



**MIDDLETOWN PRIDE MARCH ORDERS**

THE MIDDLETOWN PRIDE MARCH WILL BE HELD ON: June 6, 2026, AT 1 PM (June 7, 2026 at 1 PM Rain Date)

The following orders are for the information and guidance of all concerned. All pride march participants should make note of their location in the pride march and proceed to their assembly area.

**FORMATION OF THE PRIDE MARCH WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:**

Barricades erected in North End.....	11:00 AM
Vehicles and Large Floats arrive .....	11:30 AM
Marchers arrive .....	12:00 PM
March starts.....	1:00 PM

**ASSEMBLY AREAS:**

- Pride Division ..... Spring St at Main St Intersection
- Rainbow Division ..... Rome Ave @ Stack St Intersection
- Division 1A ..... Rome Ave
- Division 1B ..... Pease Ave at Spring St Intersection
- Division 2 ..... Spring St at Pease Ave Intersection
- Division 3 ..... Pease Ave at Stack St Intersection
- Division 4 ..... Stack St at Pease Ave Intersection
- Division 5 ..... Grove St

Please review the map below. Plan your approach to the assembly area so that you can pull into line. Proceed north on High Street.

- Pride Division: Turn right on Spring St and proceed to the corner of Spring and Main.
- Rainbow Division: Stay on High Street to North Main. Turn right onto North Main, turn right on to Stack St, then at that intersection, there is a parking lot.
- Division 1A: Stay on High Street to North Main. Turn right onto North Main, turn right on to Stack St, then turn left onto Rome Ave- DO NOT GO ALL THE WAY DOWN
- Division 1B: Turn right on Stack St. Turn right onto Pease Ave.
- Division 2: Turn right on Spring St and proceed to the corner of Spring and Pease Ave.
- Division 3: Stay on High Street to North Main. Turn right onto North Main, turn right onto Pease Ave.
- Division 4: Turn right on Stack St and proceed to the corner of Stack and Pease Ave.
- Division 5: Stay on High Street to North Main then turn right onto Grove St, Proceed to corner of Grove St and Stack St.

Rally points for larger groups: Group who are meeting on-site, can use these areas to assemble before moving into Pride March order. Assembly only – do not park cars in these areas. Drivers dropping off participants should use High Street and Stack Street to enter the marshaling area.

- North Main Street
- MacDonough School



#### LINE OF MARCH:

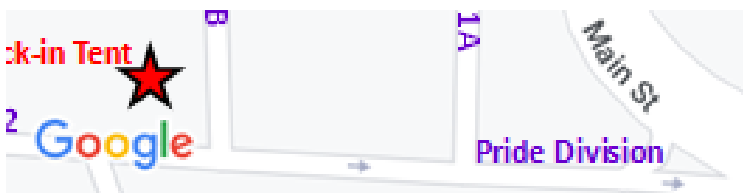
Commencing at Spring St & Main St, march south on Main St and ending at Union Park (South Green)

1. Self-powered vehicles and wagons or trailers longer than 10 feet or wider than 8 feet must enter the assembly area at 11:30 a.m. Large vehicles will not be allowed into the assembly area after the streets are blocked for assembly at 12:00 p.m..
2. Only march unit vehicles (floats/ vehicles/ etc.) are allowed in assembly area- Spring St, Stack St, Pease Ave, Rome Ave & Grove St.
3. Do not throw anything to spectators. This is a safety issue. Small children tend to run after these, regardless of vehicles.
4. Units with animals are required to clean up after the animals. This is a public health issue.
5. At the end of the Pride March, marchers should proceed directly into the PrideRally/ PrideFest on the South Green. Large vehicles must turn left onto Union Street.

