



Marching with the Northwest LGBT Senior Care Providers Network in the Pride Parade or helping us at any event?

THANK YOU!!!!!! Thank you for giving us your time, energy and heart. We are grateful and honored that you share our commitment to our cause, enabling our LGBTQ Elders to live their senior years safely, with dignity and enjoyment.

We have a few requirements which we need you to honor. They are intended to: (1) allow us to present a unified, clear message to our various audiences, such as parade visitors, members of the press, and the police; (2) keep all our volunteers safe; (3) keep the community around us safe. Some of these ideas are drawn from the April 2014 [Munich Reinsurance America](#) document [Focus on: Parades](#) with Munich RE America's permission.

1. PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND OUR PLANNING MEETING(S). That gives all of us a first chance to get to know each other. It also gives all of us an understanding of the day's schedule, what tasks will need to get done and how many people will be on-site. The answers to those questions let us estimate how many shirts and waters we need, how many trinkets we may be able to give away, and how much time we need for set-up and break-down, among other questions.
2. PLEASE WEAR OUR SHIRT. When you wear our shirt, you are identifying yourself to all the rest of us, and to the community-at-large, that you are one of us and we can be comfortable around you and count on you for your help. This is especially appreciated because we have seniors riding on our parade float. You are also helping us keep you safe: if there were an emergency, we would know to try to look out for you. You'll get a shirt either at a planning session or before the parade kick-off.
3. PLEASE BRING THE SCREWS, SIGNS, BUTTONS, HATS OR WHATEVER ELSE YOU PROMISED TO BRING.
4. PLEASE ARRIVE ON TIME.
5. PLEASE ARRIVE WELL-RESTED, WELL-FED, WELL-HYDRATED. PLEASE USE A RESTROOM BEFORE YOU ARRIVE.
6. PLEASE DRESS FOR THE WEATHER: comfortable shoes, comfortable clothes, hat, sunglasses and sunscreen might all be appropriate. But of course it's Seattle, so you may need galoshes. Please try to bring as little to carry as possible – every year, we have at least one person who puts something on the truck and forgets it, sometimes to never see it again. Including the author of this page, who refuses to reveal her identity.
7. **PLEASE**, WE DISCOURAGE THE USE OF NON-MEDICAL MIND-, MOOD- OR PHYSICAL-CAPACITY -ALTERING SUBSTANCES UNTIL **AFTER** WE MARCH.
8. PLEASE DO NOT GET ON THE FLOAT unless you are supposed to be on the float, either before the parade starts or during the parade. Please do not get on the float unless it is both standing still and the truck pulling it is



engine-off. Once you are on the float, you must stay on the float until the parade ends. The same rules apply for the truck pulling the float.

9. If you are helping build or break-down the float, THANK YOU. The float manager will give you tasks.
10. PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR THE TRUCK AND FLOAT AS YOU ARE WALKING WITH US. Walking/running/bicycling close to the truck's front grill can get someone killed. Walking/running/bicycling close to any of the wheels can get someone killed. PLEASE PLEASE DON'T try to refill your water gun, get more trinkets to pass out, get a new sign, etc. while the truck and float are moving. There are many stops along the route which are opportunities for refilling.
11. It is safer to hand trinkets to parade spectators than to throw trinkets. It is safer for people who are not riding the float to pass out trinkets.
12. Not everybody likes to get sprayed with the water guns. It's hard, but try to pay attention to spectators' body language in case they are saying "NO."
13. We have Wheel Guards. Wheel Guards are like Border Collies, herding people out of the way of the truck and float. Please listen to the Wheel Guards. They are sometimes tempted to bite.
14. At the end of the Parade route, truck and float are routed in one direction for unloading: the people who have marched with the float are routed to a different street. Please return your signs to the truck at a stop just before the split. The signs are hard work to make and therefore difficult to replace.
15. PLEASE REMEMBER TO RETRIEVE YOUR STUFF FROM THE TRUCK OR FLOAT. PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR PROMISE TO TAKE AWAY THE HAMMERS, BANNERS, WATER GUNS OR WHATEVER ELSE. PLEASE REMEMBER ANY OTHER COMMITMENTS CONCERNING BREAKING-DOWN OR STOWING AWAY THE TRUCK OR FLOAT.
16. If a member of the press, a parade representative, the police or anyone else in a position of authority asks to speak to you about the Network, PLEASE direct them to a member of the NW LGBTQ Senior Care Providers Network Board whenever possible. We have some sound bites we like to share with the press. We have copies of all the permits and such for parade people, government people and the police. We are delighted that you are comfortable speaking, but we don't want to put you in a situation where you are representing us with unforeseen consequences for everyone involved.

AND HAVE FUN