

OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE 2026 BALTIMORE ST. PATRICK PARADE

The Parade will be governed by these Rules and Regulations, as well as the Organization and March Timetable and Assembly and Disbanding Area map(s), which are made a part hereof. Parade officials reserve the right, in their sole and absolute discretion, to make such amendments to these Rules and Regulations as they deem to be necessary, and such amendments shall be binding on all bands, organizations, and units in the Parade as though more fully set forth herein.

ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PARADE:

A. “Businesses” and “corporations” must pay a \$225.00 application fee; this includes a \$200.00 ad credit which can be applied to the cost of a 1/4-page or larger ad in the Parade Guide.

B. A donation of \$25.00 is requested of all non-business participants.

ASSEMBLY AREA: Mount Vernon Place (Washington Monument). The Assembly Area layout places difficult logistics on the Parade. Therefore, promptness in arriving at the Assembly Area is mandatory.

TIMES: All times here are Eastern Daylight Time.

A. The lead element of the Parade will move from the Initial Point at Charles and Centre Streets no later than 2:00 p.m., Sunday, March 15, 2026, **regardless of the weather.**

B. Parade units should assemble at the Assembly Area **no earlier than 12:00 noon but not later than 1:00 p.m.**

C. In order to ease traffic problems in the Assembly Area, the Department of Transportation would appreciate the buses immediately discharging passengers (**ABSOLUTELY NO BUSES IN THE ASSEMBLY AREA**) and proceeding directly to the reserved parking area at the end of the Parade route. Actual route directions will be mailed prior to the date of the Parade.

D. We ask that **musical groups and bands refrain from tuning instruments or practicing before 1:30 p.m. because of church services in the area.**

CHECK IN:

A. Group leaders will check in at the tent at the base of the Washington Monument.

B. Group leaders will inform Parade officials of any changes in the make up of their organization.

C. Parade officials will direct bands and units of the Parade to their assigned area and specific unit locations.

ORGANIZATION:

A. Parade officials will be wearing traffic/safety vests.

B. All Units have been assigned to Areas, each under the direction of Parade officials.

C. Department of Defense Units will be governed by applicable regulations.

D. All units will conform to the following distribution and formation:

1. Bands and Drum and Bugle Corps: As directed by Drum Majors, but not to exceed eight abreast.

2. Other Units will march in formation three to five abreast, one and one half yards between ranks.

3. **Authorized** floats and automobiles in single column. **No unauthorized floats or automobiles will be allowed in the Parade.**

All vehicles participating in the Parade must be equipped with identifying signs on sides thereof.

4. Absolutely **NO** maneuvers except for a forward movement. Marching units, bands, color guards, and drill teams, as well as motorized vehicles, must abide by this regulation.

E. **DISTANCES** During Actual Parade: 30 yards between units.

FACILITIES/LATRINES: Facilities/Latrines will be available in the Parade Assembly Area (exact locations to be determined).

ROUTE: Starting on Charles Street at the base of the Washington Monument, the Parade will proceed south on Charles Street to Pratt Street, and then east on Pratt Street to Market Place, where each unit will disband.

CONDUCT OF PARTICIPANTS: All bands, organizations, and units participating in the Parade are subject to restriction of the following activities, which **SHALL BE PROHIBITED in the Parade. Violators shall be subject to IMMEDIATE ouster from the line of march of the Parade.**

A. Any presentation or representation, whether immoral or in bad taste, which, in the sole and absolute discretion of Parade officials, could bring dishonor to or reflect adversely on the Irish Race and Culture, including but not limited to improper attire, appearance, or conduct.

B. The drinking or simulated drinking of alcoholic beverages at the Assembly Area or while marching in the Parade.

C. Participants under the influence of alcoholic beverages and/or drugs.

D. Use of water pistols, electric shocking devices, etc.

E. Throwing of candy, souvenirs, promotional or advertising material either from floats or by marching units.

F. Firecrackers and any other explosives.

G. The use of a sign, banner, or any other advertisement advancing the candidacy or election of any individual to public office, or any political or social cause.

H. Signs or advertisements for commercial purposes unless prior approval from the Parade Committee was received.

I. **Family members of participating organizations.**

J. Stopping along the Parade Route, unless directed by a traffic safety officer or a Parade Official.

SAFETY ISSUES: Distribution of materials of any kind constitutes a safety hazard and will not be tolerated. Throwing of candy presents an opportunity for children to run into the parade route and be struck by a vehicle. VIOLATORS WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURIES TO PARADE SPECTATORS RESULTING FROM SUCH ACTIONS. In addition, parade spectators on the sidewalks often discard such materials. This presents additional work for the Baltimore City Sanitation Department, and these costs are passed on to the Parade. VIOLATORS WILL BE BILLED FOR THESE EXPENSES.

ARCHBISHOP’S RESIDENCE AND REVIEWING STAND:

When passing the Archbishop’s Residence at Charles and Mulberry Streets, units will render a salute (eyes right) to the Archbishop of Baltimore and/or the Archbishop’s representative(s) and/or guests(s), should any or all of them be reviewing the Parade. Likewise, units will render a salute (eyes right) to the Parade Grand Marshal when passing the official Reviewing Stand. The official Reviewing Stand this year is located on McKeldin Plaza, on the South side of the 100 block of East Pratt Street, directly across from the 100 East Pratt Street (IBM/T. Rowe Price) Building, and East of Light Street.

BANDS AND UNITS AWARDS: In the event that the Parade Committee decides to confer any awards, winners will be notified on or before March 31. Awards will be mailed to the winners.