#### MARCH LINEUP

##### PRIDE DIVISION (Assembly area, Spring St)

- Grand Marshals (including Chez Est)
- LGBTQIA+ Commission
- LGBTQIA+ Dignitaries

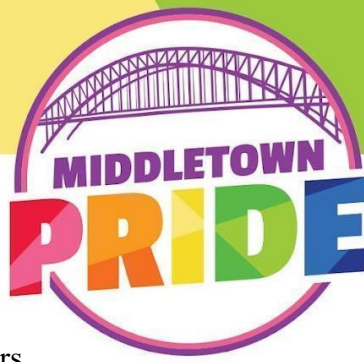


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##### RAINBOW DIVISION (Line Up @ intersection of Rome Ave & Stack St)

Assemble at the corner of Stack St & Rome Ave

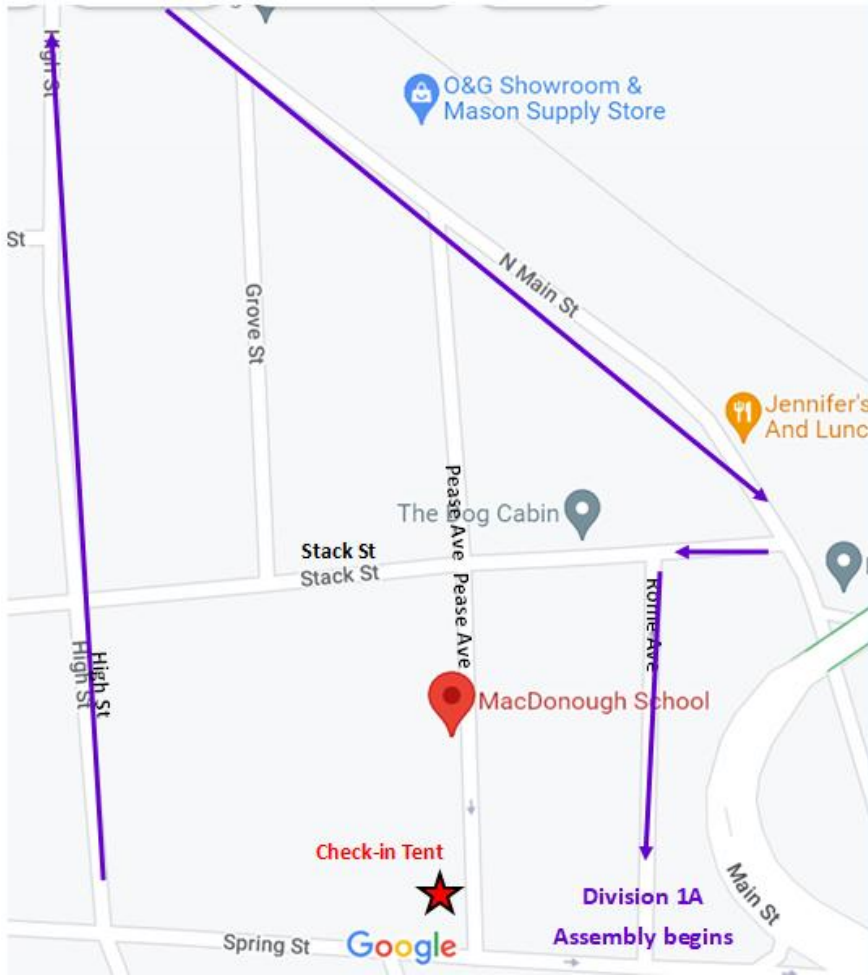
- Mayor & Local Elected Officials
- Pride Partners- Middlesex Health & Wesleyan University
- City/ town organizations
- City of Middletown Folks



DIVISION 1 A

LGBTQIA+ Organization marchers

Assemble on Rome Ave starting at Spring Street intersection. Enter Rome Ave via N Main St to Stack St

