



**Guide to Washington Mardi Gras**  
**January 2026**

***Mystick Krewe of Louisianians***

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## The Weekend's Events:

### Thursday, January 29 | Louisiana Alive!

6:30-9:00pm | International Ballroom

*Louisiana Alive!* is an exceptional cocktail party, with music, great food, live entertainment, and acrobatic performances, generously sponsored by dozens of LA and DC companies. Food and alcohol are provided free of charge during this event. **NOTE:** *Two (2) tickets are afforded to each Krewe member; the corporate sponsors control all the other tickets.*

**Attire:** Dress for ladies is cocktail attire. Men typically wear suits or coat-and-tie, while women typically wear short-length cocktail dresses.

### Friday, January 30 | Friday Festival

6:30 pm-midnight | International Ballroom

The focus of the evening is the presentation of the King and Queen, and the introduction of the princesses and festival queens. It is a formal, seated-dinner setting. Tables are set up in groups of 10 and seating is pre-assigned (as noted on your ticket). There are two bottles of wine on each table, compliments of the Mystick Krewe of Louisianians. Other beverages can be pre-ordered through the Hilton or purchased from your table server the night of the event.

**Attire:** The dress code for Friday night is black tie formal. Men wear tuxedos and women wear ball gowns.

## Saturday, January 31 | Mardi Gras Ball

7:00 pm | International Ballroom

The Saturday night ball is the highlight of the Washington Mardi Gras. The ballroom is turned into a venue for an indoor Mardi Gras parade with reviewing-stand style seating in boxes. Be prepared for exceptional entertainment as there will be LED-lighted Mardi Gras floats, more than 350 riders/paraders, and various surprise acts and entertainment.

**Seating:** is assigned. Please see your tickets for your box number and seat assignments.

**Arrival:** Doors open at 7:00 pm and the presentation begins at 8:00 pm. Please note that it is important to arrive early as there may be a crowd at the door. Do not come late, as once the tableau has begun, there may be a delay for your seating (so as not to interrupt the show).

**Attire:** The dress code for Saturday night is black tie formal. Men wear tuxedos and women wear ball gowns.

**Call-Out Dances:** Call-out dances occur at the ball just after the parade has concluded. Masked Krewe members each select a different member of the audience for six (6) short dances. At the conclusion of each dance, the Krewe member presents his/her dancing partner with a special Mardi Gras favor. Only masked Krewe members may dance with guests during the call out dances. After the final call-out dance, the dance floor opens up for general attendees and the ball concludes at 1:00 am.

**IMPORTANT:** *There is no food served before or during the Ball!* Please make plans to eat an early dinner – either at the hotel restaurant or stop by some of the suites (schedule available on MKofL website and on Hilton's posting near the lobby) as most of them will be serving food before the Ball.

### After the Ball:

Tickets and Sponsorship Tables are available for purchase to the **Lieutenants Encore Breakfast** held immediately following the Ball. For more information, please visit [www.mkofl.com/lts-encore](http://www.mkofl.com/lts-encore).

The party also continues in the lobby bar until 1 am. Food is available for purchase in the hotel restaurant as well.

## General Questions and Tips:

### Who are the Princesses and Festival Queens?

Princesses are daughters, godchildren or granddaughters of friends/supporters/constituents of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation. These young ladies are usually in their first or second year of college and are escorted and presented in debutante style. Festival Queens are young ladies who have won a pageant or have been selected by local fairs or festival organizations to serve as representatives from various parts of the State of Louisiana.

### Where is the best chance to talk to my congressman?

One of the most unique aspects of the WMG weekend is the close involvement of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation and attendees. With such, on Thursday, Friday, & Saturday afternoons, Senators and Representatives have “open houses” in various suites in the hotel. A schedule of congressional suites and their times is readily available at the Hilton and on the MKofL website, or through your congressional agent. Most serve food and beverages, with the best gatherings taking place on Saturday afternoon. (A printed schedule is available on MkofL website and the Hilton’s postings near the lobby.)

### Where do I purchase pictures taken at the ball?

On Thursday through Saturday nights, a professional photographer, Jason Cohen, is available to take individual and group photos in the area outside the Hilton Ballroom before each event. Additionally, he will be taking candid photos during the dinner dance and ball. You may purchase photos directly from him after the weekend via his website, [www.jasoncohenphotography.com](http://www.jasoncohenphotography.com).

### What should I pack?

#### Women:

- 2 floor length formal dresses
- 1-2 cocktail dresses
- 2-3 daytime outfits and comfortable shoes for sight-seeing
- A shawl or wrap for evening events as temperature in the ballroom may vary

#### Men:

- 2 black tie tuxedos
- Comfortable tuxedo shoes
- 1-2 suits or coat/tie
- 2-3 daytime outfits and comfortable shoes for sight-seeing