



## Checklist to Develop a Float For Parade Participants

- Form your Mardi Gras committee
- Select a main contact to manage riders, organize assembly & oversee everyone's safety (Krewe Captain)
  - Divide responsibilities
  - Set meeting schedule
- Find a vehicle and driver
- Create budget
  - Allocate funds
  - Order plenty of beads
- Create design concept
  - Sketch unit include approximate sizes
  - purchase, create or rent décor/lighting & costumes
  - Vehicle must have railings on all four sides
  - Be sure to use lots of lighting and not just twinkle lights or else you will fade out and not be visible
  - Be sure to remember "cone of vision" – parade viewers can not see anything in front of them that is below 5 feet. The best view they get is as they look UP at the float as it passes.
    - For more float design concepts and restrictions be sure to visit: <http://www.gaslamp.org/design.php>
  - Caveat: You have to be sure to fire proof your float (see "cheat sheet" on where to find the fire retardant)
- Submit contract, sketch & payment to McFarlane Promotions by Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please make check out to: Gaslamp Quarter Association**
- Select a driver
  - Driver must have a valid drivers license and be substance free all day
  - Driver must attend mandatory meeting at Dick's Last Resort on Thursday, Feb 19th at 6:30 p.m. or Monday, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 p.m. (noon).
  - Driver must be responsible and be willing to take instructions and follow them to insure the safety of their passengers and other parade entries
  - Must show proof of insurance
- Supervise vehicle check-in and overall day-of decoration. Stay in constant contact with parade coordinator throughout day-of decoration
- Krewe Captain MUST train riders for safety and bead throwing guidelines
  - Krewe Captain to disseminate wristbands to their riders
  - Riders must be wearing the wristband to ride on the float
- Help Fire Marshall with inspection
  - Each Krewes float needs to have a 2A10BC Fire Extinguisher. It MUST be up to date
  - Krewes need to douse floats with flame retardants spray ONSITE
- CONTROL YOUR FLOAT DURING PARADE**
  - **NO** Nudity
  - **NO** Sirens during the parade
- Clean up/dismantle unit
  - Do **NOT** allow your riders to exit the float until the float has come to complete stop. Riders may disembark at the final stop location and when the Krewe Captain has been given the okay to remove riders.
- Return vehicle

Décor must be flame resistant, beads are required and lighting is strongly suggested. All parts of vehicle must be covered. Theme must be approved.



## Float Decoration Cheat Sheet

- Generator and Vehicle Rentals
  - Penske Mission Valley – Call Dave Barragan 951.377.9594 for 15% Discount (Valid for Penske Mission Valley, National City, Miramar, and El Cajon) \*\*Mention Mardi Gras
  - Hawthorne Rent-It Service – Larry Thayer – 619.232.2084 for 15-20% Discount on Generators \*\*Mention Mardi Gras
  - Penske Downtown – 619.233.6151
  - Penske Chula Vista - Humberto – 619.425.7640
  
- Fire Retardant
  - San Diego Stage & Lighting: 619.299.2300
  - Order online at: <http://www.fire-retardant.biz>
  
- Beads
  - Order plenty of beads – 1-2 gross pack per rider (approx. 144 beads per gross pack)
  - Order a combination of throw beads and decorative beads
    - Throw beads: 4 – 6 mm in size and 24 inches in length
    - Decorative beads: 7mm in size and 33 inches in length
  - You can use your beads as a promotional tool by attaching flyers, coupons, etc.
    - If you decide to attach promotion papers to your throw beads ONLY use tape to attach them as stapling them can cause injury.
  - Beads online at:
    - [www.mardigrasoutlet.com](http://www.mardigrasoutlet.com)
    - [www.beadsbythedozen.com](http://www.beadsbythedozen.com)
    - [www.mardigrasimports.com](http://www.mardigrasimports.com)
    - [www.toomeys-mardigras.com](http://www.toomeys-mardigras.com)
    - [www.accentannex.com](http://www.accentannex.com)
    - Throw Beads: [www.anytimecostumes.com/articles/bulk-mardi-gras-beads.html](http://www.anytimecostumes.com/articles/bulk-mardi-gras-beads.html)
  
- Décor Companies:
  - Pacific Event Productions – George Duff - 858-458-9908