



PRIDE MONTH IS MORE THAN JUST A PARADE.
PRIDE MONTH IS ABOUT THE RESILIENCE,
CREATIVITY & BEAUTY OF THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY.

Pride Month is celebrated every June in tribute to those involved in the Stonewall riots. In the early hours of June 28, 1969, police raided the Stonewall Inn, one of the few openly gay clubs located in Greenwich Village, leading to bar patrons, staff and neighborhood residents rioting after police lost control.

Activist Brenda Howard is generally credited with starting Pride Month, and is known as “The Mother of Pride.”⁴ She organized the first Gay Pride Week and the Christopher Street Gay Liberation Day Parade, along side activists: Craig Rodwell, Fred Sargeant, Ellen Broidy and Linda Rhodes.⁵ Pride marches were originally intended to show respect, commemorate the Stonewall riot, and honor the history of the Christopher Street Liberation Day. Since then, they have evolved into pure celebration, putting the LGBTQ+ community on cheerful, proud display.

Pride Month is for everyone to embrace who they are and let the world know it as well. The rainbow flag signifies the colorful activities for this month-long celebration. This includes massive rallies, Pride parades, parties, workshops, concerts and many other events to attract participants from all over.

The rainbow flag, a largely recognized symbol of the community, was created when politician Harvey Milk asked designer, and friend, Gilbert Baker to create a symbol of hope to display at the June 1978, San Francisco Gay Freedom Day parade. Milk and San Francisco Mayor, George Moscone, were assassinated November 27, 1978.



Baker's original Pride Flag consisted of eight colors to represent different spiritual and emotional aspects of the psyche. Six colors are still commonly used today. Hot pink & turquoise were removed for manufacturing purposes.²



The six-color Pride Flag and the color meaning.²

RED = LIFE GREEN = NATURE
ORANGE = HEALING BLUE = SERENITY
YELLOW = SUNLIGHT VIOLET = SPIRIT



You may have noticed the Philadelphia Pride Flag represented in more places. Created in 2017 by “the Philadelphia Office of LGBT Affairs’ More Color, More Pride campaign, it is meant to symbolize the city’s inclusion of people of color in the LGTBQ community.”¹



Monica Helms created the Transgender Flag in 1999. It was designed as a play on “gender colors”: light blue for boy, pink for girl, adding white for those outside the binary. “I say the rainbow flag is like the American flag: everybody’s underneath that. But each group, like each state, has their own individual flag.”⁶

SOURCES:

1. <https://www.yesmagazine.org/democracy/2017/06/27/why-phillys-new-pride-flag-has-black-and-brown-stripes>
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3. <https://www.unifor4000.com/16jun27043-pride-june28.html>
4. <https://www.them.us/story/brenda-howard>
5. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/16/us/gay-lgbt-pride-march-history.html>
6. <https://www.thedailybeast.com/divine-intervention-helped-monica-helms-create-the-transgender-pride-flag>

