



# KREWE OF OMEGA

## ROYAL COURT MAID & DUKE HANDBOOK

Thank you for your interested in representing the Krewe of Omega. While this may seem very overwhelming in the beginning, if selected, you are in for a "royal" treat and a wonderful reign! If you have any questions (and you will!), please do not hesitate to ask the Royalty Director who will be happy to help you during your reign. We are very honored that you have chosen to represent the Krewe of Omega.

### Maid & Duke Obligations/ Responsibilities

As official ambassadors of the Krewe of Omega, the Maids & Dukes roles have multiple official obligations. Written information about the Krewe, past and present, will be provided by the Captain or Royalty Director after the Coronation Dance. The Maids & Dukes are urged to get to know as many Krewe members as possible, particularly the new members.

The Omega Royal Court Maids & Dukes represent the Krewe of Omega at events and functions throughout the parish, encouraging the community to participate in our Krewe by membership, sponsorship or attendance at our parade. The Maids & Dukes, along with our King, Queen and Royal Princesses & Pages spread the spirit of Mardi Gras wherever they go. The Royal Maid Court is open to adult female members ages 18+ and welcomes new members to participate. The Royal Duke Court is open to adult male members ages 18+ and welcomes new members to participate. Maids and Dukes are encouraged to participate in a royal capacity for multiple years.

### Appearances:

**The Royalty Director is appointed as the contact person for the Royal Court** during their reign and will make all arrangements, discuss questions & decisions, and for all appearances. A Royal Court member shall make no personal appearance representing Krewe or displaying Krewe equipage without the prior approval of Krewe Royalty Director.

Travel and miscellaneous expenses are the financial responsibility of the Royal Court member.

### **Events:**

In addition to numerous optional fun events, the following activities **are mandatory** for all Maid & Duke Royal Court Members throughout the season.

- All Krewe General meetings
- Coronation Rehearsal
- Krewe of Omega Coronation and presentation of the Royal Court
- Twelfth Night Celebration
- Royal Court formal portrait session

- Mardi Gras Ball Rehearsal
- Mardi Gras Ball
- Krewe of Omega Parade

The Maid and Duke roles are expected to:

- Minimize the consumption of alcohol, avoiding inebriation, any time they are representing the Krewe. Consumption of alcohol is restricted to individuals 21 years or older, per state law. It will be up to the discretion of the Captain and/or Royalty Director to deem any royal court member excluded from participation in any event due to perceived inebriation.
- Be available for local newspaper interviews and radio, TV, or local appearances *as requested* by the Captain and/or Royalty Director and in the event the King or Queen are unable to do so. They should be able to handle interviews and represent the Krewe with dignity and respect.
- Advise the Royal Director of any event they would like to attend in official capacity as representing the Krewe. The Royal Director and Captain make all final decisions on participation.
- Purchase a Krewe of Omega polo and/or t-shirt for official appearances. These shirts may have title and/or name embroidered or printed on it.

The Maid and Duke roles are encouraged to:

- As ambassadors of the Krewe, Maids & Dukes are strongly encouraged to participate in all Krewe community outreach opportunities: spirit baskets, litter abatement, school visits, policeman appreciation luncheon, etc.
- Attend all king cake parties and other functions given by Krewe members as well as the Krewe itself.
- Participate in other parish parades or events (i.e., Christmas parades, St. Patrick's Day, Oyster Festival, Strawberry Festival, Italian Festival, chamber meetings, etc.). All expenses are the responsibility of the court member but *must have the approval of the Royalty Director and Captain for participation*. Note: you may not be able to wear your tiaras at area festivals and/or parades that have their own royalty. A sash with “Maid or Duke Omega \_\_\_” may be appropriate instead of your tiaras.

