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## Rain couldn't dampen St. Patrick's Parade spirit

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Huddled together holding hands and wearing hats that said Irish Princesses, Ali Berry, Olivia Gargett and her sister Marin stood on Michigan Avenue pointing as floats, marching bands and bagpipers paraded by.

The girls, along with friend Sham Janbi, were disappointed that new parade rules no longer allowed people to toss candy and beads at the crowd, but still had fun at the 52nd annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Detroit, despite the chilly and rainy [weather](#).

"It's their favorite part," said Sharon Mazurek of Chesterfield Township, the girls' grandmother. "But I can see the danger if someone throws too hard or the danger of them running into the street and getting hurt."

The event's host, the United Irish Societies of metro Detroit, imposed the rule to keep people from being hit with flying candy or beads, as well as to prevent [children](#) from running into the street.

Despite that, thousands lined Michigan Avenue along the parade route, which began at Sixth and spanned to the Gaelic League near 14th Street. Among the parade sights: the Detroit Police Mounted Division, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, Attorney General Mike Cox, [high school](#) marching bands, bagpipers and floats sporting streamers, shamrocks and top hats. Last year, organizers said 100,000 attended. This year's attendance was not available this evening.

Face-painted shamrocks, green hair, green shirts and beads galore were ways many parade-goers decided to show their Irish pride.

"I like seeing the men in the skirts," said 10-year-old Aidan Jordan of Troy, referring to the many kilt-wearing bagpipers in the parade.

Aidan's older sister, Carol Jordan, 16, of Troy, and her friends Mia Thomas, 17, of Sterling Heights and Leah Cottle, 16, of Birmingham all donned green wigs, green-and-white striped knee socks and matching green Converse shoes. "Each year we have a new outfit," Carol said. "I've been waiting all week for this."

Six-year-old Holden Norris braved the cold, rain and wind at the parade with his aunt Molly Helton in hopes of collecting beads and lots of candy. "It's my favorite part when they throw the candy," said Holden, who lives in the Corktown [neighborhood](#), which hosts the parade.

"That's a big part of the fun of coming down here," said his aunt, who lives in Wyandotte. "I've never seen any injuries caused by them tossing candy or beads to the crowd."

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