

# PARADE THROWS 101

*This information is for our newest members who may be riding for the first time but it also has good information for our veteran riders. **Many thanks to Secretary & Lt. Jo Troiani (2023) for creating this informational document.***

## **Q: Hey! How many throws should I buy?**

A: This is the number one question asked by every new parade rider. The short answer is: “We can’t answer that”. There are many variables – what’s your budget? What’s your throwing style – do you throw a lot and fast? Or some and slow? Do you like to throw beads? Or cups? Or plushies? Or toys? The recommended minimum is 15 gross of beads.

## **Q: What is a gross of beads?**

A: A gross is 12 dozen. 12 times 12 is 144 beads. 144 beads times 15 is 2,160 beads.

## **Q: How long is the parade?**

A: Our parade route is approximately 3 miles and takes about 2.5 hours from start to finish.

## **Q: What’s an Alligraw?**

A: The Alligraw is our Krewe’s signature throw (similar to Zulu’s coconuts and Muses’ shoes). Each stuffed alligator can be hand decorated with an outfit, mask, hat, sequins, etc. Some members like to bag their Alligraws with premium throws. Each Alligraw is unique. The Krewe usually orders the alligators in the summer/fall prior to the Mardi Gras season. Check with your Float Lieutenant for details.

## **Q: What are the best throws to buy?**

A: Whichever ones you’d like to throw. Some people love to toss beads; others love to toss stuffed animals and toys. Some people love to throw cups and hula hoops. Think about what you’d like to catch and bring home, and then throw those items. We are a nighttime parade and light up/LED throws are very popular.

## **Q: What throws should I avoid?**

A: If you are riding on a Krewe of Omega float, you cannot throw anything of a political nature. We know you want to support your favorite political candidate or party, but our Krewe must remain politically neutral.

Also, our parade is a family-friendly parade. Please DO NOT throw inappropriate items, i.e., suggestive of drug use (cannabis leaves) or sexual items. You cannot guarantee who is going to catch that item. And yes, we have had complaints in the past about items thrown at our parade.

We are all about recycling and reusing items, but please DO NOT throw items from other krewes. Yes, that’s a beautiful set of beads, but if it says Endymion or Bacchus or Eve, etc. on it, please keep it at home.

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**Q: My friends gave me a bunch of beads from their garage/attic/shed/MawMaw and PawPaw's house. They are a tangled mess! What can I do?**

A: Several days before the parade, get your beads out and sort them by size and length. This will help the beads from tangling. Using either paper bags, newspaper or plastic shopping bags, cut strips and band the beads together, usually about 10-12 beads per band. Place them carefully in your Mardi Gras bead bags or crawfish sacks, with the bands facing upwards. Once you are on your float and loading the beads, remove them carefully from the bag and place them on your hooks. DO NOT remove the bands until you are ready to throw.

**Q: The parade stopped! We aren't moving! What do I do now?**

A: Now is the time to reload and reorganize your throws. DO NOT throw your trash (plastic bags, boxes, bead bands, etc.) off of your float. This is trashy behavior and not allowed. Keep your trash on the float. Your Lieutenant will have provided trash bags for your use.

**Q: The parade is over. What do I do now?**

A: Help your Lieutenant clean up the float. Our floats are driven back across the lake after our parade and we cannot have trash flying off of the floats creating a driving hazard. Work with your fellow members to pick up all trash, food items, beverages, etc. and remove it from the float. Return to your vehicle, drive home safe, and return next year to do it all again!!