Greater Manassas Saint Patrick's Day Parade

Inisfail, Inc.

Participant Information, Guidelines & Rules

Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 11am | Old Town Manassas

www.stpatparade.net

It is the responsibility of the individual who completed the participant application to ensure that all participants of their organization receive a copy of these rules. The registered group is collectively obligated for knowing the rules and compliance throughout the parade.

Inisfail, Inc. is allowed to sponsor the Greater Manassas Saint Patrick's Day Parade subject to a permit issued by the Manassas City Police Department. The permit and authority for the parade are granted exclusively to Inisfail, Inc. and are applicable within the public rights-of-way and sidewalks along the parade route. Inisfail's purpose for organizing the parade is to promote Irish culture and to provide entertainment to the community.

All parade participants are guests of Inisfail, the permit holder, and are subject to the goals, rules and regulations included within the permit, and the authorizations and rules established by Inisfail. The purpose of the rules and regulations are to keep the parade safe for parade participants and general public observing the parade, to assure that the parade is entertaining, and to promote the goals of Inisfail, Inc.

Failure to follow the parade rules may result in immediate removal from the parade, and/or referral to police officers for enforcement. The privilege of participating in the parade may be denied in the event of a participants lack cooperation with parade marshals.

NOTE: Parade Marshals wearing yellow safety vests will be present throughout the parade staging areas and the parade route to assist each group to the correct location in the parade, and to make sure that the parade progresses without delays. They are there to help. Please respect the parade marshals and go to them with questions or concerns. Please kindly follow their instructions.

1. Parade Conduct: The Greater Manassas Saint Patrick's Day Parade is a family-oriented event that includes children of all ages. All costumes, outfits, behavior, language, and dance moves must be appropriate for a young audience. All decisions are at the discretion of parade officials.

2. Parade Theme: The 2026 theme is always green. Please work to incorporate this theme into your unit's costume and design.

3. Weather: The parade will not be canceled in the event or cold or rain. Please check the weather and dress accordingly as it is sometimes chilly outside in March.

4. Parade Gaps: Delaying the progression of the parade is strictly prohibited.

➔ It is critical that all participants work to keep the parade moving smoothly with no large gaps between the groups. Parade gaps greatly diminish the entertainment value of the parade and can cause confusion and frustration among the audience.

➔ The distance between groups should be approximately 50 feet at all times. No more.

➔ Parade participants should keep pace with the group in front of them to prevent gaps in the procession.

➔ **Dancers and Performers**: Natural pauses will take place during the progression of the parade that provide an opportunity for short stationary performances. Please take advantage of these interruptions in the progression to perform for the audience. When the group in front moves forward, terminate the stationary routine immediately and return your moving performance.

➔ Parade participants must remain in the roadway along the parade route and are not to enter the spectator area (curb line and sidewalks). Handshaking and conversations with audience that impede the progress of the parade are prohibited.

5. Arrival & Lineup Information & Parking

➔ All vehicles that will be in the parade procession must arrive at 9:00 AM. This is a safety precaution. It is dangerous to fit late arrivers into the parade line-up. There are hundreds of pedestrians in the staging areas, and many of them are children. If vehicles arrive late, we will not be able to fit you in.

➔ Marchers and dancers must arrive at 10:00 AM.

➔ Dancers and costumed participants are allowed to use proxies to hold their place in the parade if needed. A minimum of two proxies may hold your place in the parade line-up. This is so one of these two individuals can come and get your group at 10:30 if the group is not in place. Marshals are not able to come look for you, and you will not be able to "fill in" as the parade passes. Allowing participants to "fill in" may seem harmless to the individual group but it is disruptive to Inisfail's management of an organized parade and is therefore unacceptable.

➔ When you arrive, follow the Parade Marshals' directions to the appropriate location in the lineup. Parade Marshals will be placed throughout the staging areas to help you find your designated location**.**

➔ No vehicles are permitted at parade staging locations unless they are part of the parade line of march.

➔ **Parking of Non-Processional Vehicles**: Park only in public parking areas located throughout the city (view city parking locations). Do not park on private property unless you have explicit permission from the owner of the property. Although parking in public parking areas is preferred, if you park on neighborhood

streets, do so lawfully and be courteous to the neighbors. Do not park on private property such as commercial parking lots as these vehicles may be towed at the owner's expense.

➔ There may be a distance to walk between your parking area and your assigned parade staging location. Be prepared, dress appropriately, and wear comfortable shoes.

➔ When walking from your vehicle to your parade staging location, use sidewalks and crosswalks. If you have a group, it is safer to walk as a group. When crossing roadways, use traffic signals and stay within marked crosswalks.

6. Photography: Photos must be taken from the spectator locations along the procession route. Family members and friends of parade participants may not enter the roadway to take photographs. This is unsafe.

7. Music: Musical accompaniment, noise makers, etc. should not interfere or detract from other parade participants. Please be respectful of the other groups in the parade. If your group is asked by a parade marshal to lower the volume, you must comply.

8. Political statements are not allowed by parade participants as it is not the purpose of the parade which is intended to be a fun, family event to celebrate Irish heritage and Manassas. Participants may not hand out campaign materials.

9. Candy and giveaways must be handed to the audience. The throwing or dropping of giveaways/candy is strictly prohibited as people, most notably children, may enter the parade route and endanger themselves or someone else. Confetti is not permitted.

10. Do not disrupt the provision of government services (e.g. law enforcement, fire and rescue response, emergency medical services, etc.).

11. Children age 14 and under must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

12. All animals must be under the control of their owner at all times. Inisfail, Inc. is not responsible for incidents that may occur (bites, property damage, etc.) which are the sole responsibility of the pet owner.

13. Dispose of trash and refuse in appropriate receptacles.

14. Follow the instructions of the Parade Marshals who will be wearing safety vests and placed along the parade route and with each division.

15. You will receive detailed instructions for the parade line-up and organization from the Operations Chair approximately one week before the parade (March 7).

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Thank you for being a part of the Greater Manassas Saint Patrick's Day Parade. We appreciate your support and partnership in making it a success. Our hope is that everyone will have fun and will join us every year making this a tradition for the community.

NOTE: There will be a Participants meeting on Wednesday 3/11 starting at 5PM, being held in the fireplace room at the Old Town Sports Pub. This is a informal meeting that is meant to help Participants talk with Parade committee members about the parade route, times, support… We will have maps of the Staging Areas, Parade Route and the Disbursement area. We will be there from 5 – 9 PM, so come when you can.

Who to contact: If you have questions about the rules listed above or about the parade logistics and operations please contact **Jack Southard, Operations Chair** at **jacksouthard@verizon.net**

Inisfail Inc., organizing body of the Greater Manassas Saint Patrick's Day Parade, is a Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public charity and contributions are deductible as charitable contributions.

Find us online at http://www.stpatparade.net