### **Maid and Duke Royalty Dues**

**The Maid total cost is \$650 each.** This fee includes membership (\$350) & royalty fee (\$300).

Total Cost Includes:

- Maid Membership Dues
- Royalty Position in Parade
- Maid Pin
- Tiara & Royal Sash
- Ball Ticket
- Patron Party Ticket
- Use of Krewe Feather Collar (Ball & Parade use)

Items not covered:

- Throws
- Omega Royal Ball Attire
- Omega Parade Attire
- Any expenses incurred for optional events such as other parade entries
  - Magnetic Car signage for parade & any applicable entry fees

**The Duke total cost is \$500 each.** This fee includes membership (\$350) & royalty fee (\$150).

Total Cost Includes:

- Duke Membership Dues
- Royalty Position in Parade
- Duke Pin
- Royal Sash
- Ball Ticket
- Patron Party Ticket

Items not covered:

- Throws
- Omega Royal Ball Attire
- Omega Parade Attire
- Any expenses incurred for optional events such as other parade entries
  - Magnetic Car signage for parade & any applicable entry fees

### **Attire/Grooming/Personal Cleanliness:**

**All attire for major Krewe events (*including Coronation, Royal Ball, and Parade*) must have approval of the Royalty Director and Captain.** Failure to comply may result in being refused participation of event and/or removal from the Royal Court.

- Maid: The Royalty Director and Captain will designate the *style* for ball gowns. As set by the Royalty Director and Captain, all Maid gowns for the Royal Ball and Parade are required to complement each other in style when more than one Maid is being presented. Attire for Coronation shall be appropriate cocktail dress **or** approved theme related attire. Once attire has been approved by the Royalty Director and Captain, there shall be no deviation from the selected attire without approval.
  - **Ball/Parade Attire must be approved & IN HAND no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>!**
- Dukes: All Dukes must be in black formal tux for Royal Ball and Parade. As set by the Royalty Director and Captain, all Dukes attire for the Royal Ball and Parade are required to complement each other in style when more than one Duke is being presented. Attire for Coronation is slacks suit jacket & tie **or** approved theme related attire. Once attire has been approved by the Royalty Director and Captain, there shall be no deviation from the selected attire without approval.
- The Royal Court member is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their tiara, collar and sashes. Any damage caused while in their possession, not including normal wear, will be repaired at their expense.

**Additionally, Royal Court Members shall adhere to the following guidelines:**

- Maintain modest & socially acceptable attire, whether casual or professional, when representing the Krewe at any event.
- Wear their tiaras at all Krewe-related events during their reign. This includes meetings, parties, interviews, other parades (if allowed) and any other functions where you are representing the Krewe of Omega. *(Please note that you may not be able to wear your tiaras at area festivals and/or parades that have their own royalty. A sash with “Maid and Duke Omega \_\_” may be appropriate instead of your tiaras.)*
- Dresses/Skirts: Casual dresses and skirts, and skirts that are split at or below the knee are acceptable. Dress and skirt length should be at a length at which you can sit comfortably in public. Dresses and skirts should fall no less than one hand-width above the top of the knee. Short, tight skirts are unacceptable. Shorts should be no less than fingertip length when standing with a straight back.
- Shirts: Inappropriate attire while representing the Krewe includes midriff tops; halter tops; shirts with potentially offensive words, terms, logos, pictures, cartoons, or slogans.
- Properly fitting undergarments should always be worn. Undergarments shall not be seen at any time. This includes exposed bra straps and panty lines. Excessive cleavage is strongly discouraged.

Examples of unacceptable grooming and hygiene items while representing the Krewe include, but are not limited to:

- Visibly dirty skin; the hands and fingernails are especially important
- Beards or moustaches not neatly trimmed
- Perceptible body odor
- Strong or excessive perfume or other fragrances
- Un-brushed teeth at beginning event/gathering
- Unkempt hair – noticeably not washed or styled
- Unnatural appearing hair colorings (i.e., blue, green, magenta)

**Causes For Removal From the Royal Court & Penalties**

During their reign, Royal Court Members shall not:

- Fail to adhere to the guidelines set forth in this handbook.
- Abuse any controlled dangerous substances during the period of their reign.
- Conduct themselves in any inappropriate manner including but not limited to:
  - Disrespecting any Krewe Board Member or other responsible person including but not limited to personnel of any other Festival, Fair or Event.
  - Consume alcohol, to the point of inebriation, while representing the Krewe.
  - Any other conduct specifically prohibited by Krewe.
  - Commission of or arrested for any felony.
- Complaints or violations of the above and foregoing rules shall be handled as follows:
  - On the first complaint from a public source Krewe Royalty Director shall give a written warning.

