

girl scouts

of southern alabama

Girls learn about the socio-cultural and historical background of this major annual event in Mobile. This helps them to develop positive attitudes about learning and seek opportunities for expanding their knowledge. Please check badge availability at [here](#) before beginning activities.

Guidelines:

Complete the following number of activities for each age level, including at least one from each category:

- Daisies complete 6 activities
- Brownies complete 8 activities
- Juniors and Cadettes complete 10 activities
- Seniors and Ambassadors complete 12 activities

Discover:

Find out what Mardi Gras means and when it first began in Mobile. Where else is Mardi Gras celebrated?

Why did Mardi Gras stop for a short time? How and when did it resume? What part did Joe Cain play in this?

How is the date of Mardi Gras determined? When does it end? What does Shrove Tuesday mean?

What is the significance of the baby that is hidden in the King Cake?

What parading societies are represented in Mobile? Find out the oldest and newest parading organization.

Where do the costumes, horses, etc., come from?

How is the parade route set? How long is it?

How are the floats constructed, and who builds them? How do they move? Why did floats have flambeaux? How are the floats currently lit?

What are the two parent Mardi Gras organizations in Mobile? What are some of the societies in each group?

How does one get into a Mystic society and what is the significance of the mask?

Who is in the Juvenile Court? The Juvenile Court rides in which parade?

Besides each society, who is involved in “rolling a parade?” List groups, such as the police department, and tell why they are needed.

What is the cost of a parade to the societies and to the city? What monies are generated for the city?

Mardi Gras

For All Ages



Connect:

- Visit Church Street Cemetery and see the grave of Joe Cain.
- Make a scrapbook about Mardi Gras.
- Visit the Mardi Gras display at the City of Mobile Museum. www.museumofmobile.com.
- Read a story about Mardi Gras (“Let the Good Times Roll” by Emily Hearin).
- Take a tour of the Mobile Carnival Museum. www.mobilecarnivalmuseum.com.
- Attend and review a parade. Draw a picture of something you saw in the parade.
- Make a list of safety rules for watching a parade. Evaluate this list after attending a parade.
- Attend a “call-out” or tableau, visit a “float barn,” or Mardi Gras supply center.
- Design a parade, including floats, around your own theme.
- Make and/or try a King Cake.
- Design a queen’s gown and train or design a mask.
- Watch for people making money during parades.
- Talk with someone at the Chamber of Commerce about the impact of Mardi Gras on Mobile.
- Have a guest speaker talk to your troop about the costs involved with parades.

Take Action:

- Share what you have learned about Mardi Gras with at least three other people.
- Visit with a younger troop and teach them about Mardi Gras and how to stay safe.
- Participate in a parade with your troop or another group.