

Mardi Gras Activities



Bead Toss Throwing Mardi Gras beads is an important tradition of any Mardi Gras celebration. Purchase inexpensive Mardi Gras beads for a bead toss. Set up a “parade route” within your community and have the staff toss beads to residents or vice versa.

King and Queen In keeping with Mardi Gras tradition, consider selecting a king and queen for your celebration. The selection can be made in a variety of ways. Names can be chosen from a hat, closest birthday, most festive, best costume, or guest of honor, etc. Provide the king and queen with crowns.



Purple, Gold, Green Add to the festive atmosphere at your community by having staff, residents and even visitors wear the colors of Mardi Gras: purple, gold, green. Purple stands for justice, gold stands for power, and green represents faith.

Jazz Jazz music has its roots in New Orleans. Set the mood for your Mardi Gras celebration by playing Jazz music for your guests. Learn more about the history of Jazz and discuss the influence Jazz has had on popular music.





Pancake Breakfast Mardi Gras translates to Fat Tuesday. The tradition is to feast up until midnight. Pancakes are a popular treat to enjoy on this day. Host a pancake breakfast for your residents and guests. Have the residents take part in the planning and cooking of the event. For entertainment hold a traditional pancake flipping race.

Doubloon Toss Mark plastic shot glasses with colored sharpies or paint. Color 3 cups purple, 2 cups green and 1 cup gold. Leave 4 cups clear. Fill each half way with rice to keep from tipping over. Give each player 6 doubloons.



Players attempt to toss doubloons into shot glasses to score points. Clear is worth 1 point, Purple is worth 2 points, Green is worth 3 points, Gold is worth 5 points. The player with the most points wins beads!

Bead Game Give each player 6 bead necklaces. While talking to other players, they try to get them to say the word “bead” (or another predetermined Mardi Gras term). If the other player says the forbidden word, they must give up their necklace. The player with the most bead necklaces at the end of a given time wins.



Pass the Baby Played like the game “Hot Potato” using a baby doll similar to a King cake baby. Start some jazz music and have players pass the baby. When the music stops, the player holding the baby is out. Play until one player is left. That player is crowned King or Queen.



Mardi Gras Mask Fashion Show Have each person create a mask to represent the celebration of Mardi Gras. Give each person a plain white mask. Have them search to find items that can become part of their mask or use decorations provided. Give them 20-30 minutes to gather supplies and create a mask. When time is up, the players then present their masks as a fashion show. The audience declares a winner.





Doubloon Sorting You will need plastic doubloons in a variety of colors or designs. Provide participants with the doubloons, and have them sort the doubloons based on color or design.

Gold Coin Treasure Hunt Hide beads and gold coins around your community. Give each person a gift bag. Each player hunts for “treasure.” Players can work individually or in teams.



Mardi Gras Scramble Select a Mardi Gras term or phrase like "Fat Tuesday" or "French Quarter." Give each player a piece of paper and pencil and start a timer for 3 minutes. Players try to make as many words as they can from the chosen term. The player with the most correct words win.

Mardi Gras Photo Booth Set out a variety of Mardi Gras props (masks, beads, feathers, crowns, etc.). Have a photographer take pictures of people dressing up in various Mardi Gras attire. The pictures can be polaroid or digital and then posted on the wall.

