

# The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Central Iowa

## 2026 St. Patrick's Day Parade Rules

\*\*\*\*\* **Nothing may be thrown from the vehicles/floats** \*\*\*\*\*

**All candy, beads, ect. must be dispersed by walkers alongside your entry**

**Your entry will be immediately removed from the parade for throwing items from the vehicle**

### Entries:

1. Calculate the total space needed for your entry (*don't count walkers*) on the application.
2. Please keep us advised of any changes in the size or nature of your entry.
3. All vehicles must be driven by an adult with a valid driver's license.
4. **DOGS** are the *only* animals allowed and all dogs must be on a leash. Please clean up after your dog.
5. No group, business, or individual is permitted to solicit donations during the parade, engage in any promotional activities during the parade or reception unless pre-approved by the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Central Iowa.

### What happens after I submit my application?

1. You will receive a confirmation email that your entry has been registered. Attached to that email will be your parade credentials with your staging number. Place the 2 copies of your staging number and place them on both the left and right sides of your windshield. If there are problems or questions about your entry you will be contacted by the parade chairman.
2. If you have not received your parade credentials by March 14<sup>th</sup> please contact the Parade Chairman:  
515-770-2419 / [parade.chairman@friendlysonsiowa.com](mailto:parade.chairman@friendlysonsiowa.com)

### How is the parade line up determined?

1. A lot of time and attention is devoted to lining up the entries in a wise and fair fashion. The goal is to hold a creative and entertaining celebration. Your entry size and type also help with where 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.

### Parade staging

1. Staging begins at 10:00 am. There is no check-in, however Parade Marshals will check your parade credentials
2. Your parade staging number will be painted on the street.
3. Spots begin with #1, (see the published route).
4. Your credentials will have a map with location estimates of spot numbers
5. All entries must be in their designated spots when the parade begins. **STAY IN THE ASSIGNED ORDER**

### Entry judging

1. The judging stand is located on the parade route. Be sure your parade location numbers are prominently displayed on your entry so the judges know who you are.

### Start time and route

1. The parade starts at 12 p.m. All participants will precede on the published Parade route,
2. The parade officially ends at the Marriott.

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### De-staging Area

1. Enter the de-staging area.
2. Remove the riders and return your vehicle to a street legal state.
3. Please move out of the area as soon as possible to allow others to de-stage as you did.
4. Riders can walk to the Marriott for the reception.

### Restrooms in the staging area

1. Portable toilets will be positioned along the staging area.

### Route guidance

1. Friendly Sons marshals (wearing vests) will be placed at each intersection along both sides of the parade route, as well as uniformed Des Moines police officers for emergencies.
2. Ask any of them for help, if needed.

### After the parade ends

1. All are welcome to come to the Marriott Hotel at 7th & Grand for the official Friendly Sons of St. Patrick reception following the parade.
2. 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.
3. Parade awards will be presented and raffle prize winners will be announced at 4 p.m.

### Priceless Advice

1. The risk/danger of kids being hurt, especially those of irresponsible parents, has led to the rules about no throwing from vehicles.
2. **PLEASE** obey that rule & line up your walkers, or be prepared to be removed from the parade this year and banned next year.
3. 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.