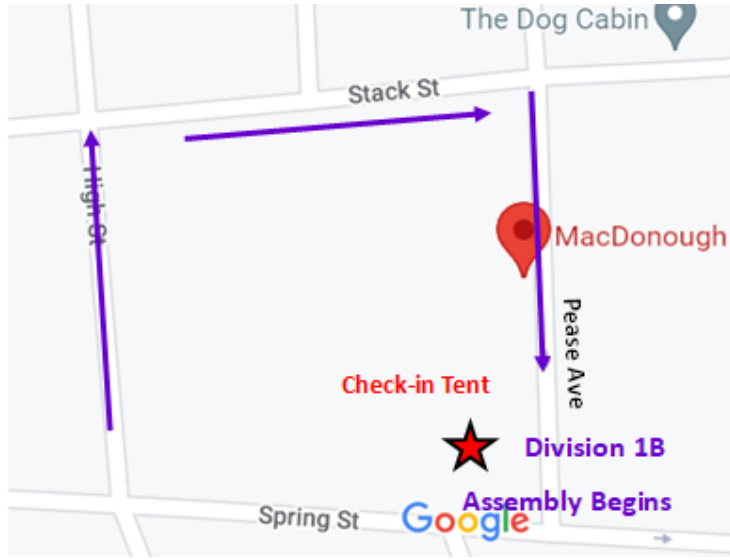




DIVISION 1 B

LGBTQIA+ Organization Vehicles/ Floats

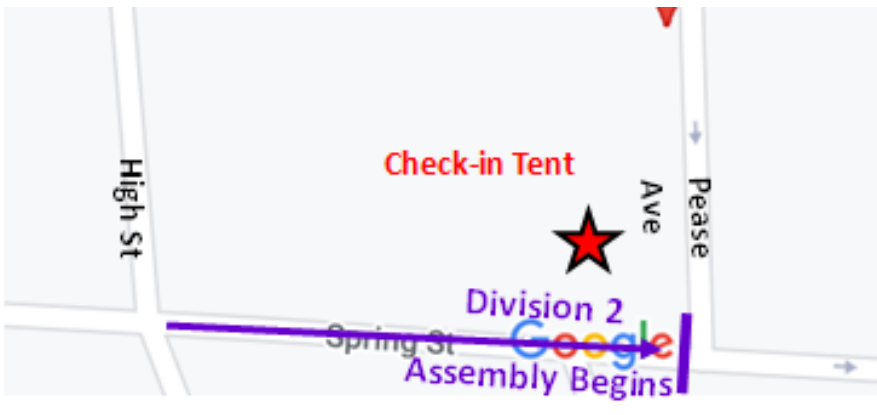
Assemble on Pease Ave. Enter Pease Ave via Stack St.



DIVISION 2

Middletown Pride Sponsors

Assemble on Spring St. beginning at the Pease Ave. intersection. Enter Spring St. via High St.

