



# Bunnies on the Bayou

## Prospective Bunny Host FAQs

### WHAT IS BUNNIES ON THE BAYOU (BOTB)?

To ask what Bunnies on the bayou is about, you first need to understand the history and necessity it spawned from. Bunnies on the Bayou, then the BFP, was born out of the HIV/AIDS epidemic that struck the LGBT community in the late 1970s and providing food and community to those in need to get through those uncertain times together every Easter. This is the simple core of what we stand for at Bunnies on the Bayou, helping those in our Houston LGBTQ community and bring the Houston community together as a whole on Easter Sunday as something more than community but to also represent family as well for those who may not have one to spend the holiday with. If you're interested in making a real difference with your time and money, this fluffle<sup>1</sup> is for you.

### HOW IS BUNNIES A NONPROFIT?

Founded in 1979 and recognized as a 501(c) 3 in 1993, Bunnies on the Bayou, Inc. is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to the raising and distributing of funds for various charitable, educational, and cultural programs that seek to improve the quality of life and promote education and awareness of human rights for individuals in the Houston LGBT community. The organization raises money through a series of social events throughout the year, and culminates every Easter Sunday at Bunnies on the Bayou, the largest outdoor cocktail party in Texas and has given more than One Million in donations back to the Houston LGBTQ community in its 38 years of service.

### WHAT IS A HOST?

The term "Host" is assigned to an individual whom has been voted into the organization by its current members and has paid their annual dues to the Bunnies on the Bayou. Since 1979, Hosts have collaborated to plan and execute 38 years of successful BOTB events, all dedicated to raising money which is then allocated back to the LGBT community.

### THE COMMITMENT?

Typically, Bunnies on the Bayou Hosts will meet once a month (August through February) for approximately one hour. These meetings will be geared towards the finalization of each of our Auxiliary events (Bunnies in Heat, Snow Bunnies, Honey Bunnies, Basket Bash & the VIP Party) as well as due diligence operational items that lead up to our Main Event on Easter Sunday. To remain informed and aware, Host's attendance at these meetings is strongly encouraged.

#### What are some of the responsibilities of a Host?

**MAIN EVENT:** All Hosts are required, and should expect to work the entire weekend of the Main Event from early Saturday morning (8:30a) to mid to late afternoon (6:30p) for setup, and the same Sunday morning to evening 8p. It is easily 16 hours of work and highly suggested you take the following Monday off to rest and help unload the U-Haul at the storage unit (not required but helpful).

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<sup>1</sup> A group of bunnies is called a **fluffle**.



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**YEARLONG:** As a Host, you're just that, a networking and interactive powerhouse entertaining and engaging guests during our auxiliary events and community involvement efforts as well as a community leader holding up and defining what it means to be part of this organization. Hosts are required to attend auxiliary events and serve on committees they feel they can make the most impact or just wish to take a leadership role in serving as chair or co-chairs in desired committee. Throughout the course of the year Hosts may be called upon for (but not limited to):

- Promoting the BOTB Organization
- Plan events (Bunnies in Heat, Snow Bunnies, Honey Bunnies, Basket Bash, the VIP party & BOTB 39)
- Soliciting donations (monetary, silent auction items etc.)
- Event set up/break down
- Collecting sponsorships
- Attending informative meetings
- Bunnies on the Bayou Event (two day participation)

## **FINANCIAL OBLIGATION?**

Each active Bunnies Host is required to pay their annual dues by the deadline set by the board of directors. This amount (\$125) can be paid by credit card, check, money order or cash. Hosts are welcome to pay their dues in installments however the total amount must be paid in full no later than the Host Holiday party.

### **Why the Dues?**

The Dues active Host and Emeritus members pay act as seed capital and sponsorship for the new year's operations. This means we have no start-up money to speak of and although our overhead is low, our immediate needs (mini event supplies, administrative costs etc.) will require funding. Therefore, Host dues are essential to maintain the basic needs of the organization.

## **BENEFITS OF BEING A HOST?**

You will meet motivated individuals in the community who are truly looking to make a difference and have a great time along the way. The biggest take away is sharing in the satisfaction of being instrumental in raising funds that go directly to the non-profit charities, programs and individuals that need funding the most. Our Hosts consistently cite the check presentation to the beneficiaries as being one of the most impactful events of the year.

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For more information on becoming a BOTB 39 Host

Contact:

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*New Host Orientation*

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