

# 2026 FLORIDA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

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# BABY PARADE

AGES 1 - 4 YEARS OLD

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SATURDAY MARCH 7TH, 2026



Presented By:



Sponsored By:





## 2026 Florida Strawberry Festival Baby Parade

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

*Sponsored by BayCare Kids*

*Held in the GT Grandstands*

**Saturday, March 7th, 2026 @ 9:30 a.m.**

### **REGISTRATION: \*\*\*Available ONLINE ONLY at [www.gfwcplantcityjuniors.com](http://www.gfwcplantcityjuniors.com)\*\*\***

Each contestant registration entry must be made online at the GFWC Plant City Juniors website. Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 3rd, 2026, and remains open until 11:59 PM on Saturday, January 31st, 2026, with fifty (50) entries accepted on a first-come first-serve basis in each age group.

The registration fee for each contestant is \$27.00, a non-refundable charitable donation that can be made online at the Plant City Juniors website by selecting the “Donate” link. All donations benefit the Annual Shoe Project for the GFWC Plant City Junior Woman's Club and operating expenses. The Age Restriction for this contest is from 1 to 4 years of age as of Saturday, January 31st, 2026.

**The final deadline of a completed Registration is due on Saturday, January 31st, 2026.** Failure to submit both of the below registration items will result in disqualification. **A Completed**

#### **Registration consists of two items:**

- Complete the Online Application
- Submit the Registration Fee, a non-refundable charitable donation

### **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 child age and Residency may be required during the registration process (Birth Certificate and Utility Bill, such as Teco).

### **CATEGORY INFORMATION:**

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

Categories Include **(Choose only (1) one category):**

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

### **JUDGING INFORMATION:**

This information is to explain the judging process 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 registered them in. The 2026 Florida Strawberry Festival theme is "Still Growing!", feel free to use it in the costume or float categories.

**The judging information for each category is as follows:**

- **Most Handsome Boy** - Child will be judged on physical beauty alone.
- **Most Beautiful Girl** - 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. No props, toys, signs, wagons/floats are permitted, the child is judged on costume only.
- **Best Float** - Determined by creativity & theme of Float, including attire selection.
  - **Alternative Float Option:** We accept Stroller Wagons in the Float Category! Must be a Push or Pull Stroller Wagon and must contain a seat with child safety harness/seatbelt. Must be a (2) Seater "Stroller Wagon", No triple or four-Seater Stroller Wagon allowed, and no utility wagons allowed. See last page for examples.
  - **Traditional Float Option:** Cannot be larger than 4' wide by 5' long and no taller than 7' from the ground.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

Registration will only be available online during the above listed timeline. Failure to submit the registration fee by the above listed deadline will result in a voided application. There is no longer a mandatory information night, and no longer any in-person meetings. The Event Chair will send a confirmation email directly to the consenting parent and/or legal guardian of the contestant by **Monday, February 16th, 2026**, that includes confirmation of registration, and additional information on category arrival times on competition day.

On competition day, Saturday, March 7th, 2026, at Gate 17 during the official check-in each Contestant & Chaperone will be provided with their festival entry ticket and contestant number. Only 1 adult will be allowed to Chaperone the contestant during the contest unless in the Best Float category. Only contestants competing in the Best Float category are permitted two (2) Chaperones to assist with pulling the float and thus each Chaperone will be provided a festival entry ticket. Contestants must wear their contestant number on their right arm for the judges to easily see. Floats will also need to display their number on the right side of their float. The chaperone is to bring the contestant to Gate 17 for entry into the Festival, this is off of Oak Street, across from Tomlin Middle School gymnasium.

Any contestant not officially checked in at their assigned Age & Category time at Gate 17 will be **DISQUALIFIED** from the Baby Parade Contest. The disqualified contestant will be allowed to participate, however they will not be judged.

The Baby Parade Contest will take place rain or shine on competition day. Please note your safety is of the utmost importance. We have been following the guidelines set forth by the CDC, our local health department, and government officials. Please be aware of the current county regulations before entering the fairgrounds. We will continue to monitor the ever-changing circumstances. The Florida Strawberry Festival or the GFWC Plant City Junior Woman's Club will not be liable for any event cancellations due to unforeseen circumstances.

**QUESTIONS**

Please contact the event chair at [plantcitybabyparade@gmail.com](mailto:plantcitybabyparade@gmail.com). The GFWC Plant City Junior Woman's Club and its club members thank you for participating in the 2026 Baby Parade contest... a Plant City Tradition!



# FLOAT CATEGORY ONLY

## STROLLER WAGON OPTIONS

**EXAMPLES BELOW**



## MUST HAVE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Push or Pull Stroller Wagon
- Seat with Safety Harness or Seatbelt
- Two (2) Seater Stroller Wagon

Presented By:



Sponsored By:



Questions? Please contact the Event Chair at  
[plantcitybabyparade@gmail.com](mailto:plantcitybabyparade@gmail.com)