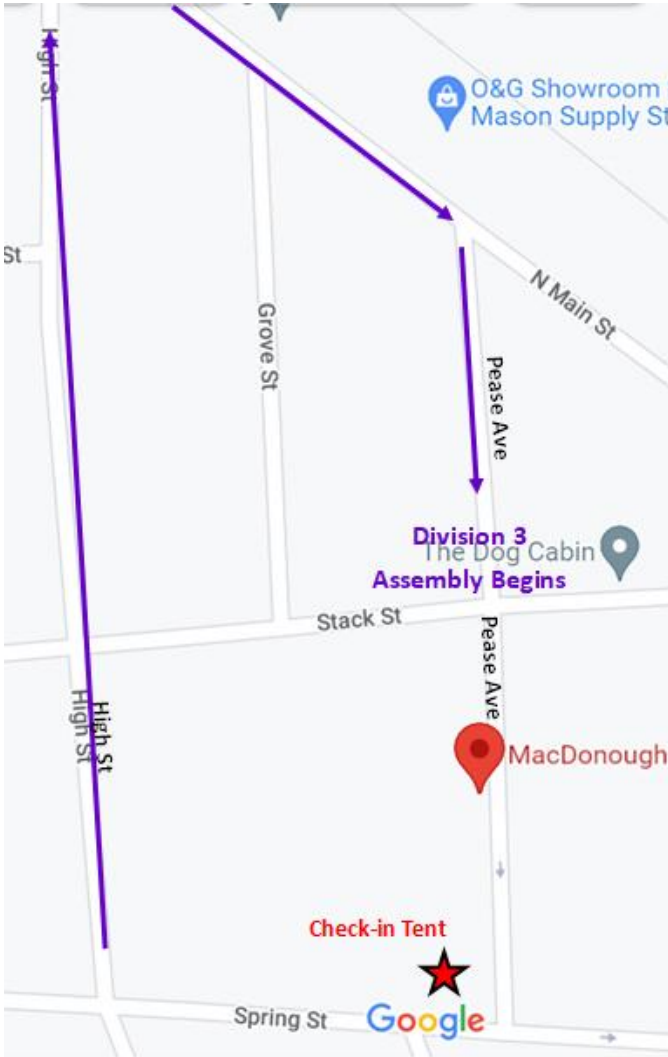




DIVISION 3

Marching Groups

Assemble on Pease Ave. Enter Pease Ave via N. Main St. Continue down towards Stack St Intersection.

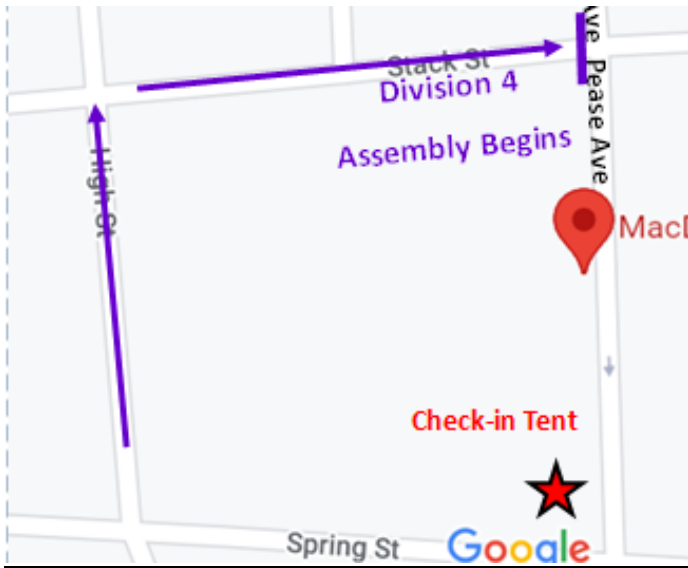




DIVISION 4

Large Vehicles/ Floats

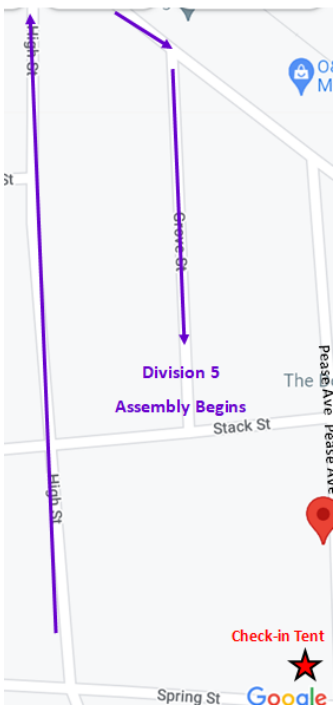
Assemble on Stack St. beginning at the Pease Ave. intersection. Enter Stack St. via High St.



DIVISION 5

Overflow marching groups/ Late Arrivals

Assemble on Grove Ave. Enter Grove Ave. via N. Main St. Continue down towards Stack St. Intersection





## Middletown Pride March Rules & Regs. Before the March

### Motorcycle Units

A Motorcycle Unit is defined as a single motorcyclist traveling in a group or individually. Groups of cyclists or individual cyclists who exceed the logical march speed, ignore safe driving rules, do not appear to meet sobriety standards, or break from their designated unit position in the march will be removed from the march by staff. All cyclists must show a copy of their driver's license, registration and proof of insurance for each motorcycle.

Motorcycles and Scooters: Even though the state does not require liability insurance on cycles and scooters, the event insurance requires all motorcycles or scooters in the March to be insured. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.**

### Signage

Along with a colorful, attention-grabbing entry, another key element to communicate your message to spectators is your signage. Your organization is free to create and display appropriate signage, banners, and other visual and audio media to introduce and inform the spectators about your group. Visual elements are the most important part of a march, and Middletown Pride encourages you to be creative, informative, and fun! However, keep in mind that your signage must reflect your organization, as registered.

