



**Fantasy Fest Parade  
Entrant Manual**



**Saturday, October 29th, 2022**

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## A. WELCOME TO FANTASY FEST 2022!

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On behalf of myself and the other 3 founders of Fantasy Fest, I want to thank you for your interest in being part of this year's parade.

This will be the 43rd year of this incredible party, and never did we imagine this celebration would become what it is today! In the late 70's, the summers were long and hot with only locals on the island. A group of us thought it would be fun to create something that was entertaining and helpful to our sleepy economy. Since Halloween was already a beloved Key West holiday, turning it into an event was easy. The parade started out small, with just 20 floats. But after the success of our first year, word spread and the second year our neighbors from the mainland began to arrive! Then, they started coming from up north, and finally from around the world.

Today, it's people like yourself that make Fantasy Fest an incredible party. And, of course, the most exciting and creative event is the grand finale! Without your creative genius, the Fantasy Fest parade would not be what it is today. Keep bringing to life beautiful entertainment! There's no greater fun than marching and dancing down Duval Street with thousands enjoying your creativity and cheering you on.

As one of those crazy people that have built over 25 floats, I truly appreciate all the planning and work that goes into the execution of bringing an idea to life that entertains and delights the crowds. So, I want to personally thank you for keeping the tradition alive and making Fantasy Fest even better! Without your creative genius, the Fantasy Fest parade would not be what it is today.

Have fun...and be a little crazy!

*Tony Falcone, Fantasy Fest Co-Founder*

## B. HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE PARADE

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### 1. Safety requirements:

- Fire extinguishers: All units except walking groups must carry two (2) fire extinguishers, fore and aft. Large walking groups that include a support vehicle must have an extinguisher. The Fire Marshall recommends #3 A-40BC in a minimum of 5 lb. size. It will need a current certification tag from an extinguisher company. No live fires. No refueling on the parade route.
- Escort monitors: EVERY parade unit must have at least four stationed at the front two (2) wheels of the tow vehicle and back two (2) wheels of the float. Walking groups with more than 25 people will also need monitors. Parade staff will notify group if additional monitors will be needed based on design of the float or the size of the walking group. Monitors will help direct the unit through the crowds along the route. They must attend the mandatory Driver & Monitors meeting. **All DRIVERS are required to pass a breathalyzer test prior to parade start.**
- Ensure that your driver has a valid driver's license on his/her person the day of.
- We strongly suggest having a second pair of keys readily available for the float vehicle.

### 2. Waivers:

Each float member participating in the parade MUST sign a waiver form. These waivers will be turned in for wrist bands, which are required to participate in the parade. The best way to have these completed and signed by your participants is to have copies available at your group meetings prior to parade day. You will find a copy of the waiver attached.

### 3. Tips for a successful day:

- Plan to arrive earlier than your assigned line-up time, which will be given to you at the mandatory meeting on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm
- Bring drinking water, trash bags and first aid kits.
- Bring hand sanitizers and toilet paper.
- Please do not bring live animals or children to the parade.
- Dress for success! Although the atmosphere is relaxed, nudity is not allowed. This is a costume and entertainment parade; therefore, costumes are required!

## C. PARADE DAY!

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### 1. Parade Day Schedule:

