



THE CHARLOTTE SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE AND FESTIVAL

Saturday, March 11th, 2023

TO: ALL PARADE GROUPS
FROM: Rory Wall, General Chairman

The Line of March is attached. Please note your number in the Line of March and communicate it to all members of your group. This is how you will be placed in the Assembly area to lineup the Parade. If you are not listed, complete your registration online today – www.charlottestpats.com to be included in the Parade!

This year the St. Patrick's Day Parade will take place on Saturday, March 11th, 2023 and it promises to be the best parade ever! These pages have the information needed for your group to have a great time. Please remember that as the contact person for your group, you are responsible for forwarding all key information to all the members of your group. PLEASE distribute this to ALL participants, especially the Number your unit is assigned as the Event Staff will ask for this number when people arrive at the staging area (Intersection of College and Montford Point St., Charlotte 28202). If there are any questions, please email me at rory.wall@charlottestpats.com.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival is a non-political, family friendly parade to celebrate Irish heritage, culture, and musical influence. We expect all participating groups to maintain the highest standards in representing your groups. In particular, there are a few items that MUST be adhered to:

No political or advocacy/cause banners are permitted in the parade.

1. Costumes must be in good taste and not potentially offensive. We reserve the right to remove any offenders. Remember, we have lots of kids at this event.
2. All groups are allowed ONE sign or banner to identify their group.
3. If you are a commercial entry, you are limited to the name of your company. No 3rd party advertising is allowed. You may only list your group.



4. **NO THROWING OF ANY KIND!** This is the most important item. Your group can hand out items directly to the crowd, but do not throw anything. Also, you must be outside of your vehicle or walking next to your float to hand-out any items. No one can approach your vehicle or float from the crowd. We have lots of kids here & safety is the #1 issue.

DATE/TIME: Saturday, March 11, 2023. Step-Off is at 11:00 a.m. The last unit in line will complete the parade no later than 1 p.m.

GRAND MARSHAL: We are very proud to announce our Grand Marshal for the Charlotte St. Patrick's Day Parade is Jim Mannix.

ROUTE: We will assemble at the Hal Marshall Building in the FORMATION AREA listed below and the Parade will start from North Tryon & 9th Street at 11 a.m. sharp. The Parade will march south to 3rd Street and then turn left on 3rd St. After turning onto 3rd Street, marchers will immediately disband moving to the sidewalks. All floats will proceed shortly down 3rd street and stop briefly to allow any people on the float to get off and move to the sidewalk. All floats will continue down 3rd Street and turn left onto College St., returning to the Assembly Area at the Hal Marshall Building for release. All other vehicles will disperse at 3rd Street and College St. Marchers will continue down 3rd Street on the sidewalks to Davidson St., turn right to MLK Blvd. then left to the CMS Parking lot to board their busses.

FORMATION AREA: The FORMATION AREA extends on North Tryon St. from 9th St. past 11th Steet where the first 20 units will be lined-up, then units will be assembled in the Hal Marshall Parking lot by Parade marching sequence. Vehicles and floats will line-up on Montford Point Street in the order of march. If additional space is needed, we will use the parking lot across the street from the Hal Marshall Building on Montford Point St.

Note the line-up times are used to reduce congestion and confusion in the FORMATION AREA. We want motorized vehicles and floats to start coming in at 8:30 a.m. This will give us time to space and stage the vehicles and floats. We want the marching units from #1 to #20 to start coming in at 9:30 a.m. and line up on Tryon Street a.m. at the latest. Numbers 21 to 40 should arrive by 9:45 a.m. and numbers 41 to 80 should arrive by 10 a.m.



Make sure everyone in your unit knows the line-up number because the Event Staff will ask for the number to help spot your assigned position.

PARKING: If you are not with a band or group taking a bus to the Assembly Area, you can park in any of the area parking garages surrounding the festival site. The closest one to the festival area is the parking garage at The Green. You will only be able to enter that parking garage from College St. as the Tryon St. entrance will be closed. NOTE: Tryon St. will be closed from 3rd Street to Brooklyn Village Ave. and will not allow through traffic.

We have made arrangements with Silver Fox Limo's to shuttle parade participants from 3rd St. and College St. to the parade assembly site. The bus will pick-up marchers at the corner of 3rd Street and College St. and drop them off at the Hal Marshall Building. The shuttle bus will operate from 9: 00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.

Parking is on a first come, first served basis at multiple parking lots in uptown Charlotte.

