

ACS CAN Guide To Pride



Introduction

Thank you for volunteering with ACS CAN at your local Pride event. ACS CAN is participating in more than 35 Pride events so far this year.

We want to recognize that the current LGBTQ+ legislative and policy landscape throughout the country is impacting and influencing how ACS CAN is participating in Pride events. Through thoughtful conversations with the ACS & ACS CAN LGBTQ+ Community Engagement Workgroup and the [ACS CAN LGBTQ+ & Allies Engagement Group](#), staff and volunteers have shared concerns, advice, and direction as we navigate how to become better allies to our LGBTQ+ communities.

This guide includes tips, information, and resources to help you prepare for a successful Pride event.

Goals for Pride

Considering your local landscape and based on conversations with your local LGBTQ+ partners, the goal(s) of each event may differ. Some goals may include:

1. Showing up! Demonstrate ACS CAN's support of and allyship with the LGBTQ+ community.
2. Networking with other participants including LGBTQ+ groups and other community-based organizations.
3. Recruiting volunteers.
4. Promoting a digital action or petition (local, state, or federal).

History of Pride

For more than five decades, Pride events have celebrated and recognized the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals have had on history locally, national, and internationally. Festivities, parades, parties, workshops, symposia, concerns, and events are organized to honor and celebrate LGBTQ+ voices and experiences while also highlighting the issues and injustices the community continues to face. Learn more about [the origins and history of pride](#).

Before the Event

- If you are a lead volunteer, be sure to connect with ACS staff and/or volunteers to see if they are participating and if there are opportunities to collaborate.
- Connect with your staff partner and/or lead volunteer(s) for details, logistics, schedule, etc.
- Review [An Ally's Guide to Terminology](#) for an overview of essential vocabulary, terms to avoid, and a few key messages for talk about various issues important to the LGBT community.
- Check out the [ACS CAN Pride page](#) for all the available materials, downloads, and event-related items.
- If a federal action is one of your goals, share the cancer research and prevention funding online action. The QR code and text-to-action number are included on the Print on Demand Action one-pager.
 - Sign the [online action](#) yourself so you are familiar with the language.

- Rehearse your attention catching opening line to interact with people that approach the table. If you feel comfortable, share your pronouns when introducing yourself.
 - Check out [Pronouns Matter](#) for more information.
 - Wear a nametag with your pronouns.

At the Event

- Keep it simple! Don't plan an elaborate activity. Too much is too much! Petition collection, handing out stickers, and talking to potential volunteers is enough.
- Wear your ACS CAN Pride t-shirt or your ACS CAN polo shirt.
- Use the ACS CAN Inclusive Pride Logo Flag to make your table stand out.
- Make sure all volunteers are familiar with goals of your Pride event, materials/resources/swag available, and any online actions.
- If you have a digital action or petition, have the text to action and/or QR displayed for easy access.
- Make sure your give-away(s) are visible to draw people to your table.
- Have quitting tobacco and cancer-related resources available, as many may stop and tell you're their story and their needs.
- Be friendly, social, and invite people to your booth. High energy = high traffic. AND protect your peace, take breaks when needed.
- Network with other vendors and participants. Pride is a great opportunity to build new and foster existing relationships and partnerships.
- Use social media to build visibility and relationships
 - Follow and/or like the Pride event you're attending
 - Like and reshare the Pride event's posts
 - "Check in" at the Pride event you're attending
- Take photos and share them on social media
 - Tag @ACSCAN
 - Tag the Pride event's page and/or organizers
 - Use hashtags: #Pride, #Pride2023, and #PrideMonth
 - Post in the [ACS CAN Connection Facebook Group](#)

After the Event

- [Share your Pride pictures](#) and tell us all about your event.
- Share your photos in the [ACS CAN Connection Facebook Group](#).
- Follow up with any people, groups, or organizations you connected with during the event.
- ACS CAN will be sending an email to anyone that signs the federal online action at Pride events.