



# Mardi Gras Huntsville

## Parade & Membership Information

### 2023 Rules & Regulations

Thank you for your interest & participation in the **2023 Mardi Gras Huntsville Grand Parade!** Mardi Gras Huntsville was established as a fundraiser to help raise awareness & funds for a local non-profit. Funds raised in **2020** will help support Huntsville, Alabama's - Hospital Hospitality House, *Blount Hospitality House*. Blount House, houses families who have a loved one receiving care from one of the many medical facilities in our town. Thank you for your support!

**2023 Parade Categories:** Non-Profit, Walking Krewe, Float Entry, Business Signage Entry, Corporate Entry

### **Krewe Name Registration & Parade Fee:**

**All Krewe names must be registered by the Krewe Captain. Krewe names are granted on a first come first serve basis.**

Non-Profit: \$125/\$250 (small non-profits, budgets under \$100K) \$250 above \$100K budget

Walking Krewe: \$325

Float: \$325

Business Signage Entry: \$400

Corporate Entry: \$500

### **Krewe Member Parade Registration:**

**KREWE MEMBERS MUST HAVE A **2023** PARADE REGISTRATION FORM ON FILE WITH MARDI GRAS HUNTSVILLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PARADE!!!**

### **Parade Entry Types & Definitions:**

**Non Profit Krewe (\$125-\$250)** – All Non-Profit Krewes must submit a Tax ID letter from the State, which includes their Tax ID number. To register a Non-Profit, the fee is \$250. For budgets under \$100K, registration is \$125.

**Note:** If your non-profit is being sponsored by a business, you no longer fall into the non-profit category, rather the Business Signage or Corporate Entry. Absolutely no "Business Sponsors" are to be advertised, outside of a Business Signage or Corporate Entry.

**Walking Krewe (\$325)** – A "WALKING KREWE" is a group that marches in the parade. One small support vehicle (golf cart) is allowed to accompany a walking Krewe. **Business logos are prohibited on the support vehicle.**

**Float (\$325)** – A "FLOAT" is a decorated motorized vehicle usually pulling a trailer. **Business names and logos are prohibited on the tow vehicle and the trailer.** Krewes with a float must keep a safe number of members on the float. For safety purposes, CHILDREN under the age of 13 should ride on the float itself, (RIDERS MAY NOT THROW BEADS unless they are in the "THROW ZONE"). It is suggested to have wheel walkers to accompany the float and tow vehicle. .

**Business Signage Entry (\$400)** - A "BUSINESS SIGNAGE ENTRY"\* is a krewe that is sponsored, funded or supported by one or more businesses. **Business names and logos are prohibited on the trailer.** This entry level permits the krewe to carry a banner supplied by the business to display the business name. Logos and signs **are permitted on the tow vehicle** and may be up to 36" x 36" - limit of two (one per side).

**Corporate Entry (\$500)** - A "CORPORATE ENTRY"\* is an entry that is allowed to display business

name(s) and logo(s) on both the tow vehicle and theme related float. This entry level permits full display of logos, names, and other display advertising during the parade. Because of the unique nature of each entry, specific details will be discussed and finalized on an individual basis.

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**OTHER**

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**School Krewe (FREE):** Can be any group of students, (18 & under), from a public or private school, including, but not limited to Marching Bands, Theater Groups, Teams, or Clubs & is FREE to register. This group does NOT include outside school groups such as Boy Scout or Girl Scout Troops, or any other outside Service Club – these groups of minors should register as a Non-Profit SCHOOL GROUP – and are exempt from submitting a Tax ID letter & number, all other Non Profit rules apply, including tow vehicle & trailer rules.

**Car Club Krewe (\$125/\$65 for one car):** Car Clubs are welcome in the Mardi Gras Parade, but MUST be decorate just as other motorized vehicles/trailers that are in the parade. The purpose for Car Clubs in the Mardi Gras Parade is to give the public an idea of the types of cars you show in your club. Therefore, Car Clubs are limited to 2 cars per club. Car Clubs may have unlimited walkers in their group.

**Horse Riding Clubs & Horse Drawn Carriages (\$250):** Riding Clubs & Horse Drawn Carriages fall under the Non-Profit Krewe Membership Fee of \$250. Riding Clubs MUST provide street cleanup for all animals. \*\*This is a LOUD parade, please have confidence that your horse is comfortable with loud noise at lots of people.

These Krewes must provide street clean-up for their animal.

## **2023 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:**

**1) Completed Krewe Name Registration & Parade Fees** — Application to be completed by Krewe Captain. This form will be reviewed and approved by Mardi Gras Huntsville.

**2) Krewe Member Registration** — Application to be completed by the Krewe members - one application per Krewe member, including minors (to be completed & signed by parent).

NOTE: Each Krewe should have at least one member in the Facebook page, "Mardi Gras Huntsville, Parade Participants Only" page. This is where we will communicate all information, including parade line up.