It is not permissible to advertise or promote your parent company, unless you are registered as a business, or you are participating in the March as a sponsoring organization. It is also not permissible to advertise or promote an organization other than your registered organization.

Hopefully, the March will be BIG! Elevated, colorful signage using large block lettering is the most effective way to promote your message. Test the visibility of your signs in advance by standing 50' away. The better your signage is, the better your message will be seen. Be sure to observe the height limitations (12') when preparing your signs.

Specific examples regarding signage:

- Political organizations and activities may not display media, signage, or banners that promote any particular political candidate. The campaign for that particular candidate or party would be required to register with the March to participate and display signage. Similarly, political organizations and activities may not display media, signage, or banners that attack or denigrate any particular candidate.
- Small business groups may include the logo for their company and wear company-branded costumes or uniforms but may not promote or advertise any particular product or service of the company.



- Non-political organizations may display signs and media for causes that the organization focuses on or supports but may not promote political candidates or parties. Any political candidate or party displayed on a sign must register as a participant, and the signage for that candidate must be a part of that candidate's or party's group. Similarly, non-political organizations and activities may not display media, signage, or banners that attack or denigrate any particular candidate.
- **All** signage must meet the requirements for public speech as required by law. Lewd, profane, indecent, or otherwise unacceptable expressions of speech will not be permitted in the march. Violators of this requirement will be directed to remove the offending material from the march; refusal to do so will result in removal of the participants from the march.
- Non-businesses and non-commercial groups will be allowed to include one sign, no larger than **3'x5'** indicating that support monies have been received from one or more business or commercial entities. Please contact the March Coordinator if you have any questions about this policy.

These Rules and Regulations are ultimately intended to keep PrideFEST focused on the LGBTQIA2S+ community and supporting organizations. Middletown Pride recognizes that the fight for the rights and dignity of LGBTQIA2S+ individuals is inexorably linked to the fight for the rights and dignity of all peoples. We welcome opportunities to collaborate on and promote other causes, other communities, and other identities – but we reserve this day to specifically celebrate the successes and struggles of the LGBTQIA2S+ community.

### **March Placement**

Your group's position in the march is based on multiple factors, including when registration was completed, group type, number of vehicles and marchers, among other factors. There are circumstances that dictate changing your march order. These changes include, but are not limited to, conflicting displays, themes, amplified music, and other conflicts. In general, no group is moved more than a few spots to accommodate conflicts. These changes are intended to improve the overall presentation of the march and are subject to the Pride Coordinator's approval. Changes made by the March staff are binding and not subject to dispute.

March order changes can also be requested by the representative of the participating group, including coordinating placement with other groups. In general, groups that wish to coordinate placement will be moved to the natural placement of the last group to register (the furthest back in the march order). For the best placement, whether coordinating or not, Middletown Pride recommends registering as early as possible and including any special requests in the comments section of your registration.

The preliminary order will be published and distributed prior to the March. Such preliminary order is subject to revisions at any time by Middletown Pride Staff. Once this list is published, you will know approximately where your group will be placed.



### **Hot Weather**

Be prepared for a hot day, and for traveling at less than 5 mph for an extended period of time. Middletown Pride doesn't want any vehicles to drop out of the March due to overheating. If your vehicle must drop out early, contact the march staff, so a path can be cleared at the nearest and safest intersection. Each individual involved in an entry should be made aware of the hazards associated with participating in the March. Contingents are encouraged to bring water or replenishing fluids for participants, as the March will not be providing any. Dehydration is the most common health problem faced on Pride day. Also, carry any other items you think might be necessary to protect you and your group from the elements (hats, sunscreen, umbrellas, etc.)

### **Inclement and Extreme Weather Policy**

In the event of extreme or inclement weather, including but not limited to rain, Middletown Pride reserves the right to cancel the Pride March at any time. A notice of cancellation will be announced by Middletown Pride, and will be posted on the City's website, will be sent by e-mail to all registered groups, and will be announced on all related social media platforms. This announcement will be made no later than two hours before the scheduled March start time. In the event of a cancellation, Pride March fees cannot be refunded.

