

NORTH TEXAS IRISH FESTIVAL

Media Contacts:

Suzanne Gentry Flodin, 214-500-4289

Rachel Hedstrom, 972-365-7741

How to be a Kid at the North Texas Irish Festival

Plenty for the pint-sized to do, be they humans or leprechauns

DALLAS, Texas – The North Texas Irish Festival sponsored by Sprint and presented by the Southwest Celtic Music Association brings the food, music and family-friendly fun to Fair Park March 2-4, 2018. While the festival is big fun for people of all ages, it's particularly fun for wee little ones, as well! The North Texas Irish Festival celebrates the amazing music, dance, and cultural talent in the beautiful, rich tradition of Irish and other Celtic influences.

Children 11 and under FREE when accompanied by adult family member! Whether you are a leprechaun – or simply a wee little urchin, here are activities not to miss at this year's North Texas Irish Festival – all are included and are complimentary for kids:

Music stage just for kids, found in Urchin Street (an area just for kids!), features a wonderful line-up of kid-friendly music and even music by kids! Performers will include Reel Treble, Traidisiun, and Sarah Copus, Linda King & Michael Harrison, Michael Price, and Heirloom.

Arts and crafts for busy little hands, including making wishing stars, dragons and coloring pages, and even a large chalk drawing area just for kids. All are indoors, too!

Visiting the animal rescue area (to perhaps even find a new best friend!). The North Texas Irish Festival has a long history as one of the largest animal-rescue events in DFW, and more families meet their new additions here than most other events. And it's not just dogs – it's also cats, bunnies, and more. (Note: animal rescue fees are modest but are not included with admission to festival.)

Enjoying a good story on the story-telling stage, listening to the professionals tell a story unlike anything you have ever heard before. Storytellers include: Gary Whitaker, Jane McDaniel, Catherine Koehler, John Burleson, and Willow and Her Giant. (A giant? Yes, of course!)

Making your own pet rock in the arts and crafts area in Urchin Street is back by popular demand. Kids decorate their very own rock with sharpies and markers, and other signature decorations like googly eyes that make this rock their very own to keep and love.

Watch border collies herd sheep in a fantastic display of handler skills with E.B. Raley, an expert sheepherder, who runs the sheep along with his dogs while his granddaughter, Sheryl Long, explains the art of sheepherding to the crowd gathered to watch.

Attend a dance party – or “Ceili” (also known as a dance party!) on Saturday night to kick your heels up. **Enjoy step dancing** on the dance stage all weekend in the Tower Building as people from small children to adults perform Irish step dancing in the most beautiful costumes you have ever seen!

What: **36th Annual North Texas Irish Festival sponsored by Sprint and presented by the Southwest Celtic Music Association**

When: Friday, March 2 – Sunday, March 4, 2018
Hours are Friday: 6 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Where: Fair Park, Dallas, TX

Tickets: Tickets are available online at www.NTIF.org and at DFW-area Tom Thumb stores

Friday night: FREE from 6 to 7 p.m.; \$10 after

Saturday and Sunday: At the gate, a one-day ticket is \$20 on Saturday and \$15 on Sunday, two-day ticket is \$25, and weekend pass is \$30. Discount tickets can be purchased at area Tom Thumb and Albertsons stores in February.

Children 11 and under FREE when accompanied by adult family member.

Tickets for seniors over 65 or current military members (with valid military ID) receive \$5 off.

Dogs are allowed in on a short leash and a \$1 donation is requested, which will be given to animal rescue groups supported by the festival.

Leprechauns (in full ceremonial dress and carrying a pot of gold) are FREE.

Phone: Public Information: (972) 943-4616

Website: www.NTIF.org

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