



ASHEVILLE, NC



COMMUNITY GROWING TOGETHER

Vendor Load-In & Festival Guide

Welcome! We're so glad you are joining us this year! The world feels so divided and divisive these days. That's why we made the focus of this year's festival *A Community Growing Together*. The A+ in our festival logo stands for Allies. We are stronger – and our lives are richer – when we stand together and listen to one another.

It promises to be an exciting day. What excites me the most – beyond all the entertainment we have scheduled – is the sheer diversity of vendors – of you. To see retailers, artists, churches, community service groups, healthcare providers, social justice organizations, political candidates, service companies –and, yes, big corporations – all gathered together on one commons is but another example of the value of coming together. It is another example of the diversity and inclusion that we seek to foster.

Before You Come

- **Confirm your booth number and drop-off time.** Most of you have done this. If you have not received your information, please contact Vendor@BlueRidgePride.org immediately.
- **Confirm Your Profile / Links.** We have used information you provided to create an online vendor directory that includes links to your Facebook, web, and twitter pages, as well as to your email and phone number. Festival visitors can access this from their smartphone. We suggest that you test your links and let us know if you want anything added, edited or fixed. Visit <http://blueridgepride.org/festival-vendors/>. [Note: we've omitted marketing blurbs until after the festival to maximize smartphone ease of use.]
- **Plan Your Route.** Check the map on page 3. Use these GPS addresses to get you to your point of entry. They are nearby buildings. Booths 1-7: 60 Court Plaza; Booths 8-120: 121 College Street; Booths 121-159: 10 S Pack Square.

Drop-Off

- **Entry.** How you enter and exit the park, and where you unload / reload, depends on your booth location. The map on the following page uses color-coding to explain this. Most of you will follow either the red or the purple route.
- **Registration.** At your drop-off, look for the official-looking person with the clip-board. They will check you in, confirm your order and assign volunteers to help you as needed.
- **Unloading.** You share a 30-minute unloading window with 30-40 others. Please be on-time and quick. [You are welcome to come before 8:00 am, but we may not have a full contingent of volunteers to assist you.]
- **Safety.** Remain with your vehicle at all times during unloading. Everyone will be passing through a fire lane used by the fire department. Don't block it! They won't take it kindly.
- **Parking.** We have identified two nearby parking lots on the map. Each is within 2-3 blocks.
- **Deadline.** All vehicles must be cleared from the festival grounds by 10:30 am. None will be allowed after that under any circumstances.

Settling In

- **Spaces:** Grass spaces will be marked by numbered flags with dots identifying the corners of each 10x10 square. Pavement spaces will be marked with chalk numbers and boundary marks. Please set up within your boundary.
- **Anchors.** The city requires that all tents be anchored with weights.

- **Electricity.** The city does not permit power generators in the park. You must supply your own extension cords. You may need one as long as 50’.
- **Maps / Guides.** Several additions and changes have been made since we printed our guide. These are posted at festival entry points. The most important change is the movement of the First Aid / EMT Squad to the College Street side of the park.

While You Are with Us

- **Trash.** Please come prepared to contain your trash. You may not use the event’s waste containers as they will be separated by compostable, recyclable and landfill. Please do not use nearby dumpster. These are the property of local merchants.
- **Food & Beverages.** Non-food vendors and exhibitors cannot sell or give away beverages of any kind without the express, written consent of Blue Ridge Pride Center, Inc. This includes sodas, juices, water and alcoholic beverages. Food vendors may not sell or serve any alcoholic beverages without the express, written consent of Blue Ridge Pride Center, Inc.
- **No Pets.** The City of Asheville does not allow pets on Festival sites.
- **Disruptions / Security.** We hope that this will be an event-free festival. When people attempt to disrupt festivals like ours, they are trying to get a reaction. Please do not rise to their bait. We will have people circulating the festival (distinguished by green festival shirts that say “SECURITY” on the back). If you have concerns, please contact one of them, the festival information booth, or a local law enforcement official.
- **Accessibility.** We have tried to anticipate and minimize any accessibility issues. If you notice something we’ve missed, or someone in need of assistance, please let us know.
- **First Aid:** The EMT squad has been moved across the park, along college street (as shown in the enclosed map).

Heading Out

- We strongly discourage early exits. They disrupt the festival. If you exit before 7 pm, you must do so on foot and without dollies or other moving equipment. You can bring your car back to the loading area after 7 pm.
- We expect everyone to abide by the “leave no trace” principle. We reserve the right to charge any exhibitor / vendor a \$50 cleaning fee.

Help Us to Improve Future Festivals

- It is one our goals to make this festival a success for you. It is your festival, too. Please feel free to share feedback and ideas during and after the festival. You can best reach us at vendor@blueridgepride.org.
- We will send a very brief, confidential survey. Its purpose is to improve future festivals for you. We welcome both critique and creative ideas.

Welcome!

The Blue Ridge Pride Team

Note: These guidelines are highlights. See the 2017 Vendor Agreement and Guidelines for a complete set of rules and guidelines. Available online / on request.





blue ridge pride festival 2017

ASHEVILLE, NC
LGBTQA+

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