

2012 BABY PARADE

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

Held in the *Direct Auto Insurance Free Grandstand*

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.

Florida Strawberry Festival Grandstand

Chairperson: Kaila Gosselin (813) 716-3675

Registration: Saturday, January 7, 2012, 8:00am - 10:00am at the **Plant City Jr. Woman's Club**
1110 N. Wheeler Street, Plant City, Florida 33564

Sign-ups will be as follows:

- 1 year olds 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
- 2 year olds 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
- 3 year olds 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- 4 year olds 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

You are encouraged to come to the Saturday, January 7th registration because spaces are limited to the first 50 children for each age group.

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, Keyville, Lithia, Durant.

PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED AT REGISTRATION

(DRIVERS LICENSE ONLY)

Registration – Saturday, January 7, 2012 from 8 - 10 a.m. 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 cash only entry fee** per category. Fifty (50) entries will be received on a first-come, first-serve basis in each of the following categories:

The age category deadline for entrants is January 31, 2012

- 1 year olds (must be 1 year old as of Jan. 31, 2012 or earlier)
- 2 year olds (must be 2 years old as of Jan. 31, 2012 or earlier)
- 3 year olds (must be 3 years old as of Jan. 31, 2012 or earlier)
- 4 year olds (must be 4 years old as of Jan. 31, 2012 or earlier)

If there are any openings left after January 7th, registration will continue until filled. Please call Kaila Gosselin (813) 716-3675 to confirm if any openings are available. **DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 10, 2012.**

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)

****FLOAT PARTICIPANTS: If you decide to build a float, that is what you must do...What you sign up for is what category you will remain in. There will be no changes again this year, so make sure the category you choose is what you want.**

New Judging Information

This information is to explain the judging process. **This year we will be judging during the actual parade portion of the contest.** You have the option to choose what category your child will be judged on. Children ages 1 - 3 may choose up to two categories, but a fee for each category chosen will be required. Children age 4 may only choose one category due to the 4 year old winners making up the court.

You will arrive at the time given for your child's category; you and your child will then parade across in front of the grandstands and 3 judges, one male and two females. You will immediately be judged, awarded, and sent home. Those who have signed up for two categories will join their next category. We feel this will eliminate the time length you and your child are asked to wait. This will help your child have more fun and "shine" as they wave and smile to the judges, their family and the Strawberry Queen.

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, appearance and detail of costume. Long dresses are not necessarily costumes.
5. **Best Float** - determined by creativity, beauty, neatness of design, theme & costume with special attention to detail. **This category is for all four age groups, to be judged all together.**

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 and nothing else. If you have signed your child up for personality, let your child know they can show it in front of the judges, this does not mean sing a complete song to them, but feel free to let your child showcase his or her personality.

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 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 like. There is no set wardrobe.

Floats: Any theme you wish. See attached rules for additional information.

Theme: The 2012 Strawberry Festival theme "Growing Sweet Memories"

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 after the awards. Plan on being at the Baby Parade for approximately 3 hours (from line-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 of the float. 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 an entry ticket to enter 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 **Tomlin Middle School Gym.** Your designated times of entry will be given to you at sign ups.

PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE MORE THAN 10 MINUTES EARLY OF YOUR SCHEDULED ARRIVAL TIME! PLEASE PARK YOUR CAR FIRST, AND 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 but you will be allowed to walk across the Grandstand.** To avoid confusion and to allow the judges better viewing of your child, **ONLY ONE PERSON** will be allowed in the closed off area. **If there is more than one person in that area your child will be disqualified. Again, they will still be allowed to walk across the Grandstand.** This rule will be strictly enforced. We will try to have some help 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 during the actual parade portion of the contest. 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 whose number corresponds to the entrant's position number. If your **position number is lost, your name is registered in the Baby Parade book and your child's place is being held open.**

Entry tickets are good for **3 free admissions to the fairgrounds on the day of the Baby Parade only, (1 for the participant and 2 for the parents or legal guardians.)** When you arrive you will be directed to the proper location in your child's age group.

**The Baby Parade will take place RAIN or SHINE!!
PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE FESTIVAL OFFICE!!**

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,
Kaila Gosselin (813) 716-3675