



June 2021 Statement: A Community United Cannot Be Divided

This spring, as the Fourth of July Association Board of Trustees met to discuss the potential of holding an in-person celebration, it was out of an abundance of caution and with an eye towards our objective to “provide a full day of safe, supervised, constructive, and fun activities every 4th of July” for children and families that we were forced to again postpone our festivities. This decision was disappointing to us all. Every member of this small group is dedicated to Evanston’s 4th of July celebration. We wish we were able to bring everyone together safely, however at that time we were not confident this would be possible. We felt we had no choice but to make this difficult and unpopular decision. As an all volunteer organization, and in consultation with local officials, we chose to be cautious. Our events draw thousands of individuals and families with children. Since most children are unvaccinated, safety is our first priority. Even today having events of such size as ours would pose health and safety issues to those we aim to protect.

Evanston’s Juneteenth, Pride and July 4th celebrations are each organized by separate nonprofit organizations, and each made their own plans for this year’s events. As well, many may not know that although the City of Evanston partners with each of these independent organizations, the City does not produce the celebrations. They are entirely community run, and they each rely heavily on volunteers and donations to succeed.

Today, it is fortunate that we are witnessing the healthy re-opening of our community. Many of us enjoyed the festivities of [Juneteenth](#), marched in the parade and gathered to safely celebrate with the community at Ingraham Park. Many of us look forward to being together again to celebrate [Pride](#) on June 26th. It is a blessing that health guidelines now allow for us to gather safely in Evanston.

Looking forward, we expect to celebrate in person in 2022 and we welcome your participation as we continue to develop a meaningful and engaging series of events to celebrate the 4th of July across Evanston. Let’s come together and embrace our theme: *A Community United Cannot be Divided*. Please join us in our efforts to build a day of unity that we all may enjoy.

The Evanston Fourth of July Association is an all-volunteer, donation-funded organization which has planned Evanston’s long standing Independence Day celebration for a century. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions, and we encourage you to join us. As we currently are planning for the Centennial celebration, all voices and new ideas are not only welcome - they are needed if we are to offer a celebration that is welcoming of all Evanstonians in 2022.

How can you help?... [volunteer](#) to become a parade marshal, [volunteer](#) to manage morning games at the parks, [volunteer](#) to serve on the Board of Trustees, send us your [suggestions](#) for the celebration and [make a donation towards](#) next year’s celebration. We are in need of new volunteers and new ideas. Our hope is that you may more deeply engage and enjoy putting together a celebration that is available for all to enjoy safely once the pandemic is truly over.

Please contact us at info@evanston4th.org to learn more. We hope to hear from you soon. Until then, stay safe and be well.

~ The Trustees of the Evanston Fourth of July Association