### **Arriving for the Day of the March**

This section is dedicated to the morning of the march. It contains information about how and where to arrive, where to stage, and what you will need to expect in the staging area.

#### **Assigned Staging Areas**

As a general discussion, the staging area and entry points will be located on Spring Street, and the side streets immediately adjacent to Spring Street. Your group's specific staging area will be listed on your march order notification and staging map. Please follow the instructions listed on your march order notification and staging map to ensure your arrival at the March is as seamless as possible.

#### **Staging Your Group**

It is unnecessary and not advised to have marching or walking personnel arrive before your designated window. Vehicles and floats, however, must arrive within the prescribed window in your march order notification. This is based on maintaining safety and order while introducing and positioning vehicles in the staging area. Marching and walking participants can easily maneuver within the staging area; however, positioning and relocating vehicles in the staging area is complicated and risks the safety of those in the staging area.

At each of the designated vehicle entry points, the staging staff should have placement maps available for review. Due to compensation for last minute changes to group sizes, the specific staging location for your group may vary slightly from that published in the march order. We thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding in this highly dynamic event. Please consult with the staff for questions about placement on



the day of the march. Although your placement for staging may shift, the march order will be maintained to the best of our ability.

Middletown Pride recommends that you have signage located with the vehicles in your group prior to the vehicle's arrival at the staging area. These signs can be used as beacons to identify your group's placement once the vehicle location has been set. Middletown Pride also recommends that contact information for the drivers of the vehicles be distributed among your group, so that marching or walking participants can conduct the vehicle pinpoint its location during the staging process.

Every vehicle must have a designated driver at all times, including while parked and turned off. This designated driver is responsible for moving the vehicle as prescribed by the staff and by the Middletown Police Department, and the driver is required to remain with and to move the vehicle in the event of an emergency. No vehicle may be left unattended in the staging area for ANY reason. Vehicles found or considered unattended will be removed from the staging area at the owner's expense. The driver of any vehicle is responsible for the safe movement of the vehicle at all times, and assumes the responsibility for the movement of the vehicle. Damage to the vehicle, its contents, injury to others, or damage to property caused by the moving of the vehicle are the liability of the driver of the vehicle, or the organization to which the vehicle belongs.

Please note, the roads used as staging areas will be closed down 2 hours prior to the start of the march, but the remainder of the roads along the entirety of the march route will be open to traffic until the march starts. Pedestrians and vehicles are reminded to observe the requirements and etiquette of crossing city streets and to remain aware of their surroundings while preparing for the march.

## **The Pride March**

This section is dedicated to the conduct of the march and includes instructions, warnings and etiquette for your Journey.

### **Kicking Off the March**

The march staff and members of the Middletown Police Department will direct you from the staging area as you start your journey of Pride. Please follow the instructions of the staging staff as they safely maneuver you into the march route. As the next few paragraphs describe, you are expected to observe the etiquette and custom of the March and to maintain the pace and spirit of the event.

### **Handing Out Items**

**Nothing may be thrown or tossed by your contingent (this includes small candies, trinkets, etc.)** If you plan on distributing any items to spectators, they must be handed out. Please indicate if you intend to do this on your application. We know that many of you wish to give away items to march viewers. Unfortunately, this encourages crowds to come onto the march route causing a very dangerous situation. Drivers of motorized vehicles, horse carriages, or horse riders cannot see people who run in front of or alongside their



vehicles/animals and could accidentally cause serious injury. As we get more and more viewers who bring children- who can be harder to see when they run in front or beside a vehicle, we need your help enforcing this policy.

To avoid dangerous situations, we require that you do not throw anything from your contingent or in any way encourage viewers to come onto the march route. What you can do is have volunteers walk alongside the sidewalks as your entry goes by and hand things to people. Do not encourage them to come onto the street in any way. If large amounts of your organization's literature are found on or near the march route, staging area, or dispersal area, Middletown Pride will forward bills for sanitation to your organization.

### **Solicitation of Pledges**

No organization may solicit money or pledges as it travels the course of the March route, or alongside the March route during the time span covered by the march permit held by Middletown Pride.

