

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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www.StPatsParade.org



Image: ICSC, Kansas Rose

44th Annual San Diego St. Patrick's Day Parade and Irish Festival Saturday, March 14

SAN DIEGO, CA – The San Diego St. Patrick's Day Parade and Irish Festival will be held on Saturday, March 14th, 2026, with activities and festivities from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Sixth and Laurel in Balboa Park. Rain or shine!

This year's parade theme, "Here, There, Irish Culture Everywhere" celebrates the global presence and timeless joy of Irish culture — from the green hills of Ireland to the sunny streets of San Diego and beyond. Whether you're Irish by blood or simply Irish at heart, you're invited to experience the music, dance, and stories that connect us all.

"I chose this theme with future generations in mind — especially my son and all young people who will carry our traditions forward," said 2026 parade and festival chair Ali Haefner. "By showing that Irish culture is thriving here, there, and everywhere, we remind the next generation that they are part of something enduring and beautiful — and that they have a role in keeping it alive. Let's come together to honor our roots, make memories, and share the joy of Irish culture — here, there, and everywhere!"

Volunteers are welcome to join the planning stages every Tuesday through March 10 at McGregor's Bar and Grill, 10475 San Diego Mission Rd, from 7 – 8 pm.

The Parade begins at 10:30 a.m. at 5th and Laurel with nearly 100 entries including marching bands, military, fire fighters, law enforcement, Irish community groups and businesses, volunteer organizations, and more.

The festival will run along 6th Ave from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The festival will host a variety of vendors, food, and information booths to shop and engage with. The festival area will also feature food, information booths and vendors, and be an exciting place to meet friends and show your green. Festival entry fee

for adults 21 and over is \$10; under 21 and active duty military with I.D. will get in free. Tickets will be available soon.

Full entertainment line-ups of Irish music and dance will be available on two festival stages beginning after the parade.

The Irish Congress of Southern California (ICSC) was formed in 1981 to organize the parade and festival to promote appreciation and knowledge of Irish culture and heritage. Over its 40 plus year history, it has honored and celebrated partnerships with first responders, veterans and military, law enforcement, Indigenous Americans, and a variety of organizations which make up the wonderfully diverse community in the San Diego region.

The ICSC, presenting sponsor Guinness, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, and our supporters bid you “cead mile failte” (kayd mee-la fall-chya) – a hundred thousand welcomes.

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- For interviews or news spots, contact John Hyatt.
- Media attending the event: park in designated area on Juniper Street between 5th and 6th Avenues.
- For more information about the parade, please visit www.stpatsparade.org and Facebook & Instagram: @stpatsparadesd.
- Additional photos are available upon request or on our website.