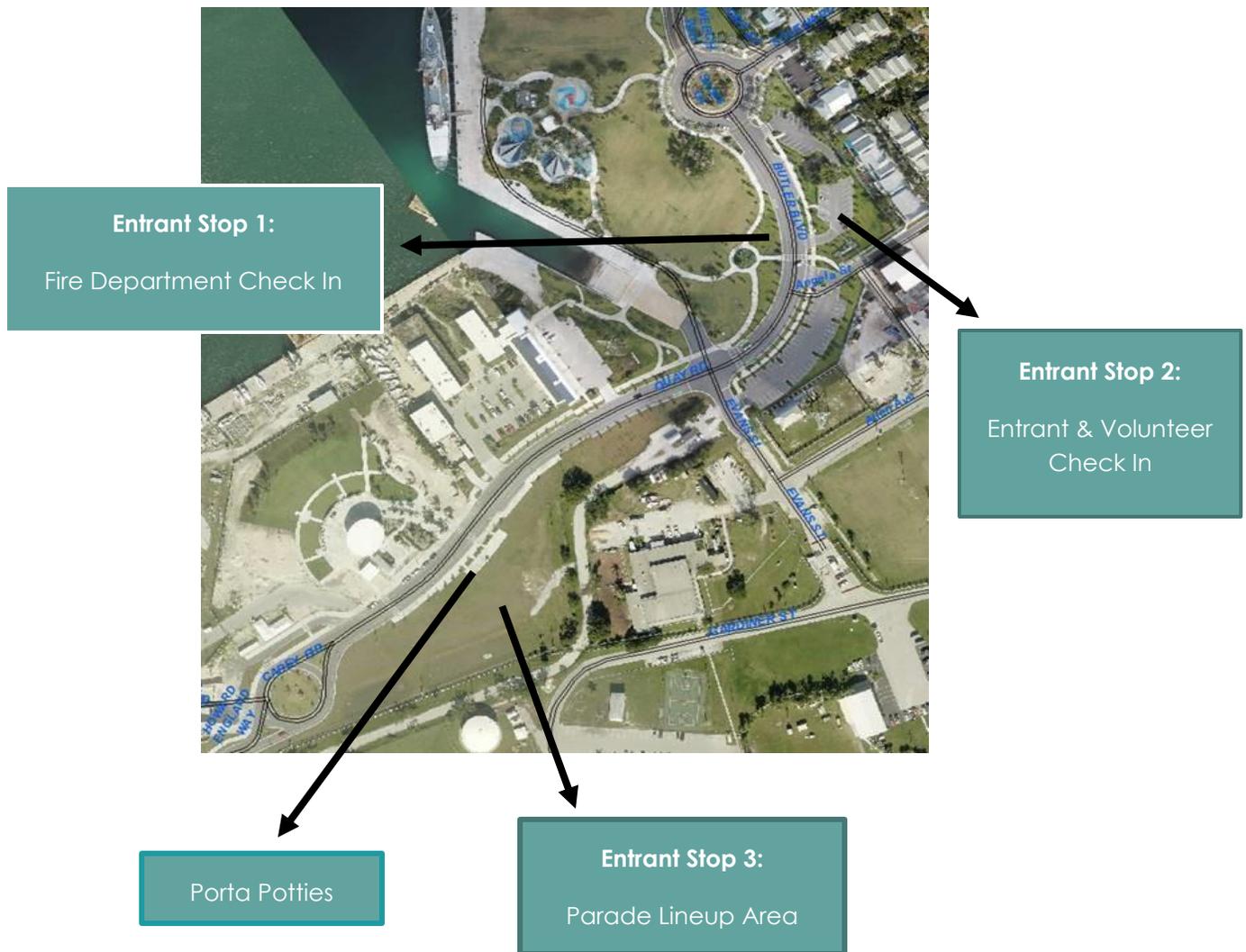
10:00am:	Parade headquarters opens at line-up area.
4:00pm:	All vehicles must be in place.
6:15pm:	All parade participants must be present <b>with wristbands on!</b>
7:00pm:	Parade steps off.

### 2. How to get to the starting point:

Duval St. is closed for the promenade. Approach the line-up area via United St., turn right on Whitehead St., left on Southard St. into Truman Annex. In the afternoon, Whitehead St. will be blocked at Southard and latecomers will have to turn left on Angela, right on Thomas St. and lastly left on Southard St. Angela Street is narrow and crowded with parked cars and overhanging trees. We encourage you to come early and avoid the late route all together.