### **Mind the Gap**

Gaps in the March can disrupt the steady flow of the procession. March staff will do their best to control the pace of the March, and each contingent is expected to comply with their directions.

As a general rule, please keep about 30' between your group and the group in front of you.

### **End of the March and Breakdown**

After the intersection of Main and Union Street, the march will end and your group will be required to disperse as quickly as possible on Union Street. You will encounter March volunteers or members of the Middletown Police Department who will split your group into pedestrians and vehicles. When you encounter these individuals, the march is over, and it is important to follow their instructions and the instructions below for your safety and to keep the march moving. You will be directed to do the following:

Your vehicles will be directed to come to a complete STOP.

- All riders on the exterior of the vehicle (including truck beds) will be directed to EXIT THE VEHICLE(S). All riders inside the vehicle will be directed to REMAIN IN THE VEHICLE.
- All pedestrians and disembarked riders will be directed to the RIGHT SIDE OF THE ROAD.
- Once all exterior riders have exited, the vehicles will be directed to the LEFT SIDE OF THE ROAD.
- After participants separate, vehicles must proceed as directed by Middletown Police. If necessary, vehicles should be made street-worthy by the driver of the vehicle at a nearby location determined in advance by your organization. March staff will not allow vehicles and floats to remain idle in the disassembly area, as this adversely affects the progress of march contingents behind them.



Middletown Pride recommends at least one additional person (besides the driver) inside each vehicle. This additional person should act as a safety observer during vehicle movement, and to assist in preparing the vehicle for return to public streets following the march. Walkers will not be allowed to return to the vehicle in the breakdown area.

Middletown Pride recommends that your group arrange a meeting location **OUTSIDE THE MARCH AREA** to reclaim possessions left in the vehicle. Pedestrians outside the vehicle will not be permitted into the breakdown area to retrieve belongings.

## **Additional Important Information**

This section contains additional information and requirements for the March.

### **Advertising**

All advertisements, signage and statements must fall within the guidelines of appropriate free and public speech, and must reflect the organization that is registered to participate. Organizations not registered with the event will not be permitted to display signs, banners, costumes, logos or any visual or audio media within the permitted march area. Organizations that display signage or other media for other organizations will be asked to either remove the media, or be removed from the march altogether.

### **Marching Groups**

There is something very affirming about marching or dancing with a group of friends or your community group in the Pride March. Take your Pride March involvement to the next level. Explore costumes, props, themes, choreography, or moving your group along the route in a different manner. Whether you dance or march, be colorful and vibrant! Get the attention you want with the use of props or signs. Keep in mind that the spectators have a limited view, so focus on music, color, and huge costumes.

### **Etiquette**

**Please do not stop on the route of the March unless directed by Middletown Pride Staff or the Middletown Police Department.** Listen to all information and follow all directions. Middletown Pride Staff and Middletown Police are there for your safety and security. Middletown Pride Staff will strive to establish separation and distances between groups and monitor the pace of the March. The pacing is to permit performance groups the opportunity to perform a static routine at the primary viewing area without causing the remainder of the March to pause. Should anyone in your group need assistance or wish to report any behavior deemed disrespectful toward any other participant, contact any Middletown Pride Staff, volunteer, or Middletown Police, who will take appropriate action.



It is impossible to anticipate every scenario that may arise, but as a general policy, no conduct that violates any statute of the State of Connecticut or any ordinance of the City of Middletown will be tolerated. Any entry violating or intending to violate applicable law, including laws regarding public decency and behavior, will be prohibited from participating in the Pride March. Please be advised that the Middletown Police Department is responsible for enforcing all applicable state and local laws during Pride events. Such laws may include, but are not limited to, public decency, alcohol consumption and possession, controlled substances, public safety and standard vehicle insurance requirements.

### **Parking**

Parking on the street downtown can be difficult. Metered street parking is available, but don't rely on finding a spot proximate to the March route or its immediate side streets. There may be parking in the pay-to-park lots around the area. **Reminder: there is no parking in the staging, breakdown, and route areas for vehicles not a part of the March.**

As with any march, the event's starting and ending points are remote from each other. Accordingly, all participants should anticipate the need to transit from the Harbor Park area back to the North End of Middletown.

