

# General Instructions for Mardi Gras Parade Entries

- 1. Parade Day is the Saturday before Mardi Gras.** Check-in time for all entries is 12:30 pm, and the parade rolls at 2:00 pm sharp. The staging area is in the city employee parking lot just west of Loafin Joes on Mountain St. (211 W. Mountain). The parade route will run east on Mountain St. to East Ave. north on East Ave. to Center St., west on Center to Block St., north on Block to Dickson St., west on Dickson to West Ave. The parade will disband at the corner of West and Dickson. If you need to break down your float, you may return to the staging area lot. However, on the way there, please obey all traffic laws, and do not continue to throw beads, candy, etc.
- 2. Check-in time** for all entries is 12:30 pm. Upon arrival, you will be directed where to park. **Once you are parked, a member of your group MUST report to the registration table (at the entrance) to check in.** If you have not pre-registered, you will need to complete a registration form, and all entries must sign a hold-harmless agreement. Registration information required is: Contact person's name, address, and phone, plus the vehicle registration, driver's license #, insurance company contact, and a cell number available during the parade. Bring a fully-charged cell phone.
- 3. Maximum Float Dimensions:** Height 12', Width 8'
- 4. Throws** are required of each non-driving entry. Drivers, cyclists, and performance groups are exempt. Beads, trinkets, and candy are acceptable: NO pamphlets, paper or plastic products, no cups, and nothing heavy enough to injure someone when thrown. ***Additionally: we must stress that persons throwing items should make every effort to get these items as far from the entry as possible. We need to keep beads in the hands of the spectators, not lying in the parade route to tempt children into harm's way.***
- 5. Walkers** must be 16 years of age or older! (Walking groups with younger children, accompanied by adults, are fine, but their safety is your responsibility). **You MUST provide your own walkers for your motorized entries!!** It is not the duty of the parade organizers to supply walkers for you. Entries without sufficient walkers will NOT be allowed to roll with the parade.
  - Float: 4 walkers required
  - All autos: 2 walkers required (including vehicles towing floats).

*All walkers MUST stay with vehicles when parade is rolling! Volunteers will provide a short training session for walkers at the staging area. **Please see that your walkers attend, and take their duties seriously.***
- 6. Fees** will be paid in full at or before time of check-in. Please see our website for a breakdown of any fees required.
- 7. Content:** Any entry determined by the Committee to be in any way inappropriate will be removed from the parade without argument, or altered to suit by parade time. No religious, defamatory, or adult-oriented content will be accepted. Political candidates running for office can enter the parade as an advertiser or sponsor, as long as there are no political agendas or platforms emphasized, and that they follow all parade guidelines. All decisions made by the Committee will be FINAL. If in doubt, check ahead of time. This is a family parade, and intended to be fun, with children of all ages in attendance, as well as persons of all races, creeds, and cultures. It is expressly NOT our intent to offend.
- 8. All motorized vehicles** must be road-worthy and have current liability insurance.
- 9. All drivers** must have a valid driver's license.
- 10. DUI** is, as always, illegal. The police will be on hand to enforce the law.
- 11. No open containers.** See #10.

Contact: 479-601-4219

Police Dispatch: 587-3555, then option 1

*All participants are invited to join us for social time following the parade. Ask at the registration table for details.*