### 3. Once you arrive:

- **Stop 1: Check in with the Fire Department** at the entrance of the line-up area. They will give you your physical line up number and ensure you have procession of fire extinguishers. *All entries must have one person check in with the fire department FIRST.*
- **Stop 2: Go to the TENT for entrant check in** (right across from the fire department check in). This is where you will turn in your participant waivers in exchange for wristbands for your group. Those without wristbands cannot be in the parade. We prefer you turn in ALL waivers for ALL participants at check in. If that's not possible, your group contact can return to this check in area for waiver turn ins up to 3 times.
- **Stop 3: Float Area:** You will be guided to your spot in the lineup area after checking step number 2 by a parade ambassador.



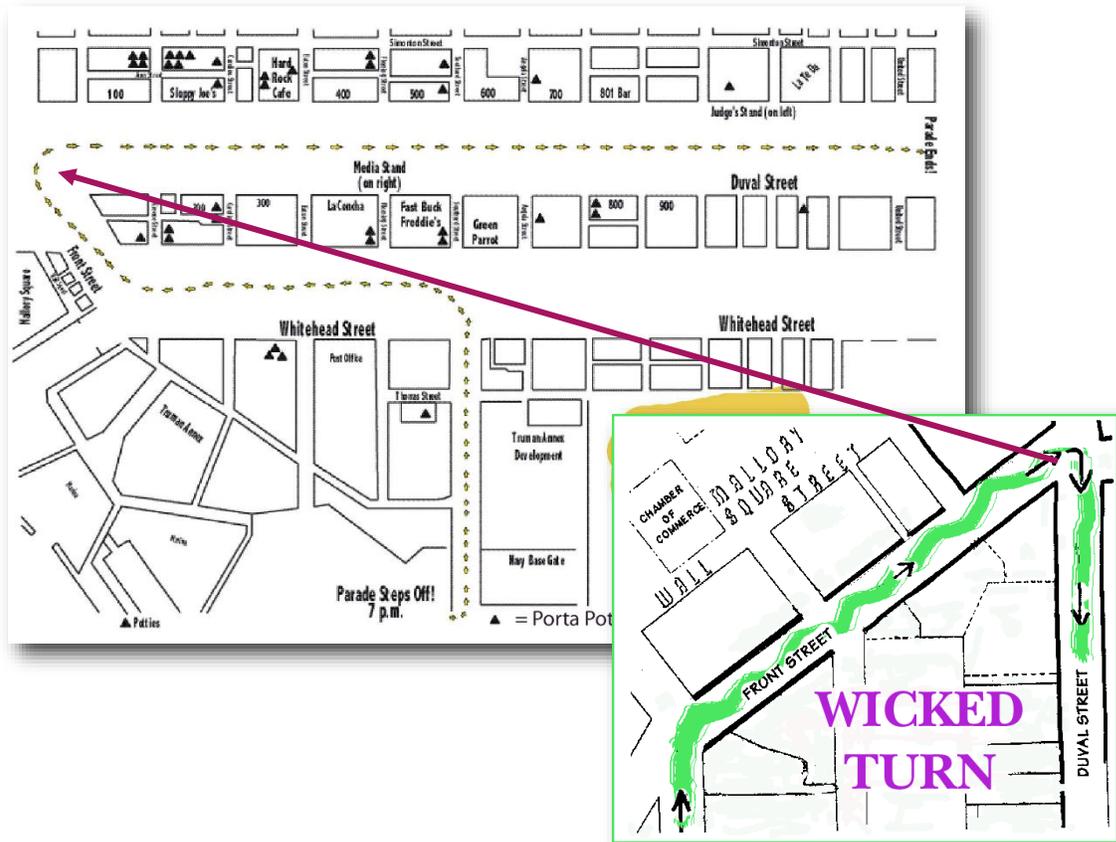
#### 4. During the parade:

- Proper spacing is imperative for suitable parade flow. Please stay within 30 feet of the float in front of you.
- Keep your group together! Stragglers can seriously impact the flow of the entire parade.
- Each group must have at least two monitors during the parade route. For motorized vehicles, please have one for each tire. They must be in their monitor t-shirt and must walk in the four points designated (front tires and back of float) for safety. Costume accessories are allowed for monitors. The monitors role is to be vigilant of bead-crazed spectators and others who might get too close to the wheels or intrude on the parade. This is a very important safety position, especially in sections of the route not protected by barricades.

