



Baton Rouge Mardi Gras
Association, LLC

Members Handbook

le Krewe Mystique de la Capitale

History of the Krewe



Mayor's office and businesses located on Florida Boulevard, made financial contributions to enable the Krewe to parade. In the early 1980's as many as twelve high school bands participated in the parade.

As the name suggests, Krewe Mystique keeps its Ball Captain's names private until the Annual Tableau and Dinner Dance. The founders considered the "mystical" part sacred – the identity of the first three Ball Captains has never been revealed! Krewe Mystique presents its Honor Court, in traditional white, at a formal "sit down" dinner.

Krewe **M**ystique

was formed by a dedicated group of people who wanted to bring a Mardi Gras parade to Baton Rouge! This was their version of "community service!" Krewe Mystique is the oldest parading Krewe in Baton Rouge. In the early years the

Welcome to Carnival Season

Welcome to Le Krewe Mystique de la Capitale, hereafter referred to as Krewe Mystique -- the oldest parading Krewe in Baton Rouge. We are uniquely "mystical" and confident that you and your spouse/partner will enjoy the family like year-long celebration of the Carnival Season! We hope the Members Handbook will familiarize you with the Krewe and its events.

The President and Board of
Le Krewe Mystique de la Capitale

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Krewe Management

The business affairs of Krewe Mystique are handled by a Board of Management. The board members meet monthly to plan all Krewe events and conduct day-to-day business affairs. The Krewe by-laws are in the members section on the website. You will also find Policies and Procedures, a document detailing the duties of each committee on the web site.

Dues

The yearly membership dues are set by the board of management. The dues include one ticket to the ball, one float ride/costume, one ticket to the King Cake Party, and invitations to other various events that take place throughout the year.

Our general membership meeting will be held before our Spring Event each year. Please plan on attending

Lieutenants

Lieutenants play an important role in Krewe Mystique. They are visible when they escort debutantes during the Tableau or when they are on the festival floats with the Honor Court. The lieutenants are an integral part of the Coronation, Royalty Brunch, King Cake Party and other various events. If you are interested in joining the dedicated corps of lieutenants, please contact the chairperson.

King's and Queen's Parties

The King and Queen invite the membership, and spouses/partners, to a party to mark their reign. The previous year's and current year's Honor Court are also invited.

You will be informed of the date and dress codes for the party through the newsletter and invitation.



Spring Event

A spring event will be held at the beginning of a new Carnival Season when the membership comes together for fellowship, welcoming prospective members and preparing for another year of fun activities. A membership meeting is held at which board members are elected, and krewe business is discussed. You are encouraged to invite prospective members (at a nominal charge per person) so they may meet and interact with Krewe membership.

Honor Court

The Honor Court comprises of a Ball Captain, King, Queen, debutantes, pages, and dukes. The Ball Captain recommends a theme for the ball. The tables at the annual Tableau and Dinner Dance are decorated with the theme chosen by the Ball Captain. Krewe member's children/grandchildren are given preference to be in the Honor Court. You are encouraged to approach the Honors chairperson to get more information.

King Cake Dance

The Twelfth Night is a festival marking the coming of the Epiphany and concluding the Twelve Days of Christmas and is observed as a time of merrymaking. In medieval England it marked the end of a winter festival when the King and all those that were high would become peasants and vice versa. In English and French custom, the Twelfth-cake was baked to contain a bean and a pea, so that those who received the slices containing them should be designated king and queen of the night's festivities. Midnight signaled the end of his rule, and the world would return to normal.

Krewe Mystique celebrates the occasion with a King Cake party as close to the Twelfth Night as possible. Krewe lieutenants cut "king cake" for members and guests. Music is provided for dancing. A fee is charged for members' guests to cover food, and other expenses. Men wear Chefs attire or slacks and women wear cocktail or dressy attire.



Crawfish

***We pass a good
time at our
Spring event.
Come prepared
to eat plenty of
crawfish and
meet other
members.***





*Invite as many
friends as you
wish to the Ball.*

*It is a fun and
very memorable
event that they
will not soon
forget!*

Tableau and Dinner Dance

Krewe Mystique presents the Honor Court at the formal Tableau and Dinner Dance with a sit-down dinner following the presentation. The identity of the Ball Captain is not divulged until this evening in keeping with the “mystical” tradition of the Krewe. A band provides music for dancing and your listening pleasure. This is a showcase evening for the Krewe. One ticket for the ball is included in your yearly dues. You may wish to invite your friends, family members and colleagues to share this unique ball. This event is videotaped by a professional. The ball chairperson will keep you informed of all things pertaining to the evening.

The dress for this evening is *formal*. Traditional tuxedos for men and *floor length gowns* for ladies. *You and your guests are requested to be seated fifteen minutes prior to the Tableau.*

The bars are closed during the Tableau. Gentlemen are requested to keep their jacket on for the entire evening.

Other Events

Krewe Mystique hosts special events for the Honor Court. The lieutenants of Krewe Mystique and the honor committee members hold a Coronation for the royalty and debutantes to read the proclamations welcoming them as members of the court.

A Royalty Luncheon is arranged by the honor chairperson to familiarize the Royalty and their mothers with Krewe Mystique.

Helping Others

Charity and Outreach Krewe Supports

The Queen and King decide on a charity to help throughout the year. All members of the court are expected to help support the charity.

The Krewe also sponsors a Veterans’ Float. Veterans are nominated to ride on a Special Float. All rides and throws are provided by the Krewe.



Mardi Gras Parade

Krewe Mystique is the oldest parading Krewe in Baton Rouge. The afternoon parade is on a Saturday ten days before Mardi Gras or "Fat Tuesday." As a member you are privileged to ride on an assigned float.

The parade route is posted on the Krewe's website before the parade. You will be informed of all details relating to the parade like the staging area, time etc. You will also receive a "Safety Guideline" that should be followed to ensure a safe parading experience for all.



Throws and Logo Items

Each member procures their throw items for the parade. Krewe Mystique orders special "logo items" for the members to purchase and throw. These items include cups, Krewe beads etc. All logo items can be purchased on the krewe website. A time and place for pickup will be decided by the Logo Chairperson.

Float Ride

Your yearly dues include one float ride & costume. Each Krewe member is assigned to a float they ride on during the parade. You can invite your spouse/partner to ride for a fee. Each float has a float captain in charge of all matters relating to the parade and is your spokesperson and contact person. Notify the float captain if you are not able to ride.

If there is room on your float family members and friends can be invited to ride on the float for a fee. The names should be submitted to the Float Captain who will determine if there is room.

Float Captains pick up the costumes for all riders on their floats and distribute them to the riders. Many Float Captains organize a "Float Party" to distribute the costumes.

***Remember to
stay in costume
until the
parade ends.
This includes
wearing your
mask as well.***



2023-24 Board of Management

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Notes



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