



KANSAS CITY IRISH FESTIVAL KID'S CLUB

They call themselves "FESTIES", that means Festival BESTIES as Kenealy (one of our former kids) will tell you. This amazing and talented group of young people, and then young teens and finally young adults start as young grade school children helping with Irish Fest, they meet the other Festies and form a bond that is so strong, that though they may not see each other for several months or weeks at a time; when they do, they never miss a beat, it is like they haven't seen each other for a day.

In 2006, the Kansas City Irish Fest Kid's Club was born. The kids come from all over and while they seem to have nothing in common, don't live anywhere near each other, don't attend the same schools, aren't the same ages, they form a bond that will be with them forever and a bond to the Festival.

We proudly call this group the Kansas City Irish Fest Kid's Club. The kids of the club are the most highly motivated, highly intelligent group of young people I have ever had the privilege of working with. Each one of them is successful as an artist, an athlete, a dancer, a scholar but most importantly as wonderfully caring individuals. Each one of them has a reason for delving into their Irish past to learn their roots, their beginnings, their histories and the choices their families made in coming to the US long ago. These kids love their Irish roots, learning Ireland today and falling in love with the music while sharing their time and talent with others to enjoy the Irish Festival and literally run the Children's Area at the Fest.

And lucky me, I am the privileged individual that gets to know and work with these young people.

Collectively, they have enough tenure and knowledge of various aspects of the Children's Area to run most of it and they always have strong opinions about making it better and more fun. They are the future of the Kansas City Irish Festival. They join the club as young as four and while their contributions may be as simple as an agreement on a theme or what the Wacklaylees should look like, they get to make the decisions every year about the Children's area. As they grow, so do their opinions and decisions. Every year, they critique the Children's area for problems and successes; research, submit reports with ideas or changes for the area and many of them spend many hours not only planning, but then leading activities during Irish Festival.

I am proud to attribute the 2018 Children's Area to this enormously talented team. Irish Fest will be a blast this year for our young guests.

Shawn Sullivan-Warner

Director- Children's Area



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OUR MISSION:

The Kansas City Irish Festival Kid's Club is a youth leadership nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering and educating children ages 5 to 18 to become leaders and to develop their natural leadership abilities for service with the Kansas City Irish Festival and the greater Kansas City Community for the education of Irish Heritage and Culture.

BECOME A NEW MEMBER:

- If you are 10 and under, you must:
- Fill out the Member Application
- Have your parents sign and agree with the application
- Have attended at least one Irish Fest and document the experience (write a short description)
- If you are 11 and older, you must:
- Get a recommendation from an Irish Fest Committee Member who you worked for at an Irish

FEST:

- Fill out the Member Application
- Have your parents sign and agree with the application.
- Write a short description about your Irish Fest volunteer experience