

Navarre Krewe of Jesters

History:

- ❖ Founded in 1986 by Burt Johnson & Ken Leveque Jr. at the Navarre Orleans restaurant at Navarre Beach, Florida. The Krewe has grown from the initial 10 members with a parade of walkers and a few floats, to over 80 members and more than 60 parade entries from Okaloosa, Bay, Escambia, and Santa Rosa counties!
- ❖ Originally called the “Krewe of Jesters”, we officially became the “Navarre Krewe of Jesters “ in 2003 in order to not be confused with the all female Krewe of Jesters in Pensacola.

Navarre Parade:

- ❖ This annual community event takes place on Saturdays right around Ash Wednesday with businesses and organizations from as far away as Central Alabama competing for the “Best Float” title! With over 50,000 spectators lined up to catch some beads! We are known for the best throws and the family friendly atmosphere that is not found anywhere else!

Other Parades:

The Krewe has taken the show on the road as we love to participate in other area parades:

- ❖ Krewe of Lafitte Mardi Gras Parade
- ❖ Fiesta of Five Flags Parade
- ❖ Billy Bowlegs
- ❖ Navarre Christmas Parade
- ❖ Krewe of Dominique Youx Parade

Community Programs:

Originally started to bring Mardi Gras to the Navarre area, the Krewe has become a community supporter and is involved in the following noteworthy causes.

- ❖ Santa Rosa Clean Community (2 mile section of Gulf Blvd beach road clean up)
- ❖ Annual Scholarship Program

Either Associate Membership (\$125/yr) Allows for participation in any activities (parades, parties, balls, etc) without the required attendance or committee commitment

Or General Membership (\$60 yr): A minimum of once a quarter attendance of a scheduled meeting. Requires active participation on one of the following committees:

Membership dues are due on May 31st.

Choose your fun...

Parade Committee Get your coordinator juices flowing! Help coordinate the Annual Navarre Beach Parade! Select parade themes, design award trophies, and organize participants!

Float Committee Work on the Jesters crowning glory! Help ensure the Jesters float is awesome for each parade, and help with maintenance issues and ensure Krewe safety!

Entertainment Committee Welcome to the party committee! Help ensure the success of the 12th Night Mardi Gras kick off party the first part of January! Followed by the annual Mardi Gras Ball, and then the annual Pub Crawl!

Fund Raising Committee Come join the most important committee! Providing funds for the Navarre High School Scholarships and most importantly the Navarre Parade! Creative and interesting ideas abound in this group!

Hospitality / Royalty Committee At your service committee! Introduce Jester Royalty at parties and balls and welcome visiting dignitaries! Procure vehicles and present in grand fashion Jester Royalty in the Navarre Parade! Help maintain Royalty robes, crowns and tiaras!

Scholarship Committee Help select the brightest star among many! Introduce the Navarre High School scholarship winner at a Krewe meeting! And present the recipient the scholarship award at the Annual Awards Banquet the night before graduation! Truly an honor!

Public Relations Committee Jesters is the Word! Make sure print and media are kept abreast of all things Jesters! From the Parade dates, to the scholarship winners, to the Jesters Duck Derby! Come one, come all! Come join in the fun!!

Community Service Committee Keep Jesters involved! Help coordinate community events such as the Annual Navarre Beach Road clean up, or the Jester tent in the Navarre Annual Relay for Life!

Beads & Baubles Here's the bling! Help keep the Krewe in style by choosing (or designing!) Jester pins and beads. No salesmanship needed to sell these items as the Krewe lines up whenever new ones are available.

Website Design New to the committee roster, this important committee shows the world the Jester Spirit!

Policy & Procedures Committee Help maintain Krewe policies so that everyone has a great time but follows the guidelines set forth by our forefathers... Initiate change as needed.

Choose the committee that most suits you!

New to the Krewe...

Meetings:

- ❖ Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Elks Lodge, 2002 Elks Way, Navarre behind the Shrimp Basket on Hwy 98 at 7 PM. Jester T-shirts and beads abound all year long (but aren't a necessity to attend meetings). Nametags are highly encouraged!

Required Krewe attire:

- ❖ Tuxedo Jacket with tails (Tuxedo shirt is acceptable but not required)
- ❖ Wearing of Beads, baubles, and all things Mardi Gras (clean only)

Special Items Available:

- ❖ Krewe Beads & Pins are available at most Jester meetings. Trading Krewe Pins is a great way to meet new people and socialize with other Krewes before each parade! And unique Krewe beads are coveted by everyone!

Parade Requirements:

- ❖ Throwbeads – members are responsible to provide their own beads, dispersing at will. It is suggested 1 to 3 cases per parade.
- ❖ Learn – “Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler”, meaning “Let the good times Roll!”

Float Protocol:

- ❖ Positions on the float will be assigned at the meeting prior to the event. Late arrivals and members who missed the meeting will be on a first come first serve basis.

Safety:

- ❖ Walkers: 6 safety walkers required in most parades to ensure pedestrians stay back from the floats. Walkers may be volunteers or members and are not required to have beads.
- ❖ Glass: Not allowed on the float during parades.
- ❖ Adult beverages: Discretely contained, spill proof plastic cups/containers are suggested.
- ❖ Inebriated: Individuals that are too inebriated will not be allowed to ride on the float.