

Your guide to upcoming Phoenix Pride fest

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It's less than a week until more than 37,000 people will celebrate the Arizona LGBT community and their allies at Phoenix Pride 2018.

This year's theme — "United We Stand: Equality for All" — aims to offer an umbrella of inclusivity, unity and diversity for the busy weekend that will feature more than 150 entertainment performances and hundreds of vendors.

The festival, in its 38th year, will draw a lively crowd to the heart of Phoenix. But before you sissy that walk to midtown, here are things to keep in mind ahead of the festivities on April 7 and 8.

Phoenix Pride 2018 dates

When: Noon-9 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, April 7-8.

Where: Steele Indian School Park, 300 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix.

Admission: Starts at \$15 for one-day general admission if purchased online in advance. A two-day VIP pass is \$71.09. Free for age 11 and younger and discounts for ages 13-17. At the festival, prices start at \$20 for adults and \$12 for ages 13-17.

Details: phoenixpride.org.

How to get there

Light rail: Riders should exit at the Indian School Road stop, which is three blocks west of the festival.

Ride share: Uber has partnered with the event and has a designated pickup and drop-off area near the entrance.

Car: Parking is available in the surrounding neighborhoods and a 1,400-space garage at the southeast corner of Central Avenue and Indian School Road.

Phoenix Pride performers

There are six stages and entertainment areas featuring singers, drag performers and storytellers. Here's the rundown on what you'll find at each of them.

Bud Light Main Stage: Headliners Bebe Rexha, Berlin, Kristine W, Thelma Houston, David Hernandez, Los Chicos Del 512 and LOS 5 in addition to local bands.



More than 2,000 participants, including those with decorated vehicles and colorful floats are expected for the parade, which starts on Third Street at Thomas Road and heads north to Indian School Road. More than 150 entertainment performances on five stages, more than 300 exhibitors and food vendors will be on hand for the festival. The Arts Expo, KidSpace and Dance Pavilions are some of the highlights. This event raises funds for Phoenix Pride Community Programs.

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Pride Dance Pavilion: Those looking to bring the club to Pride will find Top 40 dance hits playing here throughout the entire festival.

Tish Tanner Community Stage: Listen to storytellers.

KidSpace: Youth performers and a play area that's open from noon to 5 p.m. will occupy the kiddos with crafts and activities. Each child must have a parent or guardian present at all times.

Bistro Stage: Looking for a low-key vibe? Sip coffee and coast on jazz here.

Erotic World Stage: The free, adult-oriented spectacular features exotic dancers, fetish demonstrations and retailers offering plenty of accoutrements for your own "red room." No one under 18 is permitted — and yes, there is an ID check.

Accessibility: An American Sign Language interpreter will be at the Bud Light Main Stage, Community and Bistro stages during the performances. Organizers recommend visiting the information booth for further information. Questions can be emailed here.

Pets: You'll have to leave your fur baby at home. Harnessed service dogs are

welcome.

Phoenix Pride Parade

The parade kicks off at 10 a.m. Sunday morning. It starts at Third and Thomas streets and goes north to the park.

Veteran NBA referee Bill Kennedy will serve as the grand marshal and State Rep. Daniel Hernandez (D-District 2), who co-founded the Legislature's LGBT Caucus, will be the community grand marshal.

Prohibited items

These items are banned from the festival:

- Weapons, Tasers, hazardous chemicals, explosives or incendiary devices of any kind.
- Illegal substances.
- Alcohol.
- Glass bottles.
- Coolers.
- Hydration packs such as Camelbaks.
- Skateboards and inline skates.
- Drugs excluding prescribed medi-

cations or consumer products in original containers.

■ Any items that security determines could have an adverse effect on the event.

Pride after parties

Looking for a fierce night out after a day in the park? Keep the party going at these nearby late-night hotspots.

Charlie's: Expect an expanded patio with DJs, pop-up performances and giveaways along with a Pride Review show hosted by Nevaeh McKenzie and featuring the Mister and Miss Phoenix Pride Pageant contestants. 727 W. Camelback Road.

The Rock: After Friday's "Bearracuda" party kicks off Pride with an expanded outdoor space for 600 patrons, Barbra Seville will perform their weekly drag show. 4129 N. Seventh Ave.

Stacy's @ Melrose: \$1 off all drinks if you keep your Pride wristband on. 4343 N. Seventh Ave.

Boycott: There's no cover charge until 10:30 and an indoor-outdoor event will feature drink specials all night. 4301 N. Seventh Ave.