

2025 Ocean Springs Elks Mardi Gras Parade Application
B.P.O.E. #2501
Ocean Springs, MS

The Ocean Springs Mardi Gras parade is an annual event which is sponsored by the Ocean Springs Elks Lodge #2501. The parade has been rolling for 48 seasons and we are proud to be the Coast's first major parade of the Mardi Gras season. This year we expect the parade to be the best ever! The parade will be on February 15th, 2025 and will roll at 1:00 PM. The parade route will be the same as in past years. We roll rain or shine, there is no rain date.

The theme for this year's parade is *'History of the World'*.

There is a \$100.00 entry fee per organization, except for Military Units and Bands, which pay no fee. Guards/escorts for each unit are strongly encouraged for safety reasons.

No Glass Containers are permitted on any Unit.

Lewd and inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.

Offenders will be removed from the parade line-up and subject to arrest!

All floats are required to have a fire extinguisher onboard.

We will be using the 'line up as you arrive' procedure this year. Units will enter the parade route from Washington or Jackson Ave. South to Front Beach Drive, where you will be given a number for your unit. You will then pull up behind the last unit in the line. If you want to be in the front of the parade, we suggest you arrive NLT 10 AM or shortly after. We feel this system will lessen the traffic grid lock which we have been experiencing as our parade grew to one of the largest on the Coast. (Please include a good phone number on the application.)

Awards Presentation and Party - All parade participants are invited to a party after the parade for food, festivities and awards presentation at the Ocean Springs Elks Lodge on 2501 Beachview Dr.

For further information please call:

Marty Calhoun (Parade Chairman) (228) 238-5599
Bob Delaney (Parade Captain) (228) 806-6520
Elks' Lodge (228) 872-2501

Please fill out the lower portion of this form and return to:

Ocean Springs Elks Lodge #2501 (Parade)
P.O. Box 881
Ocean Springs, MS 39566-0881

Detach and Send in

Type of Unit (Circle the applicable one) Please make checks payable to: BPOE 2501

FLOAT BAND DRILL TEAM MARCHING CLUB MOTOR GROUP
TRUCK INDIVIDUAL EQUESTRIAN CAR **NO GOLF CARTS**

E-Mail address _____

Name of Unit: Approx # in unit:

Insurance Company:

Point of Contact: Name Phone.....

Address: City/State/Zipcode



OCEAN SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT

3820 BIENVILLE BLVD. OCEAN SPRINGS, MS 39564

PHONE: (228) 875-4063

FAX: (228) 875-5442

Parade Float Fire Safety Requirements

Code Reference International Fire Code 2018.

All floats shall be equipped with a minimum of one 2A:10BC 5lbs fire extinguisher per rider level.

Requirements include but are not limited to the following:

1. **Fire Extinguishers** (Sec 906) Fire extinguishers must be certified by an approved fire extinguisher contractor within the past 12 months or a new extinguisher with a current store receipt attached. The gauge must indicate the extinguisher has adequate pressure.
2. Fire extinguishers shall be mounted in a bracket off the floor of the float, max height 5ft.
3. Extinguisher shall not be covered, obstructed, or used to hang or stage Mardi Gras "throws" or other items.
4. At least One (1) Extinguisher will be mounted at the rear of the float near the main exit Clearly Visible from the street.
5. **Generators** (Sec 313) Any portable generator used must be securely mounted and have appropriate exhaust. No flammable decorations may be placed near the generator.
6. Gasoline containers shall be kept in the bed of the towing vehicle. If enclosed, the fuel container may be stored on the float in an approved location by the fire marshal.
7. **Fireworks pyrotechnics** (Sec 5601.1.3), flammable liquids or gases, open flame, or other hazards are prohibited. (Excluding fuel for generators in an approved location)
8. **Smoking** (Sec 310) Smoking is prohibited near generators and fuel containers.
9. A No Smoking Sign, clearly legible, shall be securely attached and visible near the generator and any area used to store fuel.
10. Decorative materials should be non-combustible or inherently flame retardant.
11. **Electrical System** (Sec 604) All electrical systems used during the parade shall be in good condition and in complete legal working order. No bare wires or exposed electric connections are permitted.
12. Any unsafe or troublesome conditions along the parade route should be brought to the attention of a parade official immediately.
13. Be prepared! Identify potential hazards and plan your strategy should an unexpected event occur. Know the locations of the fire extinguishers and how to shut off your generator and other electrical equipment. Develop a method to alert the operator to stop the parade float.

An Inspection shall take place prior to the start of the parade in an approved area. Failure of any unit to comply with the above requirements may result in expulsion from the parade. Sec. 107