NOTE: There is no parking in the Hal Marshall Parking lot in front of the building between College, Montford Point St., and Tryon Streets. We use this area for staging the parade.

MARCHING: The parade will start promptly at 11:00 a.m. Units not ready will be bypassed and reinserted later at the discretion of the parade director. Please try and keep a steady pace, as we want to avoid any gaps in the parade. There is no performance area for the parade in compliance with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department. The City of Charlotte does not permit throwing of objects into the crowd from cars and floats.

GROUP ESCORTS: This is VERY IMPORTANT! In past parades, some groups were marching too slowly and some were performing too long. To help correct this, we have created Group Escorts. For any group with more than 20 people, you must assign 2 people from your group to make sure your group keeps moving and doesn't slow down or creates gaps.



VEHICLES: NO VEHICLE IS TO EXCEED 5 MPH IN THE PARADE!

Maintain a safe distance in front and behind you and be very aware of the children on either side of the road. **You can't hand anything out from the vehicle.** It would encourage children to run to your vehicle and could cause an accident. You can have one of your members walk along-side the vehicle and hand out your souvenirs.

FLOATS: Units marching with floats must arrange to have enough members walking on either side, in front, and behind the float to ensure its safe operation during the parade. **NO OBJECTS MAY BE THROWN FROM THE FLOAT INTO THE CROWD.**

ANIMALS: All animals in your group must remain under complete control of your group members. There is a lot of noise and confusion for animals at the parade, so if your animals are easily frightened, you may want to reconsider bringing them. Animals are not allowed to be near the spectators. There are a lot of children and they may suddenly reach out at your animal with no warning. **Stay towards the middle of the street when marching.** We have a lot of animals, primarily dogs at the event, so this issue is very important. ***Members of your group must be assigned to march behind your group with shovels and pails to pick-up and remove any poop, droppings or waste from your animals so subsequent groups aren't stepping in it.***

AWARDS: Awards will be announced after the Parade on stage at the St. Patrick's Day Festival. Please send us a short email on how you would identify your group so that the Emcee has the information prior to the Parade.

This year, we will have awards for 5 categories:

- Best Musical Group
- Best Float
- Most Creative
- Most Enthusiastic
- Best Dance Group

We will announce the winners at 1:30 p.m. on the stage at the Festival.

END OF PARADE: The Parade's official end is at 3rd Street and Tryon Street. Because of the congestion we will break down the Parade after turning onto 3rd Street and marchers will be directed to the sidewalk.



Motor vehicles will continue down 3rd Street where they can turn left to go back to the staging area or go straight or right. All floats will turn left onto College St. to return to the Assembly area at the Hal Marshall Building.

Groups with children are responsible for the children until released to their parents - please make arrangements to have an adult stay with your group. A predetermined pick-up location needs to be decided away from standing along 3rd Street. College and Brevard Streets can be used from 2nd (MLK) to 3rd and from 3rd to 4th Streets, or in a parking lot if that makes it easier for parents to find your group or park pick-up vehicles.

Marchers going to the festival need to return to Tryon Street using the right-side sidewalk (going against the flow of the Parade) or use the 2nd (MLK) sidewalk.

FESTIVAL: The Charlotte St. Patrick's Day Festival will be on Tryon Street from 3rd Street to Levine Avenue of the Arts, where a stage will have musicians and dancers. It will run from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. It's a great way to make a day of celebrating St. Patrick's Day. There will be live music by the Federal Clan Kings, Grandfather Mountain, School of Rock and Irish dancers. A Kids area includes inflatable's & other activities for the children, plus craft vendors, and plenty of food and drink. This is a free event and open to the public.

WEATHER: The Parade goes on in rain or shine! In the past we have been blessed with fair weather, so keep your fingers crossed.

REMEMBER: Keep checking the website for information on the Parade & Festival at www.charlottestpats.com.

The Committee particularly acknowledges the hard work of the volunteers and parade committee Board members: Rory Wall, Michael Lenahan, Mathias Rick, Jason Franze, Tom Timmons, and Patrick Noone without whose help this parade would not be possible.

The Charlotte St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival is organized and presented by The Charlotte St. Patrick's Day Parade Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. It is an all-volunteer group and all monies collected are used to present the parade and for the benefit of local charities. If you or your group would like to make a tax-deductible



contribution to the parade or be a sponsor or advertiser next year, please visit www.charlottestpats.com for more information.



Festival Map

