



★
3WISHES.COM
LINGERIE, SEXY COSTUMES AND MORE

2015 PARADE FLOAT BUILDERS MANUAL

OCTOBER 31, 2015, 7pm
KEY WEST

Creativity Is Everything

The 3Wishes.com Fantasy Fest Parade has one mission: to entertain the nearly 70,000 spectators who line the streets of downtown Key West to see it. They expect to be wowed every time a float appears. It's an awesome, thrilling, exhilarating experience for the float designers and builders!

Live the Theme

Use the Fantasy Fest theme to inspire your creative energy. Dream big! Pull out all the stops! Impress the judges and photographers with a spectacular, jaw-dropping creation. Send the crowd home with vivid memories of YOUR rolling creation!

Take Home an Award

The judges will award points for each entry based on creativity, costumes, and entertainment value. As you're designing, think about which award you'd like to put on your mantel and push your design to its creative limits!

PRIZES ARE AWARDED FOR:

- 3Wishes.com Grand Prize
- Best in Theme Award
- Best in Creativity Award
- Best Costume Award
- Best Walking Group Award
- Best in Entertainment
- Locals Favorite Award



Tips from the Professionals

The interweb is an awesome place to get some inspiration and advice. We've collected a few sites that are worth exploring... but there are hundreds more you can find with a simple search.

- Here's a step-by-step guide from Valley Decorating in Fresno, California, on how to build a parade float from scratch:

www.valleydecorating.com/howto.html

They also have a whole section of ideas, instructions on calculating how much stuff you'll need.

- This "Build a Parade Float" guide seems very familiar...

<http://www.fbsind.com/FLOATS/Buildafloat.htm>

And it includes links to a couple of videos that you might find helpful.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2AFO3jl9Qo>

- City of Greenville Special Events Coordinator Will Young interviews "Float Guru" Donnie Whitmire. Donnie gives his Top 5 tips for building an award-winning parade float.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bzfeO5kM3VU>

(The actual tips start around 1:50)

- How To Build A Mardi Gras Float - 2012 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krV8sT-wxVE>

Tips from the Pro-Ams

- Here's a fantastic step-by-step guide created by local talents, The Minions, at IslandAlien.com:
<http://islandalien.com/minions/ultimateguide/index.htm>
- As well as some fantastic inspiration from past award winners:
<http://www.islandalien.com/minions/bestfloats/index.htm>
- The organizers of North Carolina Pride have created an informative, printable guide that's worth a look. Not all of the suggestions will work in the Fantasy Fest Parade, but many of them can be modified or augmented to be suitable.
www.ncpride.org/pride/library/articles/floatbuilding.pdf
- "The Authoritative Guide on How to Build a Float" from The Victory Corporation.
http://www.golfcartparade.com/how_to_build_floats.pdf
- Victory also provides a free, downloadable e-book with "complete and detailed tips and plans."
<http://www.victorycorps.com/parade-float-planning>
- The folks at Colorado State University say building a float "isn't as hard as you might think. The hardest part is coming up with a unique idea that fits with this year's theme." They have some good ideas and checklists that may be helpful during building and the day of the parade. Check out the extra links near the bottom of the page, too.
<http://www.homecoming.colostate.edu/float-manual-1.aspx>
- WikiHow includes a whole list of things to think about while you're designing your float along with "Tips," "Warnings," and "Things You'll Need."
<http://www.wikihow.com/Build-a-Float>
- The Lancaster, Ohio, Fourth of July Parade committee created quite the printable manual:
http://fourthofjulylancaster.com/Float_Manual.pdf
- So did the folks in Upper Arlington:
Upper Arlington Civic Association's 4th of July Celebration
<http://directors1933.uaca.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Float-Building-Manual.pdf>
- For an oldie-but-goodie, here's the 1956 edition of Vaughn's Parade and Float Guide for download.

<http://archive.org/details/paradefloatguideoovaug>

- And a 1978 version for Vaughn's float kit:

<http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0002/7401/20080724020635928.pdf>

A Fantasy Fest Float is a rare flower that only blooms for one hour on the last Saturday night of October.

Unlike rental, leased and recycled floats, a genuine Fantasy Fest Float is made from scratch every year by the locals of Key West and is designed specifically for the theme of Fantasy Fest and the theme of the parade. They truly are one of a kind pieces of art that have never been seen before, and will never be seen again.

It is somewhat of a sad irony that the best floats in the Fantasy Fest parade are destroyed once the festival is over. Every year, Fantasy Fest is dependent upon the next generation of artists, craftsmen and mad scientists to carry on the tradition.

By using a little imagination, originality and a dash of mischievous inspiration, you can create a Fantasy Fest memory that will live forever.

"The light that shines twice as bright lasts half as long".

—Dr. Eldon Tyrell

(reprinted from IslandAlien.com)