



*ALEXANDRIA MARDI GRAS ASSOCIATION
CHILDREN'S PARADE*

THROW ME SOMETHIN' MISTER!

It is time to start preparing for the 12th Annual Alexandria Children's Mardi Gras Parade! This year's parade is scheduled to roll at 10:30 AM on Saturday, February 2nd, 2008. Parade staging will take place downtown – under I-49 near Tenth and Murray Streets.

Parade Criteria:

- ❖ Participants on the parade entries shall be a minimum age of five (5) and a maximum age of eighteen (18). This minimum age limit is for safety reasons.
- ❖ You are required to have a minimum of one (1) adult for every five (5) children. You must also have at least 4 spotters to walk beside your entry (We recommend 6). A list of your spotters will be required ahead of time to assist us in avoiding confusion on parade day. **Spotters may not throw to the crowd and must perform their designated function of keeping the crowd back from the floats. PLEASE REFER TO ATTACHED SPOTTER INSTRUCTION SHEET.**
- ❖ Attached you will find a **DRIVER INSTRUCTION SHEET – Please be sure to give it to your float driver.**
- ❖ **No “driver only”** vehicles will be permitted in the Children's parade, except for specialty “floats” such as the Alexandria Aces Airplane, etc. The purpose of this is to prohibit individuals from entering themselves, for whatever purpose, and trying to drive the route while throwing to the crowds and distracting their attention from the path in front of them as they drive. This would obviously be a hazard to everyone and we do not want that!
- ❖ **Entrants in the parade this year will be limited to 70 entries** and may include floats (comprised of long-bed pickup, flatbed trailers, or professional floats), marching units, bands, cars, trucks, etc.
- ❖ An entry form and fee of \$75.00 payable to the Alexandria Mardi Gras Association is required for each organization. Entry fee is non-refundable.
- ❖ All entries must be decorated for Mardi Gras and have a Mardi Gras theme.
- ❖ You are required to purchase your own throws, which include beads, cups, doubloons, toys, candy, etc. **PLEASE NOTE: “Bouncy Balls”, Skimmer Rings, and similar light weight throws or non-aerodynamic items that are likely to “come back” to the float are strictly prohibited! Also, NO SHARP OBJECTS please.** Children often get caught up in the excitement of the parade and do not realize that chasing these objects close to the floats puts them in harms way.
- ❖ We will be assembling large floats **at 7:00 AM** and **all other parade units at 8:00 AM**. All entries must be in their assigned location no later than 9:30 AM.

The Children's Parade has become such a wonderful family event and we want to continue this safe and fun family tradition. We hope you are as excited as we are about being a part of this enlivening event. If you have any questions or need any clarification of the above, please feel free to call Chris at 443.-1200 (w) or 487-8056 (h). I will be happy to help.

HAPPY MARDI GRAS.

Chris Chelette

ALEXANDRIA MARDI GRAS ASSOCIATION

11th ANNUAL CHILDREN'S PARADE ENTRY FORM

PARADE DATE – FEBRUARY 2, 2008

Name of Organization: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone Numbers: (Office) _____ (Home) _____

(e-mail) _____ (Fax) _____

Type of Entry Float _____ Marching Unit _____ Truck _____ Band _____ Other _____

PLEASE NOTE – THERE IS AN ENTRY FEE DUE FOR EACH UNIT ENTERED! THEREFORE, IF YOU MARK MARCHING UNIT YOU ARE ALLOWED ONE SMALL VEHICLE FOR MUSIC ONLY. ALL UNITS PULLING TRAILERS MUST PAY A FEE FOR EACH UNIT **BEFORE THE PARADE ENTRY DEADLINE. YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO BRING EXTRA UNITS ON THE DAY OF THE PARADE.**

If other, please describe _____

Number of participants in your entry: Children _____ Adults _____

Description of float (Main emphasis or theme must be "Mardi Gras") _____

PLEASE ATTACH A SMALL COMMENTARY TO BE READ FOR LIVE TV COVERAGE.

NOTE: The 2008 Children's Parade will begin promptly at 10:30 AM, on Saturday, February 2nd.

We will begin assembling large floats at 7:00 AM and all other parade units at 8:00 AM.

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE IN THEIR ASSIGNED LOCATION NO LATER THAN 9:30 AM.

Your entry number will be mailed to you on January 21, 2008

You are required to purchase your own throws. These should include beads, cups, doubloons, toys, candy, etc. PLEASE REFER TO YOUR ORIGINAL PRINT OUT FOR PROHIBITED THROWS. If you need another list of these, please let me know.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRY IS JANUARY 16, 2008 NO EXCEPTIONS!

Completed Entry Form, Fact Sheet, and \$75.00 entry fee

entry fee is non-refundable

(made payable to Alexandria Mardi Gras Assoc)

should be addressed to :

Chris Chelette

339 Fendler Parkway

Pineville, LA 71360

DRIVER INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for volunteering to drive a parade unit in this years Alexandria Children's Mardi Gras Parade. We ask that you please follow the instructions below to assist us in making this the best and safest parade ever:

- IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU BRING YOUR TRAILER AND/OR FLOAT AT THE TIME DESIGNATED.
- PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE UP WITH THE CHILDREN ALREADY IN THE BACK OF THE TRAILER. THERE ARE SOME VERY IMPATIENT DRIVERS THAT ARE NOT PART OF THE PARADE AND IT IS DANGEROUS TO EXPOSE CHILDREN TO THAT ENVIRONMENT IN THE BACK OF AN OPEN TRAILER.
- YOU ARE NOT TO IMBIBE ANY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BEFORE OR DURING THE PARADE!
- PLEASE TRY TO KEEP UP WITH THE UNITS IN FRONT OF YOU (AT A SAFE DISTANCE OF COURSE) DO NOT LET A LARGE AMOUNT OF SPACE ACCUMULATE BETWEEN YOU AND THE UNIT IN FRONT OF YOU.
- IF YOU HAVE A BAND IN FRONT OF YOU PLEASE BE SURE TO GIVE THEM ENOUGH ROOM TO PERFORM AT THE REVIEWING STAND.
- YOU WILL BE GIVEN A NUMBER TO PUT IN YOUR FRONT WINDOW TO ASSIST US IN MAKING SURE WE HAVE THE PROPER ENTRY ORDER. IF YOU ARE NOT GIVEN A NUMBER, PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE ASSISTANTS (THEY WILL BE WEARING ARM BANDS THAT HAVE THE SAME COLOR AS THE COLUMN YOU WILL BE PARKING IN). THEY WILL BE SURE TO GET YOU A NUMBER

Again, thank you so much for helping these children have a wonderful time. They could not do it without you! Please feel free to call Chris with any questions.

Chris Chelette – 318-443-1200 – work
Home – 318-487-8056
E-mail – cchelette@valexfcu.org

SPOTTER INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you so much for volunteering to be a spotter in this year's Alexandria Children's Mardi Gras Parade. While we want you to enjoy the experience to its fullest extent, it is necessary for us to remind you of your primary duties as a spotter.

- 1. Please remain beside the float at all times during the parade.**
- 2. Please do not allow viewers to walk up to the float. It is imperative that no one try to run up to the float. They could slip easily and fall under the wheels.**
- 3. Please do not take beads over to parade viewers when asked to do so by the riders. They should not request this of you. If you walk away from the float, it allows the opportunity for viewers to run up to the float.**
- 4. You should not be throwing any throws yourself. It is impossible for you to watch for children (and adults) that are getting too close to the floats while throwing beads, etc. at the same time.**

Again, thank you for volunteering your time to help make this years parade the most enjoyable yet.