

Adjusting to the New Tulane and the “New” New Orleans Theme

How to Be Safe During Mardi Gras: *exploring the many Mardi Gras safety tips*

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Public Safety

- I. Plans
 - A. Register your guests with Housing and Residential Life.
 - B. Be familiar with parade routes which are different this year.
 - C. Establish groups and set locations for attending parades.
 - D. Have a pre-arranged meeting place should someone get lost.
 - E. Don't carry excess cash. Carry only what you'll need for the night, and save an extra twenty to get you home.
 - F. Travel light, and don't wear flashy or expensive jewelry that may attract robbers.
 - G. Leave 2-3 hours before parades start.
 - H. The bus schedule is sketchy, so plan to walk.
 - I. Wear comfortable, closed toe shoes, not flip flops or sandals, due to broken glass and unidentifiable liquids in the streets.
 - J. Wear clothing or costumes that allow free movement, and don't mask to the point that you can't see.
- II. Safety
 - A. Go to parades and return from parades in groups.
 - B. Stay on main streets, and don't go wandering, especially in unlit areas.
 - C. Don't take anybody's "staked out" territory.
 - D. Plastic cups and long beads are not worth your life, so don't dive under floats for them.
 - E. The proper way to catch doubloons is to stomp on them when they hit the ground. If you try to pick them up with your fingers, you will get stomped on.
 - F. Pay attention to alcohol tolerances. Don't over consume. Have designated drivers. Do not leave drinks unattended.
 - G. If you find yourself separated from the group, take a taxi back to campus.
 - H. Be extra suspicious of strangers. Do not leave your group with one.
 - I. Don't rely on cell phones which may not work with heavy usage.
 - J. Program emergency numbers into cell phones, and carry a card with those numbers in your pocket with your ID.
- III. Police Situations
 - A. Obey all instructions given by police
 - B. Do not lean on, sit on, or cross police barricades
 - C. There are numerous police agencies, such as the Louisiana State Police and the National Guard, assisting the New Orleans Police Department and the Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff's Office with both parades and patrol.

- D. Don't take furniture on the parade route. Police will make you move sofas and arm chairs from the street.
- E. Don't block intersections with ladders, ice chests, chairs, or trucks. Vehicles parked on corners and in intersections will be ticketed and towed (huge fines!).
- F. Do not relieve yourself in public, behind cars, or on the street, as you will be arrested and charged with obscenity.
- G. Do not expose yourself to beg for beads. You really don't want to appear on national TV, the Internet, or on someone's cell phone. Worse, you may be arrested. You absolutely do not want to get involved in the criminal justice system and spend the entire Mardi Gras break in Central Lockup.

IV. Crowd Control

- A. The police have specific methods for controlling crowds.
- B. Crowd dynamics can be tricky, so try to go with the flow while moving toward the edge of the throng where it is safer to navigate.
- C. If you fall try to get up quickly. This is another reason having a group and a buddy is important, so that someone can pull you to your feet.
- D. You may have to either crawl in the direction of the flow or ball up and cover your head in a crush.
- E. Avoid being pinned against a barricade at the front of a crowd.