

GLBT Pride/Twin Cities



Pride Release Press

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gay Pride Festival This Weekend

MINNEAPOLIS, MN - The annual Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender Pride Festival will take place this Saturday and Sunday, June 26-27, in Minneapolis' beautiful Loring Park. Over 300,000 people are expected to attend the 32nd annual event.

An expansion for 2004, the Festival will feature two beer gardens, on opposite ends of the Park. A \$1 per day donation is requested for use of the Beer Gardens. While the festival is open to all ages, guests in the Beer Gardens must be 21 or over.

Three stages of all live entertainment are situated adjacent to three food courts throughout the park. Dozens of food vendors will be on hand. This year's headliner will be Paul Lekakis, who will perform on the Loring Stage on Saturday evening, just prior to the largest fireworks display in Pride's history. A Mass Commitment Ceremony will be held on the Loring Stage on Sunday at 2:30 pm. The Ceremony will be open to everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, religion or gender.

In addition, the Children's and Family area will feature family-oriented vendors and entertainment for the youngsters. The History Pavilion will be situated in the park pavilion building on the East end of the park and will feature exhibits depicting the history of the GLBT civil rights movement, both in the United States and abroad.

Pride President Jim Kelley said, "The Festival is our signature event. It truly showcases the diversity of our community. If your looking for something, whether its the latest information on HIV/AIDS testing and treatment, what is coming up in local and national politics, or GLBT-themed arts and crafts you can find it among our 400-some exhibitors."

Kelley continued, "Then there's the food, whether you are craving festival favorites like mini-doughnuts and corndogs or looking for something more substantial like BBQ ribs or spring rolls, you'll find something to satisfy you. Randy [Williams] always finds something new, like the booth last year selling sweet potato fries to go with their chicken wings. I'll definitely be looking for those again."

Celebrating its 32nd year in 2004, GLBT Pride/Twin Cities, the organizer of the Twin Cities Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender (GLBT) Pride Celebration, began in 1972 with a small group of activists meeting for a picnic in Minneapolis' Loring Park and a short march down Nicollet Mall. Over the intervening years, the Twin Cities Pride Celebration has grown to be the largest GLBT Pride in the region and 3rd largest in the United States, with an estimated combined attendance in excess of 400,000 people at seven events. GLBT Pride/Twin Cities is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization.

It is the mission of GLBT Pride/Twin Cities to commemorate and celebrate our diverse heritage, to inspire the achievement of equality and challenge discrimination.

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