we can keep celebrating for years to come. By looking out for each other and taking a few precautions, we can make this Pride Month both empowering and secure. Have fun, stay proud, and take care of one another! 🌈💖