

2009 Spanish Town Mardi Gras Parade

Float Safety Rules

The primary objective for having these rules is SAFETY. Due to the increasing number of spectators for the best Mardi Gras Parade in Baton Rouge, we would ask the drivers and walkers to more vigilant than ever to avoid any accidents.

- Drivers and Safety Meeting: **Wednesday, February 18th, 6:30 PM upstairs at 333 Bistreaux located at 333 N Third St.**
We will discuss the parade route, lineup procedures, safety guidelines, and hand out float numbers.
- **Absolutely no alcoholic beverages in the cab, we repeat, absolutely no alcoholic beverages in the cab: not open, closed, empty or full. Any float observed with alcohol in the cab will be removed from the parade by the police – no exceptions, you will NOT parade.**
- There must be at least one other person in the cab with the driver in case of an in-cab emergency. The primary objective of the driver is to maneuver the parade route SAFELY – do not distract the driver by having him responsible for anything except driving.
- Do not hand throws to someone over the side of the float. Do not throw out in front or behind your float. Throw from sides of float to the rear of the crowd to encourage spectators to move back.
- **Walkers are mandatory for all floats.** Four (4) walkers for floats 25' and under and six (6) walkers for floats 25' or greater. The job of the walker is to keep spectators from getting under your float tires; they should not be tossing throws or socializing. Rotate float riders as walkers if you cannot get designated walkers.
- Floats with a ground clearance of more than 24" should be screened with something rigid that will keep hands and bodies from reaching underneath. It is recommended that all tires, no matter what height be screened.
- Remove your beads and throws from boxes before coming to the downtown area and load them onto the float in sacks or other containers. Float trash is a problem and we will NOT be allowed to leave empty bead boxes in the staging areas or throw them off floats along route. If you do have bead boxes on your float, you must keep them on your float until such time as **you** can dispose of them properly.
- Try not give away throws in the staging area, either before or after the parade. Spanish Town Road in front of the Capitol is a **no-throw zone**. Do not throw on Spanish Town Road until you reach the neighborhood.
- Watch your stuff. Don't leave valuables lying around in the staging area, on floats, at your meeting area – there have been rip-offs in the past.
- You **MUST** have your float number displayed to enter the staging area! For float judging, please display your float number in the windshield on the left hand or driver side.
- Keep pace with the float in front of you. Avoid large gaps.
- Follow the instructions of the lineup personnel in the parade staging areas and vacate the staging area as soon as possible after the parade. You don't have to go home, but you can't stay in the staging area.
- Let's have fun and use some common sense rule.