- On any second or subsequent complaint from the same source or three complaints from different public sources the Court member shall appear before Krewe Board of Directors. The Krewe Board of Directors may take any action it deems necessary including, but not limited to, removal.
- Arrest for any felony shall constitute grounds for immediate removal.
- In the event of removal, the removed Royal Court member shall return all Krewe property including, but not limited to, tiara, mantle, and sash within 24 hours. If it necessary for the Krewe to obtain an attorney to enforce this provision, the removed Court member shall be responsible for any attorney's fees and court costs incurred.

### **Activities Prior to the Coronation in August**

- Provide short bio to the Royalty Director by August 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Purchase coronation attire and obtain approval by Royalty Director.

### **Coronation Event**

- Friends and/or relatives may be invited, but a ticket must be purchased for each non-member guest.
- You will be introduced as planned in conjunction with the Captain, Royalty Director and/or Coronation Chairperson.
- You will be presented with your tiara and/or royal sash.
- You will want to ensure you have designated an attendee to get photos of you throughout the night for memories.
- Prepare for possible TV and newspaper interviews once you are tiaraed.
- Royal Court members are encouraged, but not required, to purchase a token gift to present to the King and Queen the night of Coronation.

### **King & Queen Royal Christmas/Holiday Party (or Alternative Event)**

- The Maids and Dukes are required to attend the Royal Christmas/Holiday Party for the Krewe or the alternative event.
- Party attire is to be addressed by the King & Queen in their party invitation. If the event is themed attire, Royal Court members are strongly encouraged to participate in the theme.

### **12th Night Party**

- Plan to wear your tiaras and/or sash. The type of dress will be dictated by the party announcement.
- Be prepared for media interviews and photographs.

### **Mardi Gras Ball**

- Work with the Captain, Royalty Director, Ball Chairperson, and those preparing the tableau to discuss how you be presented at the Ball. You will need to participate in the Ball Rehearsal for the Presentation as scheduled.
- Royal Court members, along with their guest will be set at one table. This is subject to Royal Director and Captain discretion but is open to input from the Court member.
- Be sure to designate someone to take pictures of you and your guests throughout the night.

## Trek

- Consult with the Royal Director regarding transportation options. If separate transportation is not provided for the Maids and Dukes, they shall switch from bus to bus in the caravan to visit with all members of the Krewe during the Trek.
- Wear your tiara and/or sash.

## Mardi Gras Parade

- The Maid and Duke may or may not wish to throw beads or other items. Talk with past royalty to get their insight and opinions. Some have used throws, others have not.
- Be sure to arrive at the time designated by the Royal Director & Parade Marshall for loading on your float.
- Dress for the weather, and be sure to have alternative plans for canopy, rain gear, coats, blankets, etc.

## Timeline for Royalty

- Jun-August
  - The Captain or Royalty Director will confirm that you have been selected as a Maid or Duke.
  - Pay Royalty Dues
- July/August
  - Provide the Royalty Director with a short bio for presentations & publication
  - Coordinate with Royalty Director regarding Coronation presentation and introduction – attend rehearsal & event
- August/September
  - Order royal attire for Omega’s Royal Mardi Gras Ball & Parade – **reminder: dress must have approval of the Royalty Director to be worn at events.**
- December
  - Coordinate with Royalty Director regarding presentation, introduction, rehearsal at Ball
  - Receive approval of Royal Ball and Parade attire.
- January/February
  - Coordinate with Royalty Director regarding Trek transportation and schedule
  - Coordinate with Royalty Director regarding Parade schedule
- March/April/May
  - Participation in King & Queen Day events
  - Various festivals and parades

**MOST IMPORTANT – RELAX AND ENJOY YOUR ROYAL REIGN!!  
ALL HAIL OMEGA!**

