

Mardi Gras Event Short Form Playbook

Description of Event

Purpose:

Mardi Gras is the annual church fundraiser to benefit its mission activities. It is typically held on the night of Mardi Gras, the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. All proceeds go directly to fund “scholarships” for mission trips, as well as the cost of materials used in the missions projects.

Impact Observations:

The missions work that St. James’s does has a tremendous impact on the individuals in the communities that we touch. Whether it’s Honduras, Haiti, or Appalachia, there is no way to describe the power of churches like St. James’s coming to do mission work. And Mardi Gras is a key component to St. James’s ability to afford to do so many missions trips.

As for the Mardi Gras party itself, it is one of a handful of times during the church year that so many of our parishioners gather for fellowship and fun. The Chairpersons of this event typically have a great bonding experience and enjoy giving their time and talent to such a fun event. The reward comes on the night of the event as everything comes together, as well as the realization that the event is the forum for so many people in our church to display their generosity and their commitment to our mission programs.

Roles in ensuring the Event’s success:

- Co-Chairs (two year commitment): Responsible for ensuring the event is a success. Active period goes from December until the event in February/ March.
- Silent Auction Committee Chair: Responsible for securing items for the silent auction. Commitment starts in December and ends after the event in February.
- Reservations/check-in Committee Chair: Responsible for tracking RSVP numbers and handling check-in the night of Mardi Gras. Commitment starts in December and ends the night of Mardi Gras.
- Check out Committee Chair: Responsible for organizing procedures, and quickly matching auction winners with items and collecting payment for items bought. Commitment starts in January and ends after the Mardi Gras event is over.
- Volunteer Committee Chair: Responsible for organizing event volunteers and keeping them notified of shifts. Commitment starts in January and ends with the Mardi Gras event.
- Bar Committee Chair: Responsible for purchasing and stocking wine, beer soft drinks and water and return of extra beverages. Commitment starts in February/March and ends with the Mardi Gras event.

- Food –The Men’s Cooking Team Committee Chair: Responsible for purchase, planning and cooking the day of Mardi Gras. Commitment starts in February and ends with the Mardi Gras event.
- Decorations Committee Chair: Responsible for decorating for Mardi Gras. The commitment begins the three days before Mardi Gras and ends after the event.
- Master of Ceremonies Committee Chair: Responsible for being the auctioneer/rabble rouser to create excitement and competition so that the voice auction items are sold for prices that raise lots of money. Commitment starts three days before Mardi Gras and ends as the event wraps up.
- Other volunteers: approximately 50 volunteers are needed to decorate, serve food, set up, tend bar, clean up (night after event and next morning), and greet. Commitments can range from working for several days leading up to the event to being present at the event to working for a couple of hours following the event.

Contact Information:

2011 Mardi Gras Co-Chairs: Ferd Baruch (live auction) baruchjr@mac.com, Janet Baruch greenwaygardens@aol.com and Lila Putney lputney@protocolschoolofvirginia.com (party) and Lynda Hatcher(silent auction) lyndahatcher@hughes.net.

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