**3) Krewe Captain & Float Driver**

We want this to be a fun & organized event for all involved! The Huntsville Mardi Gras Committee will hold 1 orientation/safety meeting. A representative from your Krewe & Float Driver must attend this meeting. Other members of your Krewe are encouraged to attend. At this meeting, you will receive information on, route, rules, and answer any other questions you may have. Parade line up will be posted on the FB page for Parade Participants on Thursday, before the parade. This year, the meeting will be held on **Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 10:30 at Melt, Downtown Huntsville.**

**4) REQUIRED CAPTAIN MEETING & Float Drive Requirements (MUST ATTEND or your Krewe will not be allowed to participate in the parade)**

- The Krewe Captain must inform The Huntsville Mardi Gras Committee the name of their driver
- All Drivers & Captains (a representative) must be registered as such with The Huntsville Mardi Gras Committee and have attended an orientation meeting
- Absolutely NO alcoholic beverages are to be consumed by the driver on the day of the parade prior to or during the Grand Parade.
- Drivers are to obey all traffic laws, HPD will be assisting with the parade.
- All vehicles used in the parade must be in good working order.

**The Huntsville Mardi Gras Committee will hold 1 orientation/safety meeting. The Driver & Captain (or representative) MUST attend this meeting. They will receive information on, route, rules, and answer any other questions they may have. Parade line up will be posted by Thursday before the parade. Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 11th and at 10:30 AM at Melt in downtown Huntsville.**

**5) Mardi Gras Costumes**

At a minimum, matching tee shirts with appropriate Mardi Gras jewelry & masks. Costumes should reflect the theme of the entry and should loosely be described on the Krewe Name Registration Form. Walking Krewes MUST be in Mardi Gras costume or matching to comply with the parade theme.

**6) Vehicles**

All vehicles must be operable for the entire route. Each vehicle & component, (trailer, flatbed, etc), should be listed on the Krewe Name Registration Form with a description of design and decoration. Each component must have some type of decoration. There is a height limitation of 13 feet 5 inches to safely parade the streets.

Horse Drawn Vehicles: must provide for clean-up and should consider wheel walkers.

**7) Wheel Walkers**

A wheel walker is a person who walks next to the float, (by the wheels), to help prevent the public from trying to get missed beads, climbing on (or off) your float, and who could notify the driver of any problems that could require immediate action for the safety of all involved. The wheel walker is a very important safety measure for the parade. Wheel walkers should not carry or toss beads but should rather sweep the street of miss tossed beads and re-toss to crowd. Wheel walkers are not required this year, but are highly recommended to keep your Krewe members & the public safe.

**8) Parade Day Line-up**

Each Krewe will be assigned a number (hopefully at the pre-parade meeting – but it may be posted the week of on the FB page) and a line-up time. It is very important that you arrive at the assigned time to avoid traffic jams. Line-up times will be an hour and half before the parade start. We will go over all of this at the parade meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 at Melt.

## **IMPORTANT BEAD INFORMATION!!!** **PLEASE SHARE WITH EACH MEMBER OF YOUR KREWE!!!!**

The City of Huntsville does not own the needed barricades to keep the public safe for the entire route. As in year's past, we will have 1 bead throwing area that will be barricaded, (from Commerce Kitchen to Humphry's on Washington Street). At this time, the parade rules are as follows.

\*\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT FOR 2023\*\*\*\*\*

- **ABSOLUTELY NO LIVE OR DEAD ANIMALS, (SUCH AS CRAWFISH) MAY BE TOSSED.**
- **NO PAPER TOSSED** such as confetti, all business cards or marketing materials **MUST BE ATTACHED** to something the public will want, such as beads.

**Failure to comply will result in being pulled from the parade immediately – no refunds will be given. ALL THROWS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE PARADE COMMITTEE & EXAMPLES MAY BE REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL.**

**WARNING: YOU MAY NOT THROW OR TOSS ANY BEADS** except in bead throwing area. Otherwise, beads should be passed, Krewe members should make hand to hand contact. The Huntsville Police Department will pull your entire Krewe from the parade even if they suspect you throwing beads from a moving vehicle, float or walking from the street. Beads **MUST** be handed to the crowd, not tossed or thrown. Failure to comply will result in the **IMMEDIATE** withdrawal by the Huntsville Police Department.

In line of public safety and parade etiquette, it is your Krewe's responsibility to help keep the public safe. Please consider wheel walkers whose job it is to not only keep the public out of the street, but also sweep the street and redistribute beads which may not have made it to the sidewalk. Krewe members passing out beads should walk close to the gutter, to easily pass beads. Please do **NOT** throw/toss beads over the top of your float to the other side of the street. Please do not give HPD any reason to suspect you throwing or tossing beads from the center of the street or over your float.

We are concerned for all participants and spectators safety. **PLEASE** help keep children or adults out of the street – every year around the country, a child or an adult are run over by a floats, which is why wheel walkers are so important. Please help us make this a fun & safe event for everyone!!!

This event happens rain or shine! Unless it is posted on the Facebook page, assume the parade is rolling on!

## **REGISTRATION DEADLINE** **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023**

All applications and Krewe memberships are due by **FRIDAY, February 11, 2023**

For questions or concerns, you may contact Marydae Blank at 256-337-0141

Or by E-mailing [Marydae@aol.com](mailto:Marydae@aol.com)

All 2023 proceeds benefit Blount Hospitality House

Please Visit! [www.blounthospitalityhouse.org](http://www.blounthospitalityhouse.org)

*"Turning Hospital Into Hospitality"*