



St. Patrick's Parade Committee

Washington, D.C.

P.O. Box 11584, Washington, DC 20008
www.dcstpatparade.com

Parade Policies and Rules

A. PURPOSE

The St. Patrick's Parade Committee (Committee) is a nonprofit organization registered in the District of Columbia (D.C.), founded for the purpose of organizing and producing the St. Patrick's Parade in Washington, D.C. The mission of the Committee is to foster the understanding and celebration of Irish culture and heritage in America.

B. COMMITTEE AUTHORITY AND PARADE PARTICIPATION

1. The Committee will review all applications and base its decisions on a variety of factors, including but not limited to, compliance with the Parade Policies and Rules, past parade participation, compliance with the U.S. National Park Service, D.C. Metropolitan Police, District of Columbia and Parade Marshals' rules and guidelines, as well as time constraints of the parade. Applicants will be accepted on a lottery basis; completion of the parade application does not guarantee participation. Participants will receive confirmation that they are in the parade as soon as possible.
2. The Committee reserves the right to refuse entry into the Parade for any participant that does not depict the Parade theme and purpose or does not adhere to the Committee Policies and Rules.
3. Parade participants agree to abide by the Parade Policies and Rules and decisions of the Committee. Any misrepresentation, failure to abide by the Parade Policies and Rules, or Committee decisions is grounds for removal from the Parade. Decisions made by the Committee are final and not subject to review.
4. Although an applicant chooses the category he/she wishes to enter, the Committee will make the final decision on the correct category for each participant based upon the nature of the organization and type of entry.

C. FORMATION AND MARCH

1. All participants in the Parade must be registered and assigned a position by the Committee. No participant will be allowed to enter the Parade that did not meet the application deadline, pay the appropriate fee (floats) or fails to provide proof of Committee confirmation of participation at the line-up area on Parade day.



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2. All participants must be available in the Parade formation area when called to enter the line-up. Any participant not in the formation area and available when called forfeits his/her/its chance to participate in the Parade.
3. Parade participants must adhere to all applicable rules and laws of the District of Columbia, U.S. National Park Service, and D.C. Metropolitan Police and must follow the directions of the Parade Marshals. Failure to do so will result in removal from the Parade.
4. All Parade participants and support vehicles must be decorated to depict the Parade theme. Judges will take into consideration compliance with the Parade Policies and Rules when selecting competition winners.
5. Any performance along the route must be a moving/marching forward routine. Parade participants may stop and perform for up to 30 seconds in front of the reviewing stand only. It is imperative that the Parade continue to move forward in a timely fashion. Any participant that stops to perform during the Parade (except as noted above) shall be ineligible for an award.
6. Consuming alcoholic beverages or illegal substances is strictly prohibited anywhere in the formation area or along the Parade route. Parade Marshals will remove any participant violating this rule.
7. Passengers must ride inside the vehicle and be sitting. Participants standing in or sitting on sun roofs, riding on hoods, fenders or running boards are strictly prohibited.
8. Riders and animals should be familiar with large-crowd situations.

D. HAND-OUTS OR GIVEAWAYS

1. Throwing candy or other objects from vehicles or floats along the Parade route is prohibited. Walkers may distribute candy or other novelty items directly to curbside viewers.
2. Commercial/promotional signs, logos, brochures, etc., may not be distributed along the Parade route.
3. For safety reasons, any activity that entices spectators to enter the Parade route is prohibited.

E. ADVERTISING AND SIGNAGE

1. Political: The Committee is a non-political organization. Only current office holders may participate in the Parade. Small signs on either side of a car are permitted. No place cards or large advertising signs will be permitted. Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code, tax-exempt organizations are prohibited from participating or intervening in political activities. Signs or banners that are determined by the Parade Marshals to be political,



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sectarian or that in any way violate the purpose stated above will be removed from the Parade.

2. Commercial: A logo or business name may be used on a participant, however, the participant may not use the Parade primarily for advertising purposes and must comply with the theme and spirit of the Parade. The display of a commercial telephone number or website on any vehicle or float is prohibited.

F. PUBLICITY RELEASE

In consideration of acceptance of entry into the Parade, the participant agrees to permit the St. Patrick's Parade Committee of Washington, D.C., to use his/her/its name and/or photographs, films or tapes of the participant for publicity, advertising and commercial promotion, before, during and after the Parade, and gives permission to publish or sell or otherwise dispose of said photographs, films or tapes.

G. LIABILITY RELEASE

The Committee, its officers and directors are not responsible for any known or unknown damages, injuries, losses, judgment and/or claims from any cause whatsoever that may be suffered by any Parade participant to his or her person or property. Further, the participant holds harmless and indemnifies the Committee, its officers, directors and members, organizers, staff and Parade associates from any and all liability including attorney fees and costs associated with or resulting from the actions or conduct of the participants, participant's guests, participant's unit, whether it be motor powered, animal or animal draw, or otherwise, or anyone assisting or cooperating with participants, whether at the direction or control of participants or not.

H. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FIREARM RESTRICTIONS

The National Park Service (NPS) advised the St. Patrick's Parade Committee of Washington, D.C., that during a recent event on NPS property, several participants were carrying functional firearms. Although these firearms were carried by well-intended participants as part of their décor, functional firearms are not permitted on NPS property. Police, military color guards and marching units are exempt from this restriction, as are on and off-duty police officers from the metropolitan D.C. area, and retired officers eligible to carry firearms under HR 218. Therefore,



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firearms carried on NPS property at any time, including the St. Patrick's Parade day, must be non-functional, unless carried by law enforcement officers or military personnel assigned to the Military District of Washington. The carrying of a functional firearm on NPS property is a violation of federal law. Therefore, firearms carried by participants at events on NPS property who are not exempt as noted above will be subject to inspection and examination by authorities in order to ensure they are non-functional.

I. CATEGORIES AND JUDGING CRITERIA

Category	Description
Bands, Drum & Bugle Corps	Units that deploy on foot, playing music and sometimes performing to it.
Dance Groups (Musical Marching Units):	Dance/acrobatic oriented performances (dance studios, cheer/spirit teams, etc.).
Non-Musical Marching or Wheeling Units:	Units that do not, as part of their Parade activities, play music. Includes: Organization marching groups, bicycle-riders, and canine groups.
Comic or Novelty Acts	Can include motor vehicles, marchers, performers, themed units, etc.
Float	A decorated display that is either towed by a separate vehicle, or self-propelled, and which generally also includes people either performing or related to the subject of the float. All floats must be self-propelled or towed by towing units approved by the Parade Committee. If a float is rented through the Committee, a towing vehicle will be provided, unless other arrangements are requested. There is an entry fee for floats.
Mobile Units	Commercial Mobile Units, Municipal Mobile Units, Personal Mobile Units, Car Clubs, etc.
Antique Vehicles	Any vehicle (cars, trucks, fire engines, military vehicles):, self-propelled, that is either more than 20 years old, or is no longer in active service (in the case of fire or military vehicles).
Municipal & Military	Official representatives of U.S., D.C., Virginia or Maryland agencies or departments (Police, Fire, etc.). Elected and senior officials from the District of Columbia, Virginia or Maryland agencies and departments. Includes Military color guards and honor guards.