

Hosting a Virtual House Party

Thank you for your interest in hosting a fundraiser/friendraiser for Pride Foundation. Although we may not be able to gather in person right now, we can still invite people to come together for virtual gatherings. If you're interested in hosting a Virtual House Party for Pride Foundation, this supplement to our [Party Kit](#) is for you!

I can't picture a virtual house party—what would that even look like?

The idea of a “virtual event” might sound daunting, but it doesn't have to be. Think of it like happy hour with friends, except instead of gathering at a pub or café, you're getting together over video. You can get as creative as you want with activities, like a karaoke fundraiser or trivia night, or just mingle over beverages. And, your guests can join in from the comfort of their own sofas, and from just about anywhere—no travel required!



Where should I start?

To start with, we recommend taking a look at the [Pride Foundation Party Kit](#) for broader context on how to plan an event, collect donations, and tell your Pride Foundation story to your guests. Once you're ready to start planning, email to our Event & Donor Relations Coordinator, Elan, at elan@pridefoundation.org. They'll ask you about:

- When your party is happening
- Who you want to invite
- Your vision for your party
- What support you need with getting set up

It's okay if you don't know all the answers—we can help you figure it out!

What kind of equipment do I need?

To host a Stay-At-Home House Party, you'll need an internet connection, and a computer or smartphone with a camera and microphone. We have some tips on how to get the most from your basic equipment on the Party Kit Page. You'll also need to choose a platform—more on that below!

What platform should I use?

There are lots of apps and programs out there for connecting digitally. Here are just a few you might want to consider:

- Skype: Skype is free, and you can now have up to 50 people in a video call. Plus, it's been around for a while, so your guests may already have experience using it.
- Google Hangouts: Also free, with capacity for up to 25 people in a video call. All participants will need a (free) Google account in order to join.
- Zoom: Zoom is widely used now, straightforward, and can accommodate up to 100 video participants. However, for free accounts there is a 40 minute limit on group calls. For fundraisers/friendraisers, Pride Foundation may be able to host a Zoom meeting for you—please let us know if you would like to hear more about this possibility.

There are many other options out there, including the HouseParty app, Facebook Messenger, FaceTime, and Discord. Feel free to pick the one that you're most comfortable with—just make sure that all of your guests will be able to join, regardless of what devices they have at home.

Who should I invite?

For virtual events, distance isn't an issue, which may open up your pool of potential guests. However, this doesn't necessarily mean that you should invite everyone you know. In general, the larger your group, the harder individual interactions become. A larger group might be fine if you have a robust spoken program with a Q & A, but a more intimate party of 5-15 people will allow for more social interaction.

What should we do during the party?

We recommend that you have a program, and that you incorporate at least a couple of speakers. The same ideas for spoken programs and ask language included in the Party Kit are applicable here as well—but keep remarks to 2-5 minutes at most.

In addition to a program, there are lots of other creative ways we've seen virtual event hosts and happy hours engaging participants. Maybe you want to play a game together? Encourage everyone to dress up as though they were going out to a fancy event, or dress for a theme? Make it a bring-your-own-beverage cocktail hour? If you're looking for more ideas, feel free to reach out.

Can Pride Foundation help me with my party?

We know that virtual events and gatherings are still new to many of our supporters—so if you're interested in giving it a go, we'd love to provide you with support. Ask us about:

- Scheduling your event through our paid Zoom account
- Inviting a staff or board member to speak at your event
- Basic technical assistance and advice
- Brainstorming a program or activity that will translate well to a video call

Thank you so much for your interest in hosting a Stay-At-Home House Party!
We're ready to chat with you, help you brainstorm, and answer your questions.
Contact our Event & Donor Relations Coordinator, Elan, at elan@pridefoundation.org.