



Mardi Gras Huntsville

Parade & Membership Information

2017 Rules & Regulations

Thank you for your interest & participation in the 2017 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 2017 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!

2017 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 (small non-profits, budgets under \$100K) \$250 above \$100K budget

Walking Krewe: \$250 (up to 30 individuals, \$25 each additional member)

Float: \$400 (up to 40 individuals, \$25 each additional member)

Business Signage Entry: \$550

Corporate Entry: \$650

Krewe Member Parade Registration:

KREWE MEMBERS MUST HAVE A 2017 PARADE REGISTRATION FORM ON FILE WITH MARDI GRAS HUNTSVILLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PARADE!!!

Each Krewe Member will receive a wristband and MUST wear the wristband at all times while in the parade lot & during 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 up to 30 people. For budgets under \$100K, registration is \$125 – the non-profits most recent 990 is required.

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 (\$250) – A “WALKING KREWE” is a group (limited to 30 people, \$25 each additional person) 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 (\$400) – A “FLOAT” is a decorated motorized vehicle usually pulling a trailer (limited to 40 people). **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, (and unfortunately, due to HPD rules, riders may not throw beads). It is suggested by Mardi Gras Huntsville to have wheel walkers to accompany the float and tow vehicle. Additional krewe members may walk with the float for a fee of \$25 each. Krewes larger than 40 people or one tow vehicle and trailer are subject to higher fees and will be reviewed by the Mardi Gras Huntsville Committee.

Business Signage Entry (\$550) - 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 (\$650) - 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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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 (\$250): 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 will be limited to 2 cars per club. Car Clubs fall under the Walking Krewe Registration & may have up to 30 walkers in their Krewe, (\$25 each additional).

Riding Clubs & Horse Drawn Carriages (\$250/\$500): Riding Clubs fall under the WALKING KREWE Membership Fee of \$250 for up to 30 members, (\$25 each additional person). Riding Clubs MUST provide for street clean up.

Horse Drawn Carriages – IF you are promoting your business, you will fall under the Business Signage Entry of \$650. If you are not promoting a business, and you fall under a FOAT entry (see definitions and regulations). These Krewes must provide for street clean-up.

2017 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 member - one application per Krewe member, including minors (to be completed & signed by parent).

NOTE: Each Krewe will be given a parade packet which will include a parade line up number and that Krewe's Annual membership wristbands & additional wristbands that are purchased. Krewe members MUST have on their wristband at all times while in the parade lot.

3) Krewe Captain & Float Driver

We want this to be a fun & organized event for all involved! The Huntsville Mardi Gras Committee will hold 2 orientation meetings. Your Krewe Captain & Float Driver must attend one of these meetings for your Krewe to participate in the parade. Other members of your Krewe are encouraged to attend. At this meeting, you will receive information on the parade line-up, route, rules, and answer any other questions you may have. These meetings will be held on **Saturday, February 18th, 2017 at 10:30 at The Lumberyard, or on Tuesday, February 21 at 5:15 pm, at The Lumberyard.**

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 must be registered as such with The Huntsville Mardi Gras Committee and have attended an orientation meeting
- Drivers must provide The Huntsville Mardi Gras Committee with a copy of their valid driver's license
- 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, and HPD who will be assisting with the parade. Drivers should stay behind their recommended wheel walkers.
- All vehicles used in the parade must be in good working order.

The Huntsville Mardi Gras Committee will hold 2 orientation meetings. The Driver & Captain MUST attend one of those 2 meetings. They will receive information on the parade line up, route, rules, and answer any other questions they may have. Meetings will be held on Saturday, February 18th at The Lumberyard downtown, at 10:30 AM or on Tuesday, February 21 at 5:15 pm, at the Lumberyard.

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 Krewe's 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 (at the pre-parade meeting) 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 3 or February 7, whichever one your Krewe decides to attend.

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

We are so sorry, but at this time, the City of Huntsville does not own the needed barricades to keep the public safe for the entire route. We are working to confirm 2 bead throwing areas that will be barricaded, just as it was for 2016. At this time, the parade rules are as follows.

*****NEW FOR 2017*****

- **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.

Again, we are so sorry there are so many rules about this right now, but HPD is very concerned about public safety, specifically a child or an adult being run over by a float. Please help us make this a fun & safe event for everyone!!! It will take some years, but as soon as we have barricades, most of these rules will go away!! Stay with us, help us, and thank you so much for your support!!!

This event happens rain or shine! Unless you are contacted via E-mail, assume the parade is rolling on!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2017**

All applications and Krewe memberships are due by **FRIDAY, February 17, 2017**

For questions or concerns, you may contact Marydae Sneed or Irene Wood at 256-534-7014

Or by E-mailing mardigrashsv@aol.com

All 2017 proceeds benefit Blount Hospitality House

Please Visit! www.blounthospitalityhouse.org

"Turning Hospital Into Hospitality"