

2009 BABY PARADE

Sponsored by *MY VERY OWN ADVENTURE*

Presented by GFWC PLANT CITY JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB, INC.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2009 10:15 A.M.

Florida Strawberry Festival Grandstand

Chairperson: Nia Ramo 754-2916

Registration: Plant City Jr. Woman's Club, January 24, 2009, 8:00am - 11:00am

Age Restriction: 1-4 year olds

Competition open to: East Hillsborough County Only, East of Hwy. 301:

Plant City	Thonotosassa	Mango	Wimauma	Brandon	Seffner
Dover	Balm	Valrico	Keyesville	Lithia	Durant

You are encouraged to come to the January 24th registration because spaces are limited to the first 50 children for each age group.

PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED AT REGISTRATION: DRIVERS LICENSE ONLY

Registration – will be held at the Plant City Jr. Woman's Club, **January 24, 2009, 8 - 11 a.m.** If there are any openings left after January 24th, registration will continue at the Plant City Jr. Woman's Club. Registration will be limited to one (1) child per adult unless they are siblings. Each entry must be made in person and accompanied by a **\$25.00 entry fee**. Fifty (50) entries will be received on a first-come, first-serve basis in each of the following categories:

*****IMPORTANT NOTICE*****

IF YOU REGISTER AS A FLOAT CONTESTANT AND DECIDE NOT TO USE A FLOAT, PLEASE NOTIFY NIA RAMO (754-2916) WITH CHANGES NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2008. FAILURE TO CONTACT THE CHAIRPERSON COULD RESULT IN CONTESTANT BEING DISQUALIFIED.***

The age category & registration time deadline for entrants is January 31, 2009

1 year olds (must be 1 year old as of Jan. 31, 2009 or earlier) registration time 8am - 9am

2 year olds (must be 2 years old as of Jan. 31, 2009 or earlier) registration time 9am - 10am

3 year olds (must be 3 years old as of Jan. 31, 2009 or earlier) registration time 10am - 11am

4 year olds (must be 4 years old as of Jan. 31, 2009 or earlier) registration time 10am - 11am

The King, Queen, and Court are made up of four year old winners. There will be approximately twenty-five (25) walking in each age group and approximately twenty-five (25) riding on a float. Please keep all floats as small as possible, the maximum size being 4 ft. Wide X 5 ft. Length X 7 ft. High (from ground up.)

Judging Information

This information is to explain the judging process. There will be ONE judging. The judging will take place once your child has been lined up in numerical order. This will be before the actual "Parade" begins. Please see the attached sheet to see when you should arrive and when judging will begin. **If your child is late entering the gate, he or she will not be judged & will not be allowed to participate in the "Parade".** Judging consist of 4 out of town judges coming by and looking and speaking with your child. They will be given a strict time limit of one minute per child to ensure fairness.

Your child will be judged on the following categories:

1. **Most Beautiful Girl** child should be judged on **physical** beauty alone.
2. **Most Handsome Boy** child should be judged on **physical** beauty alone.
3. **Most Personality** judges are free to talk to contestants to determine the degree of personality. Many children exude various degrees of personality through smiling, talking freely, being pleasant, etc...
4. **Best Costume** determined by originality, creativity, appearance and detail of costume. Long dresses are not necessarily costumes.
5. **Most Beautiful Float** determined by beauty and neatness of design and theme with special attention to detail.
6. **Most Creative Float** determined by creativity of theme, décor, costume.

A point system is used. The scoring is 0 through 5, with 5 being the highest value. Your child will be judged only on the above categories that they qualify for. For example a male, on a float, in a costume will be judged on all categories except Most Beautiful.

Once the judging has finished the scores will be tabulated. At approximately 10:15-10:30am the "Parade" will begin. The one-year-olds will walk or ride their float across the back of the Grandstand where the bleachers are located. They are encouraged to wave to family and friends in the bleachers. After the one-year-olds have walked across, they will be held to the side and the awards for that age group will be given out. **Still only one person will be allowed to be with the child.** Family members should stay behind the fenced area in front of the bleachers. **You can meet up with them as soon as the awards are given and you have left the Grandstand area.** Once the awards for your child are completed they are done and can either leave or move to the bleachers for the rest of the show. **Floats will need to be put away immediately to make room for the other contestants.** Make sure to have your hand stamped if you will be returning after you have put your float away. The same process will happen for all age groups.

