

2026 LITTLE MISS SHAMROCK AND IRISH LASS INFO

This program is designed to introduce young women of Irish descent ages 6 through 12 years old (Shamrock) and 13-17 years old (Irish Lass) and their families to the Arizona Colleen Program and to the Arizona Irish Community. Two girls will be named the 2026 *Little Miss Shamrock* and two will be named the 2026 *Irish Lass* to represent the community for the year. They represent the Irish community in area events and will debut on stage during the Selection night for the *2026 Arizona Colleen* on February 21, 2026.

SUNDAY, January 25, 2026

2 PM

**Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library
1106 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ**

Please dress “Sunday best” for the selection, whatever that means stylistically to you. **No jeans or flip flops.** Natural hair-do’s and make-up. Contestants will be presented on stage before the judges individually with an opportunity for each to make an introduction, and then for each to interact with the judges’ panel in a comfortable setting. Talent can be expressed in a variety of ways.

**APPLICATION DOCUMENTS, QUESTIONNAIRE, and ESSAY DEADLINE IS:
January 23, 2026** (submitted via the online application below)

[Little Miss Shamrock Application Here](#)

[Irish Lass Application Here](#)

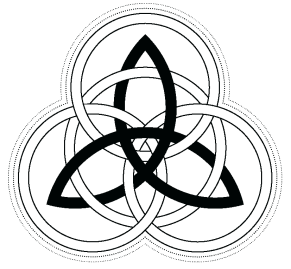
Nonrefundable application fee is \$40 per child

JUDGING CRITERIA

1. Ability to meet new people and introduce herself on stage
2. Ability to share about her family and being Irish
3. Her overall well-roundedness in life – school, family, extracurricular, etc.
4. Poise and manners
5. Talent (1 minute maximum performance/presentation for Shamrocks and 2 minutes for Lasses) can include a PowerPoint about athletics, awards, community service, theatre roles, artwork and/or photography, etc. Ask for help with creative ideas. Please inform of talent and specific needs ASAP.

ON-STAGE INTRODUCTION

Prepare a 30 second introduction with your name, age, grade and school, city where you live, and include something interesting about you like what you like to do, or something interesting about your favorite place to go or visit.



ON-STAGE INTERVIEW

The questions are designed to get to know you better. There will NOT be any trick questions or anything to embarrass you. Many questions will be about your Questionnaire. For example, why is it your favorite book? Tell us why you like to...

There will be at least one question about your being Irish. You can share something about family members/ancestors, or you can tell about Irish traditions or special memories with your family here.

How much Irish descent does not matter; it's how proud you are of whatever amount of Irish you are. In other words, someone who is 50% Irish does not have an advantage over someone who is 10%.

TALENT

Talent can be singing, dancing, playing an instrument, reciting a poem, telling a story or acting, demonstrating Tae Kwon Do, etc. For those with visual arts, you can bring a large enough example to be seen from the audience to share about and possibly one smaller portfolio of examples for the judges' table. If you enjoy baking or cooking and it's easy to serve a small portion for the judges, you can bring that and share about it on stage. If you are athletic, you can bring an award or a piece of equipment and share about it on stage (not necessarily demonstrating but rather talking/explaining about it).

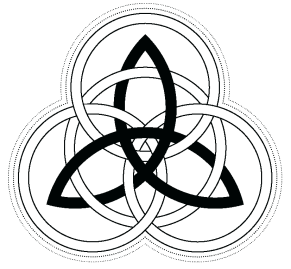
Remember we have the screen, projector and computer for those that would like to play any multimedia components with a CD or DVD. At least one minute must be "live" on stage (e.g., this requirement can include narrating a PowerPoint).

It needs to be a MAXIMUM 1 minute presentation (Shamrock) and MAXIMUM 2 minutes (Lass). You can have a CD accompanist or sing a cappella. Let us know in advance if you have special requests. Do ask if you need some creative ideas. You can present more than one talent in the time allowed.

POISE AND MANNERS

Remember to be on your best behavior to your family, friends, and everyone at the event from the moment you arrive at the Irish Cultural Center.

Try to not be fidgety waiting for your turn while on stage. Be considerate of each entrant. Please remain inside and watch the other girls as they did for you.



SHAMROCK SCORING

The following weights are placed on the phases of competition:

Questionnaire	15%
On-Stage Speaking (Introduction)	20%
On-Stage Interview with Judges	35%
Poise and manners	25%
Talent	<u>5%</u>
Total	100%

LASS SCORING

The following weights are placed on the phases of competition:

Questionnaire	15%
Written Essay	15%
On-Stage Speaking (Introduction)	15%
On-Stage Interview with Judges	30%
Poise and manners	20%
Talent	<u>5%</u>
Total	100%

LASS ESSAY

Please answer **all three** questions on the applications using 100-600 words. Scoring is based on how well you address the prompt, grammar, and creativity. You can go back and edit your essay if signed in with a Gmail account.

Questions? Email azcolleen@azirish.org