

What is Pride month?

Pride month commemorates the Stonewall Riots that occurred in Manhattan in 1969. The riots were sparked by a police raid on the Stonewall Inn, an LGBT bar, and quickly turned into a spontaneous demonstration when the patrons started to fight back. They protested widespread discrimination and police brutality. Starting on June 28, 1969, they lasted five days until July 3. Stonewall was a key step in the start of the gay liberation movement.

Black trans women were at the forefront of the movement, but are often erased in the history of Pride. Marsha P Johnson was one of the first people to take action during the Stonewall Uprising.

The next year, on June 28, 1970, the first Parades occurred in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York City.

Since then, Pride has grown into a series of events that span the entire month of June.



Protesters in the aftermath of the Stonewall Riots, lower Manhattan



Gay Freedom Day Parade (1978) - San Francisco



RESOURCES



Trevor Project (hotline) - 1-866-488-7386

SPAHR Center (info)- thespahrcenter.org

GLSEN (GSAs, info) - glsen.org

Q Chat Space (support) - qchatspace.org

It Gets Better Project (support) - itgetsbetter.org

Does flying a Pride flag actually do anything?

Does flying a Pride flag actually help? The research says “yes!”

According to the US National Library of Medicine and National Institutes of Health, “The public visibility and presence of the symbol help young people feel better, find resources, identify supportive individuals and feel belonging to the larger communities...The display of rainbows is one of the.. conditions that help young people in their positive identity development.” Even in a community where LGBTQ+ people are generally accepted, self-discovery is still an extremely nerve-wracking process, and not all youth will be supported if they choose to come out. At the same time, Marin is not very visible in their support, which needs to change because, “LGBTQ youth who had access to spaces that affirmed their sexual orientation and gender identity reported lower rates of attempting suicide” according to the 2021 Trevor Project report.



Why is it important this year?

1. **The isolation that COVID-19 has caused has hit LGBTQ+ youth especially hard.** The Trevor Project found that 70% of LGBTQ+ youth stated that their mental health was “poor” most of the time or always. In fact, 45% of LGBTQ+ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, including 1 in 5 transgender and nonbinary youth. Meanwhile, less than 1 in 3 trans and nonbinary youth found their home to be LGBTQ+-affirming. Furthermore, 60% of LGBTQ+ youth who wanted mental health care in the past year were not able to get it.
2. **LGBTQ+-affirmation and visibility significantly decreases rates of suicide.** In general, LGBTQ youth who live in a community that is accepting of LGBTQ+ people reported significantly lower rates of attempting suicide than those who do not. LGBTQ+ youth who felt high social support from their family, or found their school to be LGBTQ+ affirming, reported attempting suicide at less than half the rate of those who felt low or moderate social support
3. **Nearly 1 in 6 Marin youth will likely identify as LGBTQ+ before they finish high school.** On average, youth are age 12 when they first feel they might not be straight-- but 27% are under 10, 14% when between the ages of 11 and 14, and 19% between ages 15 to 19. More of our Gen Z youth self-identify as LGBTQ+ than in older generations- approximating 1 in 6 - according to a recent Gallup poll.
4. **Pride celebrations, typically a major aspect of youth creating community as they come out, were limited last year due to the pandemic, but are now back in action!** San Francisco Pride offers a great opportunity for youth to get involved, and we can extend welcoming energy of Pride to our Marin youth too.



How can I participate?

It's easy to be an ally!

1. **Fly a Pride flag** at your home or business
2. Can't fly a flag? **Print out a flag flier** from our website, **marinflagproject.com** (It has a flag on the front, and info on the back!) or use the QR code below
3. Check out our IG **@marinflagproject** and use **#marinPRIDE** on social media to show your support!
4. **Reach out** to places where you want to see a Pride flag!



@marinflagproject

#marinPRIDE



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