

Mystic Irish Parade Coordinator
Mystic Irish Parade Foundation
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January 10th , 2026,

Dear Parade Applicant

The Mystic Irish Parade Foundation is SO excited to invite you to apply to our 2026 parade that will step off at 1 pm on Sunday, March 22nd.

The MIPF is a dedicated foundation that depends solely on sponsorship and financial support to operate. To meet our financial requirements for 2026, we will review all appearance fee requests on a case-by-case basis. Please understand that this is out of necessity if we are to continue to operate the parade. We will understand if this means that you cannot participate this year. **PLEASE ENSURE YOU DENOTE YOUR REQUESTED APPEARANCE FEE WHEN APPLYING.**

The MIPF will discuss all paid organization entries and decide who will be accepted. We encourage you to return your application promptly. However, this does not guarantee you a spot. The MIPF retains the right to accept or deny any paid entity. All paid groups will be notified by email if they will be included in the 2026 parade by 3/7/26.

All other groups will be notified by 2/28/26 of their acceptance.

Please note, we have made an update to our nonprofit organization's acceptance. All first responders and nonprofit groups that are community organizations will not be charged a fee to enter the parade. All other nonprofit organizations will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The MIPF is a charitable organization and will do its best to help secure a spot for any worthy charity. All charitable organizations must have 503c status and must have a clear history as a charitable organization. We apologize for this addition, but unfortunately, it is a sign of the times we operate in.

As in previous years, all applications **will be accepted via our online registration form only.** The application is available at www.mysticirishparade.org. Please note that completing the online application does not guarantee acceptance into the 2026 parade. Approval will be confirmed closer to the parade date.

Also, we ask each of you to please read our updated rules and regulations that may be found on our website. We ask that you read and follow the updated 2026 *rules and regulations* in their entirety. This will ensure a safe and successful 2026 Mystic Irish Parade. If you can't abide by these rules, we ask that you not apply.

Please note that due to additional time constraints, the deadline for all applications is March 1st, 2026. We appreciate your attention to this deadline and thank you in advance for your diligence in this matter. The parade has become extremely busy, and we have a capacity limit. We have reached capacity much earlier than the application deadline in the

last few years. We will close registration once capacity is reached. **Please sign up early to ensure no disappointments.**

All questions and additional information can be fielded to the parade director at paradedirector@mysticirishparade.org . The parade director will do his best to return all questions promptly.

I appreciate your interest in the 2026 Mystic Irish Parade, and we look forward to accommodating you this year.

Yours truly,

Mystic Irish Parade Foundation

To address the growth of the parade we will make several changes to the parking lot.

1. **Oversized Vehicles:** All oversized vehicles with the *exception* of our host fire department, will be **required** to be in the parking lot by 10 am. We will open the parking lot one hour earlier to accommodate designated oversize vehicles **ONLY**. If you are not able to comply with this request, then please do not complete an application for this year. There will be MIPF staff on-site beginning at 8.45am. **THE PARKING LOT FOR OVERSIZED VEHICLES ONLY WILL OPEN PROMPTLY AT 9 am**
2. **Oversized Vehicles:** The parade will strictly adhere to the following height and width restrictions. Vehicles can be no wider than 10ft and no taller than 12ft (Size of an average fire truck). It is the sole responsibility of the participant to meet these specific requirements. The MIPF reserves the right not to allow entry to a float/vehicle that they feel will break the above-noted restrictions.
3. **Parking spaces:** As you are all aware, parking spaces are of a premium. This year we will be unable to accommodate individual parking. We ask that you address this by carpooling. We understand the challenges this may pose, but ask that you also appreciate the sheer volume of traffic we will face on that day.
4. **Youth Groups:** All youth groups will again park at ROSSIE FIELD and will then walk down to the muster area as a group. Each youth group will be allowed two support vehicles into the muster lot. Please note that we will not allow parents to park in the muster lot unless they receive one of the designated parking spots.
5. **Buses:** As in previous years there will be no bus parking space available in the muster lot. Buses will be allowed into the drop-off and then must leave immediately.
6. **Lot and Road Closure:** The parking lot and surrounding roads will close PROMPTLY at 12.15pm. No vehicle admittance will be allowed after this time. This will ensure a timely step off time. The Stonington Police Dept will be strictly enforcing these time frames.

7. **Candy and Giveaways:** Under no circumstances should anything be thrown from a vehicle or from parade participants. This is a huge safety risk for parade participants as well as parade spectators.
8. **Alcohol:** As in previous years, alcohol consumption in the muster parking lot and along the parade route IS strictly forbidden. The Police of Stonington and Groton will be strictly monitoring and enforcing this policy. Please help us to continue our great family-centered experience.
9. **Stopping along the route:** Please note that stopping to perform along the route is not permitted. We had several issues last year, where long delays caused confusion for spectators. Please ensure that all of your routines or performances can be executed whilst marching. We will have parade marshals throughout the route this year who will ensure that there are no delays.