

Clowder Pride Safety Guide

Last Updated: 28 June 2023

This guide was brought to you by members of Meowster's Clowder!



<https://linktr.ee/GenderMeowster>



<http://discord.gg/meowster>

Help support the team that created this resource:



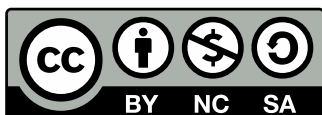
<https://www.patreon.com/GenderMeowster>



<https://ko-fi.com/gendermeowster>

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>



Before you go

Don't feel pressured to go to any Pride event if it's not your vibe or if it's too intimidating. Celebrating in your own private way is 1000% valid. For example, (if your home situation is queer-affirming) you can blast pride-related songs and dance around in rainbow gear at your home, or binge watch queer media like Sense8, Heartstopper, She-Ra, Queer Eye, We're Here, etc. You can also look for virtual Pride events such as livestreams on Youtube/Twitch/etc. If your home situation is not queer-affirming, try checking out queer e-books or audiobooks from your local library to enjoy privately. Many libraries work with apps like Libby to make this easy to do on your phone or tablet!

If you do decide to attend Pride event(s), you're not obligated to go to the biggest, most "exciting" ones. A low-key queer maker's market, comedy show, resource fair, or drag brunch can be just as fun as a huge official parade or a boozy club night.

Contact the event organizers ahead of time and get details on what safety steps are being taken, including what security forces will be present (cops/private security firm/volunteer security folks).

Be wary if it's a new event that hasn't been held previously and isn't affiliated with a trusted organization. Look on social media for people's previous posts about that event/venue/organization.

Social media posts for past iterations of the event can also help you know what to expect in terms of crowds, etc.

Before you leave for the event, get in touch with a trusted person you know IRL who isn't attending. Message them the event's location and how long you expect to be there.

If you're concerned you might feel too visible during or after Pride events, you can pack a full change of clothes or just a jacket/hoodie. Bring makeup wipes if you plan to get your face painted.

At events held outdoors, be sure to have sun protection (sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, etc). Plan to stay well-hydrated (alcohol/coffee doesn't count!) and know the signs of heat exhaustion/heat stroke.

Make sure your phone has a good level of charge. (If you have one, bring an external power bank and charge cord.)

Have your trusted person's phone number written down and keep it in your pocket in case you lose your phone.

If possible, attend Pride events with a buddy or with a group of friends/chosen family. Agree on a meeting point in case y'all get separated during the festivities.

Have a plan for what to do if you are harassed or threatened. (See "During the event".) Consider doing some role-play scenarios ahead of time with a friend.

Know how you'll get home from the event, whether that's driving, public transit, a rideshare app, a taxicab, or calling a trusted friend. If you plan to have alcohol at the event, make sure you have a sober ride home.

Look on google maps to get an idea of the area you'll be in. In case you feel unsafe at the event, is there a nearby coffee shop, library, or similar place you can walk to?

If you're planning to bring a large flag or sign, take some time practicing holding and moving around with it. Arm-strength-training exercises can help, if you have the time and ability to do them regularly.

If you are sensitive to noise, bring earplugs or other sound-dampening devices, as Pride events can be very loud.

During the event

Wear a mask to protect yourself and other people from COVID-19 and other contagious illnesses. N95 is best but any mask is better than none.

Keep an eye out for event staff/volunteers. Don't hesitate to alert one of them if you/someone else are being harassed or if something seems suspicious/unsafe.

If you take photos of people, get their permission first or crop out/blur their face/other identifiers (tattoos, birthmarks, etc) before posting the photos online. <https://everestpipkin.github.io/image-scrubber/> is a useful tool.

Do not geotag or otherwise share your location on social media while at the event. Wait until it's over and you're safe at home to post those photos.

Respect the rules of the space where the event is held, and the social boundaries of people around you.

At events held indoors, be aware of exit door and fire alarm locations.

Don't feel pressured to partake in alcohol or drugs, especially drugs offered by strangers.

If you do have alcohol, keep a close watch on your drink(s) from the moment it is poured, and let people know if it tastes "funny". However, some drugs are odorless, colorless, and tasteless, so be aware of your body and let people know if you suddenly feel different (e.g. more drunk, dizzy, tired, anything like that).

Message your trusted person if you feel unsafe and/or need support/need to leave early.

If you see someone being harassed one-on-one, be conscious of any power or privilege you have in the scenario. You might be able to diffuse the situation by just verbally standing up for the other person. If that doesn't seem safe, get photos/video of the perpetrator, then contact event staff/safety volunteers.

If there is a group of anti-Pride protesters at or near the event, you should avoid interacting with them (either verbally or physically). It might seem fun to "dunk on the haters" but this can escalate and lead to a range of very negative outcomes. Instead of engaging with bigots, you can block them from view with flags/banners/signs, or drown them out with loud music, chanting, whistles, etc.

If you witness police misconduct or someone being arrested, take photos/video. Try to get the names, badge numbers, and car numbers of the officers involved. (In the USA, you can report police misconduct to BlackLine by calling or texting 1-800-604-5841.)

If you are arrested, don't say anything to the police until after conferring with your defense attorney.

After the event

Message your trusted person to let them know when you're safe at home.

Even if you had a great time, you might feel stressed afterwards. Take some time for self-care. Journaling about your experience is one of many options that can help ground you.

If you can, schedule some time off work after attending a pride event, especially if it is bigger, to catch up on spoons.

Reach out to one of the resources on <https://linktr.ee/safersupport> if you need someone to listen.

Take COVID tests the week after attending a big event, and mask around others for up to 5 days, since the risk for infection is so much higher at larger events.

