

READ CAREFULLY!

FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK PARADE

Instructions & Rules

Saturday, March 16, 2013

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WHEN IS THE PARADE?

☘ Saturday, March 16, 2013 at 12 p.m.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

- ☘ Each entry, whether profit or non-profit, is required to pay a parade entry fee.
- ☘ Organizations and Irish clans pay \$100. Politically-oriented entries are \$250.
- ☘ No refunds, even if it rains.

HOW DO I APPLY & PAY?

- ☘ There will be no mail-in or online registrations
- ☘ A designated representative **MUST ATTEND ONE** of the following meetings to deliver an application and payment. If payment has not been made by (or at) the Mar. 9 meeting, you will **NOT** be able to participate. **No exceptions.**

Tues., Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Marriott Downtown ("Windows on 7th" room)

[Likely resulting in a spot early in the parade]

Thurs., Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. at the Marriott Downtown ("Windows on 7th" room)

[Likely putting your entry towards the middle]

Sat., Mar. 9 at 1 p.m. at Exile Brewing (15th and Walnut, upstairs)

[Well, you can guess]

- ☘ Make your check payable to "Friendly Sons of St. Patrick"
- ☘ At the meeting, you will indicate you clearly understand the rules for participation. Also, you will sign a document holding the Sons harmless for any physical injuries or damage to any vehicle or entry materials in the parade.
- ☘ Parade participation certificates will be issued at the meetings and must be displayed on the driver's side of the lead vehicle of the entry. Entries without these certificates will be asked to leave the staging area and will not be allowed to participate in the parade. If you do not have a vehicle, you must have your certificate ready to present in the staging area.
- ☘ Each entry will receive a numbered ID to clearly post on each side of a vehicle for benefit of the judges.

ARE THERE RESTRICTIONS ON ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR?

☘ To avoid anyone being hurt or the Friendly Sons or City of Des Moines being sued, you **MUST** bring people with you to walk along the side of the street and **HAND OUT** goodies (e.g., candy and/or beads), if you choose to do that. Ideally, have at least 2 walkers who will do this, walking on each side of your entry at the outer edges of the parade path.

NOTHING MAY BE THROWN FROM A PARADE VEHICLE.

THERE WILL BE A POLICE PRESENCE THROUGHOUT THE ROUTE. VIOLATORS OF THESE ESTABLISHED RULES MAY BE ESCORTED OFF THE PARADE ROUTE. NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN.

Remember, your designated walkers are the **ONLY** ones who will distribute items to the crowd at the fenceline.


- ☘ If you are not distributing anything to the crowd, you do not need to supply walkers.

ARE THERE RESTRICTIONS ON ACCEPTABLE ENTRIES?


- ☘ The staging area is filled to capacity each year. Describe your entry in detail on the Parade Application; if there are concerns you will be contacted.
- ☘ You **MUST** exhibit an Irish-based, visible "theme" on your entry, perhaps with signage or costuming. You must describe this on the application.

Vehicles:


- *If possible, limit your vehicles to no more than two. Estimate the total space needed on the application.
- *To avoid unpleasant surprises on parade day, keep us advised of any changes in the number of vehicles or nature of your entry.
- *All vehicles must be driven by an adult with a valid driver's license.

 Music must be (1) live, unamplified music; or (2) live, amplified Irish music; or (3) pre-recorded, amplified Irish music.


 NO animals are allowed, except for dogs on leashes. You are expected to clean up after your animals.


 No group, business or individual is permitted to solicit or accept donations during the parade or engage in any promotional activities during the parade.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION?


 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). If you have not received an email confirmation by Tuesday, March 12, email FSOSP President Ed Modglin at ed.modglin@gmail.com or Vice President Bob O'Hern at oherns@q.com, or call 515-491-4881.

HOW IS THE PARADE LINEUP DETERMINED?


 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.


 Promptness in applying is an indication of how early in the parade you will be located. Generally, first-time entries and those who have missed the previous year are placed toward the back of the lineup.


WHAT IS THE START TIME AND ROUTE?

 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.


The parade officially ends at 8th & Grand.


 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.


 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.


 Riders will walk around the Marriott to the northeast doors (7th & Grand) to enter for the reception.

WHERE IS THE STAGING AREA?

 There is no check-in. Parade marshals will pass by to check your participation certificate.


 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.

 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, so, as an example, #72 will be several blocks to the east along MLK Parkway.

 All entries must be in their designated spots when the parade begins. There is no jumping in down the road.

 Vehicles may not be left along MLK Parkway after the parade begins.

WHERE DOES THE FLOAT JUDGING TAKE PLACE?

 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 right side of your vehicle.

WHAT TIME SHOULD I ARRIVE?

✚ Please arrive at the staging area as early as 9 a.m., definitely before 11 a.m. Parade movement will begin promptly at 12 p.m. Many people arrive early, even if they know they are at the back of the parade, because they enjoy hanging out and visiting with the other entries.

✚ Dignitaries at the front of the parade will be escorted to the start by Friendly Sons volunteers shortly before noon.

✚ If you're not driving a vehicle in the parade, but need to drive yourself to the staging area, go to the MLK Parkway area earlier in the week and plan a legal parking spot to leave your vehicle. Perhaps arrange to be dropped off. The Meredith lot at 16th & Grand may be available that morning for parade participants.

WILL RESTROOM FACILITIES BE AVAILABLE IN THE STAGING AREA?

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

WILL THERE BE PEOPLE ALONG THE ROUTE FOR GUIDANCE?

✚ 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.

WHEN IS YOUR LAST CONTACT BEFORE THE PARADE?

✚ The email confirmation you receive is your only contact unless there are problems. If you need to cancel your participation, email FSOSP President Ed Modglin at ed.modglin@gmail.com or call 515-491-4881.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PARADE ENDS?

✚ 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.

PRICELESS ADVICE:

✚ 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.

✚ 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.

I HAVE READ ALL THIS AND STILL HAVE SOME QUESTIONS. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

✚ Contact FSOSP President Ed Modglin at ed.modglin@gmail.com or Vice President Bob O'Hern at oherns@q.com, or call 515-491-4881.

**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!**