



February 2020

Krewe of Orion Parade and *Masquerade* Saturday, February 15, 2020

“Orion’s 2020 Vision”

Just a few days to go to our parade and *Masquerade*! Here are information/reminders that may be helpful to you and your guests as we get close to parade weekend- our parade, *Masquerade*, and other krewe activities.

On parade day, the River Center Exhibition Hall will be open from 1:00 – 4:30 p.m., at which time you or your representative can bring your food/drinks/decorations and place those items at your *Masquerade* table (use the River Road entrance). After that time, it will be locked until 6:00 p.m. Remember, **Styrofoam containers, Sterno or other flamed items, and balloons are not allowed** by the River Center (they **will** confiscate those items). Please allow plenty of time and be patient when coming in, as the krewe has been told that for your safety, security will be checking bags, ice chests, and other containers as you come in the River Center.

An afternoon buffet with water and soft drinks will be served for Orion krewe members only upstairs at the River Center Exhibition Hall from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Wear or bring your costume** and don't forget to bring your mask, gloves, hat, and *Masquerade* ticket. Then, just before 5:00 p.m., I'll give the entire krewe last minute instructions. We will then proceed to the floats and get on board when given the green light by the marshals. Here is the float line-up.

Float Title – Riders or Float Lieutenants

1. Float I Captain and President - Darren Coates and Charles Harvey
2. Float II Orion Officers
3. Float III 2020 Maids of Orion
4. Float IV Queen Orion XXII - Laura Stokes
5. Float V King Orion XXII - Henry Stremmler
6. Float VI “Orion’s 2020 Vision” - Brian Banta and Dustin Brown
7. Float VII “Hallowed Eyes” - Joseph Johnston, Chad Dunlap, and Eric Guerin
8. Float VIII “Sword and Shield A” - P.D. Hill, Lee Hunsucker, and Bryan Kutz
9. Float IX “Sword and Shield B” - Thad Foreman and Tom Harvilla
10. Float X “Bedroom Eyes” - Kevin Denoux and Josh Rhodes
11. Float XI “Keep Your Eye on the Ball” - Paul Vaught and Marty Horn
12. Float XII “Looking at Sparks Fly” - Chris Rosendahl
13. Float XIII “Eye of the Tiger” - Jason Morris and Chris Sadler
14. Float XIV “I Only Have Eyes for You” - Kyle Smith, James Warren, and Scott Lanehart
15. Float XV “An Eye for an Eye” - Bryan Jeanson, Wayne Vizzini, and Dave Renoud
16. Float XVI “Orion’s Last in Line” - Chad Reynolds and Mike Battle

As a reminder, **no glass on the float, no smoking on the float, and no Styrofoam on the float**. You may bring an ice chest on the float, just not a Styrofoam one and no glass anything. Team up and bring one ice chest for a number of riders. You will want water or something to drink during the ride.

You may not throw items with advertising or materials with company names/logos, spears, dead or live animals, or pornographic/suggestive materials.

Your place on the float is marked with a card with your name on it. Please make sure that you ride in the place assigned to you and don't trade places with anyone. You don't want your people looking for you in the wrong place. The first unit in the parade will begin to roll at 6:30 p.m.

There is a no throw zone (beads or throws) on St. Philip Street from the point where you get on the float until your float turns onto Government Street. **Be sure to always follow instructions given by our marshals and the police.**

And as always, **you must wear your costume, gloves, hat, and mask from the time we roll until the time you get off of the float.** That means that **you must have your mask on during your ride through the River Center Exhibition Hall.** If for some reason you need to remove your mask during the ride, you must squat down where none of the crowd can see you.

You will not be able to get off of the float in the River Center. When you get to the unloading point on St. Philip Street, **get off of the float as soon as possible.** Be sure to **take with you everything that you want to keep** (extra throws, ice chest, cell phones, clothing, etc.). **When the floats pull out, everything will be gone and will no longer be available to the krewe.** A small flashlight may be helpful, as at times it can be dark on the float, particularly when you are looking for something on the floor or in a bag. After getting off the float, proceed to the River Center and go in the River Road front door. You must wear either your costume or a tux to be admitted to *Masquerade*. You will need to have your ticket with you.

Now, here is information and a few tips, dos, and don'ts for *Masquerade*. First, be sure that all of your guests know that ***Masquerade* is a formal event.** Tuxes are required for men and floor length evening gowns are required for women. Those not appropriately dressed will be turned away. Also, each person **must have a ticket and be at least 21 years old.** We don't want any of our guests to be disappointed or embarrassed when turned away, so make sure they know these requirements.

Also, let your guests know that there will be barricades at *Masquerade* set up along both sides of the parade route inside of the Exhibition Hall. The barricades are used to keep guests and others back for safety while our floats roll through. River Center personnel and police will control those barricades, closing the barricades a few minutes before the floats roll through. This means that **guests may not be able to get from Side A to Side B and back once the indoor parade starts.** While there may be a brief opportunity to cross between floats if police permit, guests shouldn't count on it. There should be a warning announcement of this closing about five minutes before the parade rolls through. (For the *Masquerade* table seating layout, go to the Orion website in the "MEMBER PORTAL", and look under "ORION INFO". Then check your ticket number on Side A or Side B to locate your table.)

Guys, in the coming days, be sure to **invite your friends, family, neighbors, people at work, and others who you see every day to bring their family and come out and see our parade.** Tell everyone your float title, and where on your float you'll be riding (e.g., second person on the driver's side on the top, etc.) so that as you pass by on the parade route, they can yell at you for throws. Our parade will be fun and exciting for them and they make it special and fun for us. And please be friendly and courteous to our *Masquerade* and parade crowd, as many of those folks are our friends, family, and neighbors.

Check with your float lieutenants if you have any questions.

Happy Mardi Gras and have a great ride and *Masquerade*!

Sincerely,



Darren Coates, Captain