- Travel in the parade route is one way. Once you reach the end of the route, you may not turn around and walk back down the parade route, even with a wristband. Parade officials will be reliably intolerant of this, your group may be suspended for multiple years as a result of this violation.

## 5. Parade route:

The parade steps off at Truman waterfront, goes down Southard St., then turns left on Whitehead Street. Right before turning right onto Duval St., floats will face the “wicked turn”, a challenging 120 degree turn. Please ensure your driver practices this turn before the parade! **All people not on the float must be on the right side of the vehicle during this turn in order to prevent serious injuries. This is a mandatory requirement, please ensure everyone knows and understands prior to parade step off.** Survey the parade route and develop a strategy for trees, wires, traffic lights and other hazards. Parade ends at the corner of Duval St. and South St.



## D. PARADE AWARDS

### 1. Award Categories:

Each parade entry will have an opportunity to showcase their hard work in front of the Fantasy Fest judges at the intersection of Duval St. and Truman Ave. for a chance to be recognized as the best in one of the award categories. If your group not only likes to entertain a crowd but would also like to be recognized, these are the award categories the judges will be looking to find the best of:

#### Interpretation of Theme (\$1,500 prize):

This year's theme is "Cult Classic & Cartoon Chaos!". The award for best interpretation of theme will go to the parade entry that takes the theme and turns it into a literal or objective story. Self-expression and innovative creations are highly encouraged. A great interpretation of theme is creative but easily understood by the judges and parade watchers alike who only have a quick moment to absorb it.

#### Best in Entertainment (\$2,000 prize):

The Fantasy Fest parade is an entertainment parade! As such, the best in entertainment award will go to the parade entry that encourages judges and parade watchers to tap their toes, make them laugh or stand and cheer. The winning entry will also have a form of interaction with the crowd and/or a skit or dance to be performed along the route multiple times and in front of the judges stand.

#### Best in Costume (\$2,000 prize):

The best in costume award will go to the entry whose costumes are original, unique and cohesively enhance the entry theme. Body paint can enhance the look of a costume but used alone will not be considered a costume. Private parts must be covered by a physical costume. Please remember nudity is not allowed.

#### Best Overall Award (\$5,000 prize):

The best overall award will go to the entry whose costume, entertainment and interpretation of theme ranks the highest for the judges. It will be the entry that incorporates all 3 categories in the most Fantasy Fest way possible!

Best Walking Group (\$1500 prize):

The best walking group award will go to the best walking (non-motorized) entry whose costume, entertainment and interpretation of theme ranks the highest for the judges.

Best Conch Style Architecture Award (\$750 prize):

The Conch style architecture award will go to the entry that best represents the architecture of conch Key West and/or integrates architecture ingenuity in their parade entry.

Green Parrot's Best Live Music award (\$750 prize):

The Green Parrot's best live music award will go the entry who integrates the best live music feature in their float. Whether it is a live band, or a one-person instrument performance, if it's live music, it must move the crowd.

WeCycle's Best Bike Award (\$750 prize):

The WeCycle's best bike award will go to the best bike or human powered device that entertains the crowd and integrates the parade theme.

Director's Choice Award (\$750 prize):

This award will go to whomever the Fantasy Fest Director chooses! Seriously, no criteria here. She will let us know who rocked her world and why 😊

## 2. Award Ceremony & Important Dates:

- The **Mandatory meeting** for all parade entries is on Wednesday, October 26th at 5:30pm at Opal Resort, Truman Ballroom.
- Mark your calendar: The **Award Ceremony** will take place on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Location details to follow. This is where the award category winners will be announced.