

2018 Florida Strawberry Festival Baby Parade

Presented by the GFWC Plant City Junior Woman's Club, Inc.

Sponsored by South Florida Baptist Hospital

Held in the Morrow Steel Free Grandstands

Saturday, March 10, 2018 @ 9:30 a.m.

Registration will be held on Saturday, January 13th, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at the *Badcock and More Media Center*, located on at 2107 W. Oak Avenue, Plant City, Florida 33563 next to the Florida Strawberry Festival Administrative Office on Festival Grounds.

*For any questions contact the chair and co-chair:

- Chairperson: Ilene Chavez chavezilene@gmail.com
- Co-Chairperson: Jordon Burk jordon.white@aol.com

Sign-ups will be as follows:

- 1 and 2 year olds 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- 3 and 4 year olds 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Spaces are limited to the first 50 children in each age group.

Registration is open to children ages 1-4 years of age, as of January 31st, 2018.

Competition is open to: East Hillsborough County residents only. East of Highway 301; Plant City, Thonotosassa, Mango, Wimauma, Brandon, Seffner, Dover, Balm, Valrico, Keyville, Lithia, & Durant.

Proof of Residency is required at registration (Driver's License Only).

Registration: Each entry must be made in person on Saturday, January 13th, 2018 and there is a \$25.00 cash only entry fee per category. Fifty (50) entries will be accepted on a first-come first-serve basis in each of the categories. If there are any openings left after January 13th, a second registration will be held on Monday, January 29th, 2018 from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at Woman's Club of Plant City, located at 1110 N. Wheeler Street, Plant City. Please contact Ilene Chavez, chavezilene@gmail.com, to confirm if any openings are available. **Final deadline is Monday, January 29th, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.**

Category Information: The Baby Parade King, Queen and Court are made up of the 4 year old winners in each category. At the time of registration you will choose only one category that you will want your child to be judged on. Due to time limitations, you may only choose (1) one category for each contestant.

Categories Include (Choose (1) one category):

- Most Beautiful Girl
- Most Handsome Boy
- Most Personality
- Best Costume
- Best Float

Judging Information: This information is to explain the judging process. This year we will be judging during the actual parade portion of the contest. A point system is used. The scoring is 0 through 5, with 5 being the

highest value. Your child will be judged only in the category you have chosen for them. The categories are as follows:

- Most Beautiful Girl- child will be judged on physical beauty alone
- Most Handsome Boy- child will be judged on physical beauty alone
- 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...
- Best Costume- determined by originality, appearance and detail of costume
- Best Float- determined by creativity, theme and costume selection, along with special attention to detail, cannot be larger than 4' wide by 5' long and no taller than 7' from the ground.

Mandatory Information Night: It is required for each contestant number to pick up the information packet which contains final contest information, category arrival times, and festival gate tickets. This Mandatory Night will be held on Thursday, February 15th, 2018 at the *Badcock and More Media Center*, located on at 2107 W. Oak Avenue, Plant City, Florida 33563 on Festival Grounds.

- 1 and 2 year olds information time from 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- 3 and 4 year olds information time from 6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Note: If a parent cannot attend the mandatory meeting, you may send a proxy to collect your contestant's information on the night of the mandatory meeting.

Important Information: It is mandatory that parents bring their children to Gate 17 for entry into the Festival, this is off of Oak Street, across from Tomlin Middle School gymnasium. Any contestant not checked in at Gate 17 will be DISQUALIFIED. The contestant will be allowed to participate, however they will not be judged.

Contestants must wear their entry number on their LEFT arm for the judges to easily see. Floats will also need to display their number on the left side of their float. Numbers and pins will be provided to you at Information Night prior to the parade.

Only 1 person will be allowed to escort child while in line. Family members will need to stay outside the fenced area and find a seat in the Grandstands.

Each contestant will be given 3 Festival Gate Entry tickets (1 for the participant and 2 for the parents/legal guardians) at the Mandatory Information Night.

Please do not arrive more than 15 minutes ahead of your scheduled arrival time. This is to avoid a long wait in the line-up area. If you arrive late, you will be disqualified, your child will still be allowed to walk in front of the judges, but they will not be judged. This rule is strictly enforced.

Floats cannot be any larger than 4 feet wide by 5 feet in length and no taller than 7 feet from the ground. Live animals are not to be used and floats must be pulled by hand and not motorized. Two (2) adults are permitted to assist with pulling the float and walking along the float.

The 2018 Florida Strawberry Festival theme is "Building New Memories", feel free to use it in your costume or float decoration.

The Baby Parade will take place Rain or Shine!

The GFWC Plant City Junior Woman's Club and its club members thanks you for participating in the 2018 Baby Parade... a Plant City Tradition.