

Lawrence St. Patrick's Day Parade

Rules and Guidelines, Q + A

[Parade website](#)

[Lawrence Arts Center event page](#)

The rules for the parades are:

- 1) Be safe.
- 2) Have fun.
- 3) Stay with the group.
- 4) Each kid has an adult with them the whole time.

That's it! But we do take those these pretty seriously.

The safety and wellbeing of our dancers is the number one thing on our list. **That is why we ask that one parent walk/ride with us in the parade**, why we pair up our youngest dancers with a "big buddy", why we encourage everyone to pack snacks and water, why we monitor throughout the parade for anyone who might not be feeling well. If Steve Enright has specific instructions regarding the float, that is usually for your safety.

Parades are not a serious matter. They are meant to be fun! We're there to celebrate Irish heritage and promote our program, but the best part is always connecting with friends and seeing the smiles on everyone's faces, both in our unit and along the side of the street.

Parades can, at times, feel overwhelming, loud and chaotic. Whether it's a struggle to get out the door or finding parking or the busyness of the crowd that knocks us off balance a little, please respond with kindness and grace. If something is not going right, please bring it to the attention of one of the teachers. It is hard to find solutions to problems we don't know exist and there is a fine balance between venting to a fellow dancer or parent and starting gossip.

Tips for maintaining the parade rules:

- Allow for extra time
- Communicate delays or issues
- Fuel your bodies (food, water and sleep before parades)
- Wear appropriate clothing for the weather
- Treat others with respect
- Strategic parking. Families could use buddy systems, one parking at the top of the parade and another parking at the end.

While we can't control happiness, if you see something that isn't safe or something that is creating a situation that isn't fun anymore, please let us know. We know that every moment can't be perfect but would like the overall experience of the parade to be enjoyable for all!

Q: Ms. Annie said what our entry # is, but what am I looking for?

A: something generally like this: Black truck playing Irish music, dancers in their LAC Tee shirts!

We try to be in place at least 30 minutes earlier than the appointed arrival time, so unless you're super early, you should be able to find us.



Q: We're going to be there a while. Can I bring my own snacks/drinks?

A: YES, please do – just bring them in disposable containers & be sure they make it into a trash can. If you need to bring reusable containers, please be ready to keep those with you. **Keep in mind that you carry with you what you bring.**

Q: The weather sounds kind of hot/cold/rainy/snowy . . .

A: YEP! Welcome to the Midwest! We've paraded in all these kinds of weather. Dress to the weather expected while we wait, but focus on layers that you can remove if it warms up/dries out or that your dancers can remove before it's time to roll. If possible, bring a bag to put those layers in as you remove them! **You'll warm up dancing along the route, so my advice would be that for the dancers, less is more during the actual parades.**

I have a few items I've collected over the years that have proven helpful. These are not required but have worked nicely for me:

1. Vessi brand has waterproof sneakers that are great for dancing in. They also have waterproof beanies and gloves. I bought my sneakers second hand off the Postmark app.
2. Waterproof fleece lined leggings. Adult size only, unfortunately.

Q: Where is the start and end on the parade?

A: line up on Mass street near South park, end in N Lawrence and take the shuttle back to the start, or strategically park your car near the end. Shuttles typically run from the beginning to the end end, and vice versa, several hours from the start of the parade and after. See website linked in the top of the document for more details.

Q: How do we communicate day of?

A: Communications will be issued via Remind App

Q: Do I have to carry my stuff/dancers stuff

A: Everything you have with you, you must carry (dancers, have a marcher carry). We will have access to a room at LAC to store anything you need!

Q: Can I leave the parade mid-route

A: Yes, with advance notice. Dancers should stay to the end of the parade.

Q: Do I need to sign out my dancer at the end of the parade?

A: No, because parents are with the kids the whole time, parents are in charge!

But what do I wear?!?

Walkers wear the parade shirt with no other requirement. For the dancers, we match a little bit more:



- Hair clip. Hat for cold weather
- Parade shirt, long sleeves (turtleneck is best) + gloves for cold weather
- Skirt or black pants, leggings for cold weather.
- Poodle socks or black socks (gentlemen)
- Sneakers you can dance in