



June is LGBTQIA+ Pride Month. The LGBTQIA+ acronym stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (or Questioning), Intersex, Asexual (or Ally), and the “+” includes space for those of other orientations or identities. Pride Month is celebrated in June to commemorate the Stonewall Riots, which occurred on June 28, 1969 and helped launch the civil rights movement for LGBTQIA+ persons. Pride events held during the month of June celebrate and honor the impact LGBTQIA+ people have had in this country and the world. Pride Month also includes memorials for the members of the community who have died from HIV/AIDS or have been victims of hate crimes.

How can we join in the celebration?

- Learn the difference between sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation
- Ask about preferred pronouns when you meet someone new
- If you see discrimination happening, say something
- Join your school’s Gay-Straight Alliance
- Register to vote and vote for candidates who respect the dignity of every person

Local Jacksonville resources:

- JASMYN – JASMYN supports and empowers LGBTQIA+ young people by creating safe space, providing health and wholeness services, and offering youth development opportunities while bringing people and resources together to promote equality and human rights. <https://www.jasmyn.org/>
- PFLAG of Jacksonville – PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed, inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. PFLAG offers support for families, allies, and people who are LGBTQIA+; education for ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQIA+; and advocacy in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for persons who are LGBTQIA+. <https://pflagjax.org>

Helplines:

- The Trevor Project: (866) 488-7386
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: (800) 273-8255
- The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender National Hotline: (888) 843-4564
- The GLBT National Youth Talkline (youth serving youth through age 25): (800) 246-7743
- The National Runaway Switchboard: (800) RUNAWAY, (800) 786-2929