



SUSSEX PRIDE · WWW.SUSSEXPRIDE.ORG · 302 | 265 | 4165
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sussex Pride Announces Return of Rehoboth Beach Pride: A Multi-Day Celebration of LGBTQ+ Community, Connection, and Joy

REHOBOTH BEACH, DE — Sussex Pride is thrilled to announce the official schedule for Rehoboth Beach Pride 2026, taking place from Friday, July 17 through Sunday, July 19, 2026. This highly anticipated annual celebration brings together the local LGBTQ+ community, neighbors, and visitors to honor diversity, advocate for equity, and foster deep connections across the region.

The centerpiece of the weekend—the **Rehoboth Beach Pride Festival**—will take place on **Saturday, July 18, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM** inside the air-conditioned Rehoboth Beach Convention Center. Roxy Overbrooke will return to host the main stage as live performances take place throughout the day along with music from DJ MK and Tribe 9 Entertainment.

Attendees can also look forward to educational workshops, and specialized community meetups. This year's event will once again feature a raffle dedicated specifically to raising funds to support unhoused LGBTQ+ youth across Delaware. .

"Rehoboth Beach Pride is more than a festival—it is a vital space for community, healing, and connection," said David Mariner, Director of Sussex Pride. "From youth meetups and policy discussions to local artistry and nighttime comedy, we are excited to showcase the incredible vibrancy of Sussex County's LGBTQ+ community."

Highlighted Schedule of Events:

- **Friday, July 17: Novus Grand Opening & Community Preview (1:00 PM – 4:00 PM)**
Kick off Pride weekend with a joint celebration honoring the opening of Novus Medical Services (616 Mulberry Street, Milton) alongside an exclusive preview of the new Sussex Pride Community Center (612 Mulberry Street, Milton)
- **Friday, July 17: Interfaith Pride Service (6:00 PM)**
Hosted at Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) Rehoboth, this interfaith service serves as a

gathering for healing, reconciliation, and affirming Queer spirituality, organized by Rev. Carla Christopher, chair of Sussex Pride Faith.

- **Friday, July 17: Dine & Donate Pride Celebration (8:00 PM)**

Join the Rehoboth Beach Bears for a special dinner and celebration at The Pines to mix, mingle, and give back to local initiatives.

- **Saturday, July 18: Festival and Workshops & Community Meetups (9:00 AM – 3:00 PM)** A full list of events is available at rehobothbeachpride.org. Featured workshops include:

- **Spotlight on Unhoused LGBTQ+ Youth (Saturday, July 18, 10:30 AM)**

Building on an urgent community need, *Spotlight Delaware* reporter Brianna Hill will moderate a dedicated panel discussion focused on creating critical safety nets and support structures for unhoused LGBTQ+ youth in Delaware. Panelists will include Susan Davis of Housing Alliance Delaware and Jim Bianchetta, chair of the Delaware Safeguard Housing Committee.

- **Transgender Youth Panel featuring Author Nico Lang (Saturday, July 18, 12:50 PM)**

Award-winning nonbinary journalist and author Nico Lang (they/them) will serve as a guest moderator for a high-profile panel discussion confronting the modern needs of trans and nonbinary youth in Delaware. Featuring local youth and parents, the conversation will integrate powerful insights from Lang's acclaimed new book, *American Teenager: How Trans Kids Are Surviving Hate and Finding Joy in a Turbulent Era*.

- **"Stem the Surge" Public Health Mobilization (Saturday, July 18)**

Addressing an increase in HIV and Syphilis diagnoses amid federal budget cuts, Sussex Pride's healthcare initiatives will take center stage at the festival. Headlined as "Stem the Surge: End the Epidemic," this panel will be moderated by Kevin Naff of the Washington Blader. Panelists will include Shaun Barcavage, and Dr. Lisa Spacek from Novus, El Mora from AIDS Delaware, and Jerry Filbin, President of the Board of the Delaware HIV Consortium.

- **Saturday, July 18: Evening Comedy Show & Performances (Doors at 6:00 PM)**

Presented by the Gay Women of Rehoboth, the Saturday night main stage event features acclaimed comedians Suzanne Westenhoefer and Karen Mills along with renowned musician Kristen Merlin live at the Convention Center. Tickets are available at gaywomenofrehoboth.org.

- **Sunday, July 19: Pride Ride & Closing Party (10:00 AM & 2:00 PM)**

The final day begins with the Rehoboth Beach Pride Ride, hosted by the Dykes on Bikes® Rehoboth Beach Women's Motorcycle Club, meeting at Lefty's. The weekend concludes at 2:00 PM with the official Rehoboth Beach Pride Closing Party at Aqua Bar & Grill, celebrating the venue's landmark 20th anniversary.

Due to peak summer traffic, attendees traveling from out of town are strongly encouraged to utilize the local Park & Ride service

For a complete schedule, to purchase tickets for evening entertainment, or to learn more about the week's events, please visit the official page at www.rehobothbeachpride.org.

About Sussex Pride:

Sussex Pride is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that works to celebrate, strengthen, and support the LGBTQ+ community in Sussex County and the state of Delaware, working through a social justice lens. We focus on arts & culture, health & wellness, social and support groups, and advocacy for our community.

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