#### **Parking will be made available in the following areas:**

- Melilli Plaza Arcade Lot (Dingwall Drive)
- Russell Library Lot (off of Broad Street)
- Marino Lot AKA KidCity/ Washington & Broad Street Lot

### **Piggy-backing**

Piggy-backing is defined as a group or business interest that is not on the March roster, or is positioned unfavorably in staging, and so joins up with another group that is already on the roster and/or is positioned more favorably. This is unfair to all other organizations in the March who applied early and consequently received better placement. The March Coordinator will allow contingent groups to stage together, if desired, as long as both groups consent to move the staging spot of the group, and the March Coordinator determines in their sole discretion that this move is feasible based on march conditions at the time such request is made. Requests to move to a location further to the front of the staging area generally will not be granted.

Your group may only represent itself as the group or groups originally listed on the application. In some cases, changes or additions to the original application will be allowed, but the final decision in these matters rests with the March Coordinator.



Non-Business and non-commercial groups may not display any signs, banners, or advertising for a business or commercial entity. This includes wearing any t-shirts, jackets or other clothing that contains logos and/or other advertising for any business or organization other than the registered group. This also includes employee groups that did not pay for a business registration. In addition, groups cannot distribute any hand bills or trinkets that contain any logos or advertising from any business or organization other than the registered group.

Community and non-profit groups found to be participating in advertising for a business in violation of this policy will be required to stop and remove all advertising material from the March route before they can proceed in the March. Middletown Pride reserves the right to remove any contingent from the March if they deem that contingent to be in violation of this rule. Final decision in these matters results with the March Coordinator and Pride staff.

### **Be Ready to Assist**

In the event of a medical emergency, please be ready to assist Middletown Pride personnel with crowd control, if requested. Contingents are expected to notify staff or a member of the Middletown Police Department of any medial, safety, or other emergency requiring fire, police, or similar assistance.

### **Protestors**

**Please do not engage protesters.** They are exercising the same free speech right that the Pride March celebrates. **EVENT PARTICIPANTS ARE PROHIBITED** from challenging, harassing, threatening or otherwise engaging any protestor. Your contingent will be immediately removed from the March if found to be engaged with any protesting group or person. All protestors and protest groups will be identified and referred to the Middletown Police Department.

### **Clean-Up & Trash**

In order to limit clean-up costs, each entry is required to be equipped with plastic trash bags for depositing trash and other litter accumulated by the entry's participants before, during, and after the March. Entries found in violation of this condition are subject to being assessed a portion of the clean-up costs.

### **Alcohol & Illegal Substances**

No participant in the Pride March will be permitted to possess or consume alcohol or use illegal or controlled substances during the March at any time. NO individual under the influence of a prohibited substance will be allowed to drive any vehicle participating in the Pride March. A warning will be given to your contingent should this occur. If infractions continue after the warning has been given, your contingent will be removed from the March.



### **Disclaimer**

Middletown Pride Staff has the right to remove any participant for non-compliance with any of the rules and regulations stated herein. Middletown Pride, including the City of Middletown, the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, Wesleyan University, and the Middlesex Health, are absolved from any liability arising from the use of floats in the March or any activities in association with Middletown Pride in accordance with City, State, and Federal laws. No alcoholic beverages, cannabis or cannabis products, or illegal substances will be allowed during any portion of Middletown Pride. Middletown Pride reserves the right to remove any person(s), motorized or non-motorized vehicles, conveyances, floats, or participants for any activity, including, but not limited to, those deemed unsafe to any participant or spectator, those in violation of any rules contained herein, or action or inaction that may cause delay to the progress of the March. All participants are responsible for any and all acts and/or omissions on their part, or on the part of their agents, volunteers, and/or employees that may result in injury or damage to themselves their agents, employees or to third parties. Participants specifically agree to indemnify and hold the City of Middletown, the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, Wesleyan University, and Middlesex Health and its agents, volunteers, and employees free and harmless and to defend it from any and all claims arising out of such acts or omissions.