

## Fall Pride grows, relocates

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**Orlando** | With a goal of 25,000 attendees in mind, the Central Florida Come Out With Pride (COWP) committee has announced that the area's fall celebration will move to Lake Eola Park. In only its third year, the Pride gathering has become one of the must-do events on the local GLBT community's calendar.

COWP committee marketing and community relations chair Jason Lowe said that while Heritage Square, The History Center and Wall Street Plaza were great venues for the first two years' events, organizers felt moving to a larger yet still centrally located space would allow for greater attendance for the Sunday, Oct. 14, event.

"The original plan was to move out of the shadow of Gay Days," said Lowe, explaining why the traditional June celebration was rescheduled for the fall. "What we may not have anticipated was the opportunity to create something big on the calendar for October. We've latched on to something that could be comparable to the biggest Pride events nationally."

The main festival event, which starts at noon, will be confined to the west end of Lake Eola Park, with designs on growing the celebration around the lake in future years. The move allows the committee to offer nearly twice as much vendor space as what was previously

available at Heritage Square. The park's Walt Disney Amphitheater—currently undergoing a \$500,000 Art Deco renovation—will offer better lighting, better sound and technical support systems for those on stage, and better visibility and comfort for audiences.

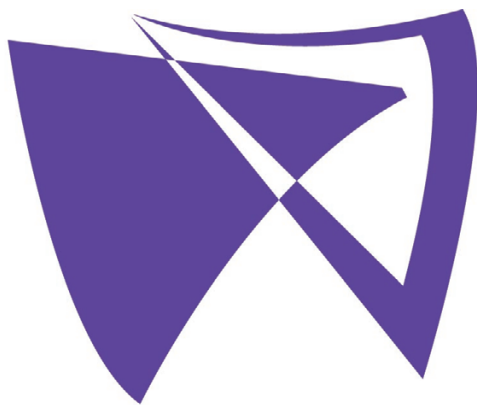
Come Out With Pride, which is built upon National Coming Out Day, will see other changes. The 3 p.m. parade will still travel through Thornton Park on Summerlin Avenue and Central Boulevard, but it will now also make a complete loop around Lake Eola on Rosalind Avenue and Robinson Street. The new route will offer an increase in viewing areas.

Post-parade entertainment begins at 5 p.m. The afternoon's highlight will be a massive Broadway-themed stage production featuring local talent. Casting calls for the show are slated for July. Negotiations are also underway to bring in nationally known acts as well.

"We definitely can make this one of the top Pride events in the country, but we need continued community and financial support," said Lowe. "We can't underscore that enough, especially with our goal and vision to keep it a free event."

Organizers have planned summer pool and house parties, hoping to raise funds and increase awareness of the fall event.

For continued updates on the fall event, visit [ComeOutWithPrideCFL.org](http://ComeOutWithPrideCFL.org). | ● |



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