

Why Dyke March?

In the age of an increasingly commercial and tepid Pride, the x-year old Dyke March gets more relevant every year. Pride is about some perfectly fine things--cruising gay men, a handful of drag queens, the biggest LGBT gathering of the year. But Pride is also about some mediocre things: moving slow and demanding little. Pride has become more about Fleet Bank and the other leading corporations than about celebrating the LGBT community and our drive for political and cultural change.

In contrast, the Dyke March is non-corporate and grassroots. The Dyke March is about showing off our diversity, our humanity and our joy. Do most New England dykes feel represented in the LGBT community at large? Do we feel part of a community, a society, a cause? The Dyke March is the perfect place to start. Not only can you make new friends, find a date, and chant for equality, you can also make the Dyke March about you.

The March is a celebration. Don't believe the hype that lesbians and feminists aren't fun. The establishment guys tell you that so you won't come. Joy pulses through a crowd in which dykes are a majority. We've come a long way, and deserve to celebrate.

The March is also an opportunity for networking. Year after year, the Dyke March brings together women from diverse sections of our communities to have the chance to meet. Speakers who are active in various movements from and for our communities give you the chance to find out how to get more involved. Bush administration got you down? Here is an opportunity to join other progressive voices for political change. Looking for new friends and/or lovers? Here are a thousand women together.

Yes, the March is political. There are few things that you can change in this life by simply showing up. But because homophobia is based on myths, stereotypes, insults, and shame, it becomes vulnerable when that foundation is challenged by our existence and our humanity. The Dyke March is thus multilayered: political act in itself, a place to celebrate past and current political movements, and a place to plant seeds of new activism.

The March is unashamedly about sex. The Dyke March provides visibility for lesbian sexuality, so underrepresented both in the mainstream focused on weak straight girls like Ally McBeal and the LGBT party scene dominated by gay musclemen. We are out and out loud, at least for that night, and talk about our sexualities in a way that is frank, fearless, and fun.

The March is about visibility. It is up to the community to determine what the Dyke March looks like, its complexion, its tenor, its tone. Want it to look more like you? Come to the planning meetings, speak your mind, and when the time to March comes vote with your feet!

Who should come?

Women of Color and white women
Middle-aged women and teens
Septuagenarians and their granddaughters
Closeted women and raging dykes
Vegetarians and carnivores
Dykes on bykes and pedestrians
Womyns musicians and punk rockers
Rappers and 2-steppers
Students and teachers
Lipstick lesbians and butches
Leatherdykes and goddess types
Mothers and toddlers
Entrepreneurs and Marxists
Preppies and Avengers
Bisexual women and avowed Lesbians
Transwomen and Transmen
YOU!

I march because my parents don't. I march because I want to meet women. I march because I love to sing and scream and laugh. Why will you march this year?

Whatever your inspiration, we would love to see you there. Come to the planning meetings (call 617-524-1063 or check out www.butchdykeboy.com/dykemarch for the details) and by all means come to the March. Meet in front of the Boston Public Library on Friday, June 8, at 7pm. We'll march along a route that is accessible to a rally on the Boston Common that is ASL and Spanish interpreted. This year, let's make the Dyke March even more powerful, sexy, and fun.