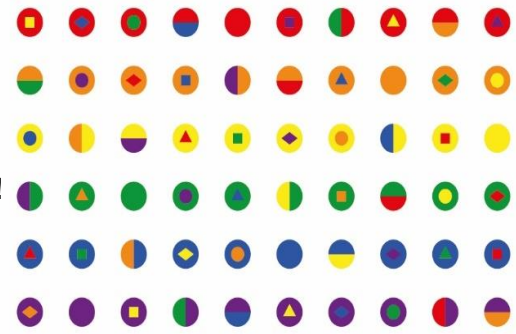


Pride Parade Volunteer



Thank you for signing up to walk with akt at this year's Pride Parade!

In 1989, akt (formerly known as The Albert Kennedy Trust) was founded in Manchester by an ally Cath Johnson (née Hall).

This was at a time when LGBTQ+ people faced persistent and high levels of oppression, physical and verbal abuse, and were denied the basic human rights and equity afforded to others. Cath stood up and galvanised the LGBTQ+ community of Manchester by leading the world's first response by a charity to the many LGBTQ+ young people who faced rejection, abuse, and homelessness just for being brave enough to come out to their families.

akt supports LGBTQ+ young people aged 16-25 in the UK who are facing or experiencing homelessness or living in a hostile environment. We support young people into safe homes and employment, education or training, in a welcoming and open environment that celebrates LGBTQ+ identities. The pandemic and lockdowns have had a significant impact on LGBTQ+ young people, as well as other marginalised groups including those from ethnic minority backgrounds and disabled people. Marginalised groups have not only dealt with the pandemic but also the rise of transphobic rhetoric in the media and spikes in racism.

About the role:

The responsibility of our pride team at the parade is to have fun! The Parade is your time to shine and there will be loads of eyes on you so all we ask is that you engage with the spectators and spread the word about the work that akt does. We will have stickers and sweets for you to hand out to those in the crowd 😊

This role will consist of:

- Being a representative of akt and spreading the word about what we do (an akt t-shirt will be provided)
- Ensuring you are aware of the pace of the float/walkers in front of you and maintaining 5 metres distance from them
- Being approachable and proactive – we will have lots of goodies!!
- Be reliable, honest and punctual
- Treat all staff, service users and volunteers with respect
- Communicate any issues, concerns or feedback with a member of staff
- **Represent the organisation in a professional manner and be an ambassador for our work**

As you know, it is Pride season and we as a charity, want you to also be enjoying yourselves but we do ask that as a representative of akt:

- please avoid causing obstruction, congestion, and nuisance to the public
- do not take photos which include other people without their consent (safeguarding training) **but please do take photos** and send them over to our marcomms team marcomms@akt.org.uk 📷👉

If you would prefer to not be filmed or photographed by akt directly please let them or a member of akt staff know.

- please do not post on your social media until after your shift is over
- there will be a zero tolerance of any alcohol consumption whilst walking the parade

Think about how your actions and behaviour could be interpreted or you will be asked to leave.

**safe homes and better futures
for lgbtq+ young people**
akt.org.uk



Skills/experience required:

- An interest in helping akt raise awareness of our work and the young people we support
- Confidence in talking to members of the public
- An understanding of the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ homeless young people

what you will gain:

- Everyone will receive a new akt t-shirt to wear, as well as an akt branded flag.
- Knowledge that your volunteering is having a direct impact on the financial success of the charity and therefore on the lives of the young people we support
- Opportunity to meet a wide variety of people and be part of a vibrant team
- Experience of volunteering as part of the LGBTQ+ community and the chance to attend a variety of exciting events
- Increased confidence and communication skills
- We will take all steps necessary to ensure your safety whilst volunteering

Time commitment:

Each event usually requires volunteers' attendance for 2-3 hours. Timings will be confirmed closer to the event.

Support arrangements/mobility accessibility:

Volunteers' involvement in any event will be managed and guided by the akt team who are on hand during the preparation of each event and during the event itself to answer any questions you may have.

Mobility accessibility for those with wheelchairs or walking aids will be dependent on each parade route. For each Pride, we will have the info to hand so that you may have the information available on the day. We would also like to advise that these events are usually very crowded and busy and that this should be taken into account when signing up for volunteering, especially if you have certain sensory sensitivities. If you have any queries, feel free to contact astrid.ryan@akt.org.uk

Expenses:

Travel to/from events **if you live locally** and food expenses will be reimbursed.

Application:

Application is via a short application form. Volunteers will attend an online 'welcome to akt' introductory session and an event-specific induction. Volunteers will receive a pre-event briefing ahead of each event.