
Ashdown House: St. Patrick's Festival

March 17, 2010, 7pm-9pm

Total Event Budget: \$2250.00

Estimated Attendance: 250

Amount requesting from ARCADE: \$1500.00

This March, Ashdown House would like to lead a St. Patrick's Day celebration for the entire MIT community: St. Patrick's Festival. The idea is for the event to be not a dance party, but a cultural festival and social gathering for MIT students. This event is to take place early in the evening on St. Patrick's Day, 7-9pm, so as not to interfere with students' plans to celebrate later in the evening. We hope this festival will serve as a gathering point for the MIT community, with attendees coming and going, taking in the music, food, and activities to celebrate Irish heritage and the traditions of St. Patrick's Day.

We will plan a variety of ongoing and one-off activities to engage event attendees. There will be traditional Irish music playing throughout the event to set the mood. Near the event midpoint, we will pause the event to give a short, entertaining presentation on the history and traditions of both Ireland and St. Patrick's Day, culminating in a musical group performance. (There will also be pamphlets/cards around the room on these topics.) Playing off of Ashdown's annual pumpkin carving event in October, we will have a potato carving competition, where attendees can receive their very own potato to carve into a prized sculpture (and then eat when they get home!). We will also have a "pot-o-gold" counting competition: a large pot full of chocolate gold coins, with the person coming the closest to the actual count winning the pot.

For food, we plan to prepare a selection of traditional Irish cuisine and snacks, most of which involve potatoes. We will hopefully buy the ingredients and make the dishes ourselves; current dish ideas include boxty, Irish stew, bangers & mash, and bacon & cabbage. The plan is to offer food in a format similar to our Sunday morning brunches, with attendees making a plate of food when they arrive, and new food being made available on a staggered basis (so people who come late still have something to eat). There will be a cash bar set up through the Thirsty Ear Pub, though there will be plenty of non-alcoholic drinks available. We anticipate a fair amount of interaction with the Thirsty Ear on this event.

The attached budget takes into account expected costs for entertainment, publicity, food, and other expenses, based on both past parties and our event priorities. As always, the St. Patrick's Festival is open to, and intended to appeal to, the entire MIT graduate community. Admission is free, and our publicity will be campus-wide. Given slightly lower turnouts at our most recent "large events," we would like to ramp up our publicity a bit for this event. To do so without increasing costs, we hope to aggressively advertise electronically, through the MIT Events Calendar, Ashdown's website, and working with residence IT/publicity officers. Thank you for your support of Ashdown's events, and we welcome any feedback.

St. Patrick's Festival: Estimated Budget

Category	Cost	Description
Entertainment		
Potatoes x100	50.00	For potato-carving competition
Jar of Candy Coins	50.00	For "pot-o-gold" competition
Musical Performance	250.00	Performance of Irish music by local group/DJ
	350.00	Entertainment Subtotal
Advertising/Publicity		
Standard Size Posters x200	200.00	Color, 11" x 17"; for dorms and campus posting
	200.00	Advertising/Publicity Subtotal
Equipment		
Zipcar Rental	100.00	Transportation of food and supplies
	100.00	Equipment Subtotal
Security		
Police Detail	150.00	Two hours (7pm-9pm)
Wristbands	100.00	For event attendees
	250.00	Security Subtotal
Food/Beverages		
Alcohol License	50.00	CLC
Thirsty Ear Bartenders	200.00	Thirsty Ear; 3 bartenders for 3 hours
Irish Food	500.00	Ingredients for following tentative list of dishes: Boxy (browned potatoes) Irish stew (beef, potatoes, carrots) Bangers and mash (sausage, potatoes) Bacon and cabbage
Assorted Snacks and Desserts	100.00	Hopefully fitting with an Irish theme or green theme
Drinks/Soda	75.00	Lemonade, juice, soda, etc.
Paper/Plastic Supplies	75.00	Plates, cups, cutlery, napkins, etc.
	1000.00	Food/Beverages Subtotal
Decoration		
Hanging Décor and Other Decorations	150.00	Decorate Hulsizer Room in green!
Party Favors	150.00	Party favors (hats, glow sticks, green buttons, etc.)
Party Balloons	50.00	2 bags
	350.00	Decoration Subtotal
Total Expenditures		2250.00
Ashdown House Input		750.00
ARCADE Funding Request		1500.00
Total Funding		2250.00