

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How does my child or a Krewe member get to participate in the ball?

Children may begin participating at the age of four as a float rider. Krewe members are responsible for providing the NAMES, AGES, AND GRADE LEVEL (once they start school), in order for them to be considered as participants to Judy Picard, Krewe Secretary (277-3823), Darrellyn Burts (319-9794) , or Carolyn Crain Broussard (654-6009). This is done by filling out and returning the form you receive yearly. Please note the form must be filled out EVERY year to insure our list is up to date and that your child's name is on it.

2. How many tickets can I purchase? How are tables for assigned for the Ball?

The Ticket Chairman will mail or email the forms for ticket requests for Thursday, Friday and Saturday (ball) night tickets.

There is a special section on the floor for past kings and their wives or escorts. The reigning King, Queen, Prince, Lady Edith, maids and special characters are assigned one floor table. Any additional floor tables are assigned by the Ticket Committee. Generally second tier tables are assigned to the Executive Committee members, the Chairmen of the most difficult committees and long time troubadours. Please be sure to return your ticket request form by the deadline. If no ticket request has been received when the ticket committee meets, your table will be the last assigned.

Each Troubadour family is currently eligible to buy 4 Ball tickets at a cost of \$40 each. You may purchase Thursday night tickets for \$15 and Friday night tickets for \$25 as available . It is again important to return the ticket form on time to guarantee you will be able to obtain the amount of tickets you require.

There is a DJ Party for participants and their guests after the Friday night performance.

3. When do I get my Ball and Dress Rehearsal tickets?

The Krewe has a scheduled "Ticket Pick Up" day usually held two to three weeks before the Ball. Check the web site (www.kreweoftroubadours.com - password: troubadours2014 for Krewe calendar. At "Pickup day" you pay for and pick up your Ball and Dress Rehearsal tickets, invitations, purchase Ball cloisonne & polystones and place food and drink orders. The gathering is usually held from 5 until 6:45 p.m. You should bring several checks (no credit cards), and come early to visit with other Troubadours. A cash bar is available. A map noting the location of tables will be posted. **No Changes in table assignments are made at this meeting.** If you do not pick up your tickets on this day please call Judy Picard (277-3823) and make arrangements to get your tickets ASAP. Tickets not picked up within the next week **may be sold or reassigned.**

4. How do I get to ride on a Krewe Parade Float- Adults and Children?

This is an optional activity and the associated fees and regulations will apply. **This is highly recommended activity.** It is a lot of fun and gives you a whole new perspective on Mardi Gras, as well as, providing an opportunity to meet other Troubadours.

Adult Floats: If you are interested call Matt Cieslak, (h) 993-0887 or 344-0322. If there is space on a float you may invite adult guests (over 21 years of age) to join you on the float. Guests pay the same fees as Troubadours. Participants are responsible for all throws.

Children's Float: The children ride in the Saturday afternoon parade before Mardi Gras day. A minimum of 17 children, per float, is needed to be able to make entering a float in the parade feasible. Non-Troubadour children may also ride, if there is space. The fees are the same as for Troubadour children. Participants are responsible for all throws. If a sufficient number of children do not sign up to ride, the float may be cancelled.

5. How are the Dukes selected? Can I serve as a Duke more than once? What if I don't have a daughter?

A father will normally escort his daughter if she is a Maid. If the father elects not to walk with their daughter, they may call the Ball chair to find a substitute. Troubadours men can serve as a duke more than once. Troubadour members who do not have a daughter may indicate to the Ball chair if they are interested in serving as a duke. If a Troubadour father elects not to walk with their daughter they will have to find a substitute, who **must** be a Troubadour or willing to become a member of the Krewe. They must be approved by the Dukes' Chairman and Ball Chairman. Troubadour men may serve as a Duke more than once. Troubadours who do not have a daughter may indicate to the Chairman of the Dukes Committee they are interested in serving as a Duke. If an opening occurs, their name will be considered.

6. Who is invited to the King's Party the Sunday after the Ball?

The King's Party is a private function usually held the Sunday after the Ball. You will receive an invitation if you are on the guest list. Unless noted on the invitation children are usually NOT invited to this party. ***This is not a Krewe function.***

7. Who is invited to the Queen and Lady Edith's luncheon?

The Queen and Lady Edith's luncheon is a private function, but held under the auspice of the Order of the Troubadours. It is held the Friday before the Ball. You will receive an invitation if you are on the guest list.

8. Can I bring guests to the Fall Brunch?

A Troubadour and their wife or escort is invited to the Krewe party at no charge. The Krewe party includes an open bar, buffet and music provided courtesy of the Krewe. Guests may be invited by a Troubadour for the current price of \$50 per person. If you are interested in having guests please call Judy Picard, Krewe Secretary, (277-3823) to check on availability of openings, and the details regarding payment. The names of all guests and full payments are due at least two weeks prior to the party. **Tickets must be pre-paid and are non-refundable.** Dress is business suit for the men, suit or dressy dress for the women for Troubadours and guests. All attendees should be above the age of 16.