Clothes-you can dress your child in anything you would like. There is no set wardrobe.

Floats-are any theme you wish. See attached rules for additional information.

Theme- the theme for the 2009 Strawberry Festival is "*Hometown Salute To America!*"

Tips-May we suggest you bring some liquids (water or clear juice), non-messy snacks, sunscreen, a small toy to entertain (bubbles, car, doll etc) and wipes. There are chairs for you to sit in around the Grandstand after judging has been completed (please put the chairs back when done). Do **not** forget to bring your camera, as you will not be going back up into the Grandstand before the awards. Plan on being at the Baby Parade for approximately 3 hours (from lining-up to awards).

Entrants must wear their entry number on their right arm in the parade if they are walking. For those with **floats, the entry number is to be attached on the right side of the float in plain view.** Because of the limited space, **floats cannot be any larger than 4' wide x 5' length and no taller than 7' from the ground.** Live animals are not to be used in the parade and floats must be pulled by hand. We ask that you have only one child per float and that float be used in only one age group. Please make sure that your entry number is securely attached and on the proper side. In the event of a lost entry ticket, which you receive at the time of registration, you will be required to purchase a ticket for admission into the fairground. **Everyone must have a ticket into the fairgrounds in order to see the parade.**

We will be lining up the children in the **Grandstand area**— **Parents are to bring their children to Gate 17 for entry.** This is the **gate on Oak Street** across from the **Tomlin Middle School Gym area.** Your designated times of entry are as follows:

<u>AGE</u>	<u>ARRIVAL TIME</u>	<u>JUDGING TIME</u>
1	Floats 8:40; Walkers 8:50 a.m.	9:00 – 9:50 a.m.
2	Floats 9:00; Walkers 9:10 a.m.	9:30 – 10:20 a.m.
3	Floats 9:20; Walkers 9:30 a.m.	9:55 – 10:45 a.m.
4	Floats 9:40; Walkers 9:50 a.m.	10:10 – 11:00 a.m.

PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE MORE THAN 10 MINUTES EARLY! PLEASE PARK YOUR CAR FIRST, THEN PROCEED TO THE LINE-UP AREA WITH YOUR FLOAT AND YOUR CHILD.

This is to avoid the possibility of having a long wait in the line-up area outside the gates (as you will not be allowed in before your designated time). **If you arrive after judging has begun you will NOT be judged or allowed to participate in the Parade.** To avoid confusion and to allow the judges better viewing of your child, **ONLY ONE PERSON** will be allowed in the closed off area for pre-judging. **If there is more than one person in that area your child will be disqualified.** The contestant will be allowed to walk across the Grandstand, but not judged. This rule will be strictly enforced. We will try to have some help there for those with floats. **Each entry should be in their position at their designated time and remain there at all times. Judging will take place before the actual parade starts and not while you walk across the Grandstand.**

This is a change from years past please make a note. There are plenty of chairs for you to sit in while waiting and you may want to bring an umbrella for shade and plenty of water for your child to drink.

Each entry is accompanied by one “parent number” corresponding to the entrant’s number and entry ticket good for **2 free admissions to the fairgrounds on the day of the Baby Parade only.** When you arrive you will be directed to your proper location in your child’s age group. Again, if your **number is lost, your name is registered in the Baby Parade book and your child’s place is being held open.**

Attached you will find a map, please familiarize yourself with it. This is the map for both regular line-up and parade route as well as our RAIN route. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE FESTIVAL OFFICE!! Baby Parade will take place either RAIN or SHINE!!

Anyone participating in this contest by way of entry, hereby agrees and consents to the use of any picture of contestant in any or all publications, TV, publicity brochure, internet, etc., that the Florida Strawberry Festival® may desire.

Should you have any questions regarding the Baby Parade, please **feel free to call me** and I will be glad to help you.

Cordially,

Nia Ramo 754-2916