

# Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Central Iowa

## Parade Instructions & Rules

### **1. Entries:**

- a. If possible, limit your vehicles to no more than two. Estimate the total space needed on the application.
- b. \*To avoid unpleasant surprises on parade day, keep us advised of any changes in the number of vehicles or nature of your entry.
- c. All vehicles must be driven by an adult with a valid driver's license.
- d. Music must be (1) live, unamplified music; or (2) live, amplified Irish music; or (3) pre-recorded, amplified Irish music.
- e. NO animals are allowed, except for dogs on leashes. You are expected to clean up after your animals.
- f. No group, business or individual is permitted to solicit donations during the parade or engage in any promotional activities during the parade or reception, unless pre-approved by the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Central Iowa.

### **2. What happens after I submit my application?**

- a. You will receive an email confirmation that your entry has been registered, or else you will be contacted about any problem. Also, you will receive the number of your spot in the parade lineup (see a later note).
- b. If you have not received an email confirmation by March 11, email [\*parade-chairman@friendlysonsiowa.com\*](mailto:parade-chairman@friendlysonsiowa.com).

### **3. How is the parade line up determined?**

- a. A lot of time and attention is devoted to lining up the entries in a wise and fair fashion. For instance, care is taken that musical entries don't drown each other out. The goal is to hold a creative, entertaining celebration.
- b. Promptness in applying is an indication of how early in the parade you will be located. Generally, firsttime entries and those who have missed the previous year are placed toward the back of the lineup.

### **4. Parade Staging**

- a. Staging begins at 9:00 am. There is no check-in, however Parade

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Marshals will pass by to check your participation certificate.

- b. Your parade entry number will be painted on the street. Spots begin with #1, roughly at the corner of 15th and Martin Luther King Parkway, then continue east on MLK Parkway. Parade dignitaries and the color guard, along with pipers and the Foy Dancers, will be at the start of the parade, starting at the tracks on 15th, south of Walnut.
- c. Well over 100 entries are typical, so try to wisely estimate where your spot will be along that path as you seek it out that morning. Figure about 30 feet per entry.
- d. All entries must be in their designated spots when the parade begins. There is no jumping in down the road.
- e. Vehicles may not be left along MLK Parkway after the parade begins.

### **5. What is the Start time and route?**

- a. The parade starts at 12 p.m. at the tracks on 15th St., just south of Walnut. All participants will proceed north on 15th to Grand and then east to 8th Street, covering just under a mile before de-staging begins.
- b. The parade officially ends at 8th & Grand.
- c. Normally north-bound one-way, 8th St. will be changed to south-bound on the parade day. Entries will turn south there and proceed to Locust, later to Walnut.
- d. Riders can hop off along those two blocks; then all vehicles can disperse to the east or west, along Locust or Walnut, as desired. Please move out of the area as soon as possible to allow others to de-stage as you did. Plan your exit route in advance, as well as your return to wherever you and your associates parked.
- e. Riders will walk around the Marriott to the northeast doors (7th & Grand) to enter for the reception.

### **6. Where does the float judging take place?**

- a. The judging stand is planned for about 11th St. on the south side of Grand. Be sure your float number is prominently displayed on the

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right side of your vehicle.

### **7. Will restroom facilities be available at the staging area?**

- a. Port-a-johns will be positioned along the staging area.

### **8. Will there be people along the route for guidance?**

- a. Yes. Friendly Sons volunteers will be riding golf carts in each block along both sides of the route. Also, uniformed police will be on duty. Ask any of them for help, if needed.

### **9. What happens after the parade ends?**

- a. All are welcome to come to the Marriott Hotel at 7th & Grand for the official Friendly Sons of St. Patrick reception following the parade. Enjoy music by Kelly's Clan, along with performances by a Des Moines piping group and the Foy Dancers. Food and drink will be available, of course. Parade dignitaries will be presented and raffle prize winners will be announced at 4 p.m.

### **10. PRICELESS ADVICE:**

- a. The risk/danger of kids being hurt, especially those of irresponsible parents, has led to the rules about no throwing from vehicles. Re-read and obey that rule & line up your walkers, or else be prepared to be removed this year and banned next year.
- b. Many first-time participants end up empty-handed by the end of the one mile route, so your walkers need to bring a LOT of candy and goodies.

### **11. STILL HAVE SOME QUESTIONS?**

- a. Contact [parade-chairman@friendlysonsiowa.com](mailto:parade-chairman@friendlysonsiowa.com).

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick welcome your safe & responsible participation in this annual celebration of the Irish culture and spirit.

See you soon at one of the upcoming meetings.

Slainte!