9. How are food and drinks provided for the Performances and Ball?

Order forms for food and beverages for the Thursday, Friday and Ball night will be mailed out by the caterer a few weeks before "Ticket Pick-Up Day". Please fill the forms out as instructed and return them with the proper payment by the assigned deadline. All food and drinks must be purchased from the caterer. **Please do not bring outside food or drinks to the auditorium.**

10. Are teenagers allowed to attend the Ball?

The Queen, Lady Edith and the Maids attend the Ball after the pageant Saturday night. Their dates and brothers or sisters, who are, **at least 16 years of age**, may also attend the Ball Saturday night. Underage brothers, sisters and dates must be seated at the parent's **floor table. All wristbands are issued by the Chairman and require the name, identification # of a photo id and table number. The information must match the information the Chairman Maggie Justus (337-278-1986) provides to security for admittance.** Full formal dress is required. **No underage drinking is allowed at any time. Saturday night is an evening for adult Krewe members and their guests to celebrate Mardi Gras. Underage past Queens, Lady Ediths and their dates may attend, if they follow the guidelines above and sit at their parent's table. Thank you for your understanding.**

11. Who normally attends Friday Night Dress Rehearsal?

Underage guests and adult family members who prefer not to wear formal dress are encouraged to attend the Friday Dress Rehearsal. Participants may join their family at their tables once they leave the stage. Sunday attire is the usual dress for this night.

12. Are my children, who are participants in the Ball, allowed to join me at my table after they leave the stage BALL night (Saturday)?

NO! All participants under the age of 21 are required to be picked up and sent home as soon as they leave the stage Ball night, except for the Queen, Lady Edith, and the Maids and their escorts. Security will not allow underage participants to go and meet their parents at their table. The parents must go to pick them up in the float staging area by the bar. Teenage dancers of driving age and with written permission from their parents may leave on their own.

13. Are Troubadours or guests allowed to leave the auditorium and reenter?

Once a person leaves the auditorium they **will not be allowed to reenter unless they can offer a picture id proving they are 21 or older.** Security has been instructed there are **no exceptions to this rule.** Smokers should be aware of this requirement. Please inform all of your guests so they can bring the proper id in case they decide to leave the auditorium. **Smoking in the auditorium is not permitted by order of the Fire Marshall.**

14. How may a person obtain permission to use the name of the Troubadours?

For liability reasons no one is allowed to use the name of the “Order of the Troubadours” for any purpose (including private parties) without prior approval of the Ball Chair. Technically, the royalty are not announced to the public until they are announced at the Fall Brunch.

15. What are the rules for private parties for royalty? If a party is given for royalty, protocol requires certain Troubadours to be included on the guest list. Please check with the Ball Chair for details. No royalty can be announced in any way (including a mention in private invitations or picture stamps) until the official announcement is made. The Fall Brunch is the official announcement.

16. What is the proper attire for Krewe functions?

A) Dress for the Krewe party is a business suit for males (with Krewe medallions) and male guests and a suit or Sunday dress for the ladies.

B) Sunday dress is appropriate for the Dress Rehearsals.

C) Ball night is black tie

17. What is the Floor Committee?

Male Troubadours who are not working on other committees are asked to assist guests to their tables Ball night and the evening of Dress Rehearsal. Check in at the front table near the entrance to receive a sash and directions on how to assist guests to their tables. A floor map will be available at the table. Dress code: Dress rehearsal – black tie (tux) and Ball night – white tie (tails and gloves). Kent and Roxie Fontenot, Chair this committee (989-2624).

18. How and when are Krewe medallions worn?

A Krewe medallion should be worn on a small silver chain so it is visible on the shirt of your tuxedo, tails or formal. Only Troubadours (male and female) can wear the medallions.

19. Who can participate in the 3 call out dances Ball night?

Call out dances, are normally a Krewe Member and a spouse or guest.

20. How can my friends join the Order of the Troubadours?

Persons interested in becoming a Troubadour may go to www.kreweoftroubadours.com, password is, troubadours2014, web site for an application form. When openings are available the applications will be reviewed in the order received. Applicants must be approved by the Ball Chair. If you want your children involved, the earlier you join the better. Due to printing deadlines, names received after November will not be listed in the program until the next year.

21. Who is on the Executive Committee?

Ball Chair –Mrs. Don Burts, (Darrellyn)
Ball Co- Chairman – Carolyn Crain Broussard
Secretary/Treasurer – Miss Judy Picard Artistic
Director – Mr. James Morvant (Jim)

Board of Members

Mr. Wes Castille
Mr. Robert Copeland
Mr. Francis Delhomme
Mrs. Dan Rees (Kay)
Mr. Jay Ruffin
Mrs. Denise Ingram
Mrs. Ronald Arceneaux (Bootsie) emeritus

22. How can I join a committee?

Call the Ball Chairman, Darrellyn Burts (319-9794)). All Troubadours are strongly encouraged to join a committee. Most committees are open and the chairmen welcome additional help. Duties are normally minimal to start, but, hard work is always rewarded with additional opportunities to become more fully engaged. Certain committees have restricted membership such as Queen's Committee, King's Committee.

23. Can I change committees?

Yes, call the Ball Chairman (Darrellyn Burts – 319-9794) to discuss changing committees.

24. Why do people give gifts Ball week?

Some Troubadours elect to give token gifts to the members of the royal court with whom they are good friends in order to acknowledge their special participation in Mardi Gras. Participants may elect to give the chairman and/or a committee member who has worked hard on their child's committee a small gift to thank them for their help. Thank you notes should be written by participants to all chairman and committee members, gifts are strictly optional. **A thank you note is as valued as a gift.** Royalty normally register for gifts at Pieces of Eight, Jodie's, etc., or may designate a charity to receive financial gifts in their honor.

25. Why do people stand when certain participants are introduced at the Ball?

Normally when **the royalty is first presented** the audience will stand to acknowledge participants, then everyone should resume their seating so the entire audience can see the pageant.

26. How long do I have to pay my dues after the notice is sent?

Dues letters are usually sent out in late March or early April. **You must pay within the deadline noted in the letter or your participation will be forfeited and you will have to pay a reinstatement fee.** If dues are not paid by the deadline other children may be

considered for positions your child may have been offered. Alternate payments may be arranged with the Krewe Secretary, Judy Picard (277-3823).

27. When do I fly the flag?

The Order of the Troubadour flag should be flown throughout the Mardi Gras season starting on the 12th night.

28. What are the guidelines for placing children in the Ball?

Ages 4-7 FLOAT RIDERS - Members of children and grandchildren are eligible to participate at this level, but, the children of members are given preference.

AGES 6-8 JUNIOR ATTENDANTS - Two children attend the maid.
The children selected may be a girl and a boy or two girls depending on the number of children who are available to participate.

AGES 7-9 ROYALTY ATTENDANTS - Two girls serve as the Queen's attendants. Two girls serve as attendants to Lady Edith. Two children serve as King's attendants and two serve as Sir Kenneth's attendants. Attendants of the King and Sir Kenneth may be boys or girls.

AGES 8- 11 BUGLERS and MESSENGERS - Girls

AGES 8-12 STORYTELLERS - Girls
Roles are dependent on the theme

AGES 8-12 STEWARDS OF THE KING'S PEACE - Boys
March in to clear the area for the King's arrival

AGES 10 - 14 GONFALONIERS - girls
There are usually one or two per maid.

AGES 10-13 LADIES IN WAITING 2 Girls
They must possess the ability to take direction and be able to direct younger participants around the floor.

AGES 9-14 HORSEMAN - Boys
The selection of horsemen depends on the child's size and ability to fit in and maneuver large horses while skipping around the pageant floor. Larger boys are needed to help pull the children's floats. The younger and smaller boys may not be able to carry the horses for a few years but they can run among the members of the audience throwing trinkets during the float procession.

HIGH SCHOOL AGES 14-18 TEENAGE DANCERS Boys and Girls
Participants must be children of Krewe members and in high school. They are eligible to dance until they graduate from high school. They must commit to attending all practices. The size of the group is limited.

MAIDS 10th, 11th, & 12th Grade Girls
Preference is given to juniors in high school.

QUEEN AND LADY EDITH Normally the Queen and Lady Edith are seniors in high school, but occasionally juniors are invited to serve as royalty. The royalty are usually selected from the previous year's maids. Parents are welcome to express an interest to the Ball Chairman if they would like their daughter to be considered for royalty.

KING - The King is currently selected by the King's committee. Members are welcome to express an interest in being considered for King or Sir Kenneth to any member of the King's committee or Ball Chairman.

SIR KENNETH - Sir Kenneth is normally selected by the King.

SPECIAL CHARACTERS - The ages and roles vary from year to year depending on the theme. Adults and children are considered for this position. Let the Chairman know if you would like to be considered.

PLEASE NOTE: Not every child participates in every position listed. Often children participate in the same position several times and some years, children who have previously participated may have to sit out a year in order to allow others the opportunity to participate. However, every effort will be made to include all children who wish to participate.

THE FOLLOWING ARE OTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS USED WHEN PLACING CHILDREN IN THE BALL.

1. The length of time the parents, and/or grandparents and their families, have been members of the Krewe and positions held.
2. The length of time the parents, and/or grandparents have worked on difficult committees or chaired committees.
3. The difficulty of the committee work the troubadour is currently performing.
4. The number of years the child has participated in Balls (the more years a child participates, the more likely they are to be considered for a Maid or Royalty position).

The children of new Troubadours who accept difficult committee assignments, are given additional consideration. Difficult committees are those where committee members are required to work back stage most of the evening of the Ball, and work with large numbers of participants and costumes. It is not a perfect process, but we try to reward long time, hard working independent workers and/or new members who work and take on difficult assignments. It is only through the work of our volunteers that our ball continues to flourish.

Before accepting an invitation to participate you should check your child's school schedule for the upcoming year in order to avoid conflicts. Please note that there are several rehearsals Ball week and all participants are expected to attend, except for the float riders on Tuesday night. If your child can't attend rehearsals they should not plan on participating. Rehearsals start on time. By adhering to the set time schedule we can end most rehearsals by 7:30 p.m., except the Friday Dress Rehearsal which ends around 8:30 pm.