

DELTA OMEGA OMEGA CHAPTER

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED



2021 Debutante Cotillion

Handbook

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INTRODUCTION

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Delta Omega Omega Chapter 2021 Virtual Debutante Cotillion

Outlined in this handbook are general guidelines that have been established for the Cotillion. They provide parents and debutantes with information regarding the requirements, expenses, and the general expectations of debutantes and parents during the 2021 Cotillion season.

If you have questions, feel free to contact one of the Chairmen listed below:

TRI-CHAIRMEN:

Mrs. Tish Bullard
870-872-2128
debutantetrichair@gmail.com

Mrs. Tonya Colen
870-692-4809
debutantetrichair@gmail.com

Mrs. Rhonda Hill-Jones
870-329-3609
debutantetrichair@gmail.com

Correspondence may be mailed to P.O. Box 2105 Pine Bluff, AR 71613

Attn: Debutante Tri-Chairmen.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Activities	Alycia Wiley Jacquelyn Pryor
Choreography	Leah West Angelique Sergeant
Decorations	Onika Luster Christina Goodrum
Finance and Budget	Monic Isom Regina Carter-Carroll
Hostess	Eula Liddell Jonail Landers
Invitations	Shara Williams Beverly Cotledge
Program and Presentation	Chantal Jones Monique Benford
Sponsorship	Chelsea Robinson Yolonda Liddell
Refreshments	Rossia Broughton
Souvenir Journal	Susie Edwards
Technology	Susie Edwards Daijia Marshall
Chapter Liaison	Monic Isom Jacquelyn Pryor

The Great Cotillion Ball

We did not hear the raindrops.

We did not see the snow.

Our eyes were bright as dewdrops,

And we were happy so!

It thundered? We heard nothing!

The lightning made you blind?

We stepped into the ballroom,

And left all cares behind!

When we are old and sleepy,

And the stars of evening fall,

We, yet, will cherish memories

Of the Great Cotillion Ball.

-Helen S. Cotton

Becoming a Debutante

For over Fifty years, young ladies have been presented to the Pine Bluff community through the Debutante Cotillion. At one time, young ladies lived a very sheltered social life until they finished school and made their debut into society. This usually occurred when they were between the ages of seventeen and eighteen. As debutantes, young ladies were considered of marriageable age although they were strictly chaperoned.

The debut continues to be popular. Many young ladies today make their debut in a group at a large ball that is given for that purpose. Throughout the United States more than 1,000 young black women experience the once in a lifetime thrill of being presented to society each year. In ceremonial white gowns, they walk, curtsy, and perform many other patterns of the cotillion. We, the members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Delta Omega Omega Chapter feel, this is a very gracious way to encourage young ladies in our community to take their places in adult society.

We hope that through activities leading to the Cotillion, we will encourage and bring fulfillment to the best of what already exists in you. Remember, **Saturday, January 29, 2022**, is your day. Not only will you bow to society, but also society will bow to you also.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Delta Omega Omega Chapter hope that this occasion will serve as an inspiration for your future endeavors.

Goals and Objectives:

- œ To present young ladies to adult society;
- œ To award scholarships to young ladies who have shown outstanding achievement in academics, leadership, talent and service;
- œ To help young ladies become more aware of opportunities to serve the community through volunteer service;
- œ To help young ladies explore career opportunities that will enable them to make a contribution within their community;
- œ To promote, develop and increase socialization among students in the Pine Bluff and surrounding areas and with members of our organization;
- œ To promote high ideals and character building;
- œ To encourage life-long habits of personal health and wellness; and
- œ To acquire social graces, engage in structured leadership, and educational workshops geared to enhance educational and social skills.

RULES & REGULATIONS GOVERNING PARTICIPATION IN in 2021 Debutante Cotillion

1. All participants must have a 2.5 or higher G.P.A. on a 4.0 grade scale.
2. A Debutante is required to exhibit acceptable behavior. (Examples of unacceptable behaviors include, but are not limited to fighting, expulsion from school, using or dealing drugs, gang-related activities, pregnancy, using profanity, etc.)
3. Debutantes who fail to submit the minimum requirement of **\$500.00** in sponsorships will forfeit the right to participate in the cotillion waltz.
4. Debutantes with excessive absences from dance practice will not participate in the cotillion waltz.
5. Sponsorships and contributions reported by participants are not refundable.
6. Any debutante showing disrespect for herself or others shall be banned from participation in the Ball and will receive no portion of a refund.
7. *Debutantes and their parents (2) are the only **attendees at the virtual cotillion production**
8. The Debutantes entry fee (**\$300.00**) is refundable only up to ten (10) days after the date set for payment of fees (**November 25, 2021**). Obligations and commitments have been made based upon the number of participants.
9. Debutantes and their sponsors **SHALL NOT** hold fundraisers in the name of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Delta Omega Omega Chapter, First Sisters Outreach, Incorporated or the Cotillion.
10. Debutante participants should not post cotillion related information and images on any social media pages and online sites. ***Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Delta Omega Omega and First Sisters Outreach, Incorporated.***

All Debutantes will wear floor length white gowns with sufficient petticoats so they will not be seen through when spotlights are on. The Virtual Cotillion is a formal presentation, as such; all participants are expected to adhere to dress for a formal occasion. The guidelines are given to aid all concerned in selecting appropriate attire and to insure a festive evening for the debutantes and their parents. The dress guidelines are as follows:

Dress Guidelines:

- ⌘ White gown
- ⌘ Petticoats
- ⌘ White dress pumps not exceed 2" heel
- ⌘ Sheer white or off-white hosiery
- ⌘ White pearl earrings 1/4 inch in diameter
- ⌘ White pearl necklace (when appropriate for dress)
- ⌘ White gloves (length will depend on style of dress)
- ⌘ No headdress such as crown, bands, etc.
- ⌘ No strapless gowns or thin spaghetti straps
- ⌘ No halter type, except covered with a capped sleeve or Bolero
- ⌘ No cleavage
- ⌘ Shoulders must be covered in front or no plunge/dip in back of dress
- ⌘ Shoes must be worn during waltz, no slippers
- ⌘ No visible tattoo(s)
- ⌘ No visible body piercing(s)

Share a picture with tri-chairmen prior to purchase.

As debutantes, you are expected to be charming, graceful, well-groomed and modestly dressed. Hair, make-up, nails, underarms and general appearance of the debutante should be immaculate. The cooperation of each debutante, her parents and her escort will help to make this the memorable occasion it should be for each debutante.

We recommend that debutantes wear their white dress pumps during the rehearsals so they will be comfortable the night of the Ball. Sheer, white or off-white hosiery should be worn the night of the Ball.

Attendance at all meetings and rehearsals are required. It is recommended that each debutante arrives at least ten (10) minutes before the scheduled time for the event to begin.

Since time is limited, we cannot repeat practices for one or two young ladies. Debutantes should

turn cell phones off during all activities. Debutantes must be neatly dressed at all scheduled virtual and in-person activities. The conduct of the debutantes should be positive and ladylike at all times. This means refraining from attending adult functions such as nightclubs and adult formal dances. This does not include school functions. Remember, debutantes are being presented to society. Let the impressions you leave be favorable. If you have any questions regarding appropriate dress, please discuss them with the chairmen. ***Share a picture with tri-chairmen prior to purchase.***

Parental Responsibilities:

- œ To ensure that the debutante follows through with written and verbal communications or directions.
- œ To ensure that debutante, presenter (father/father figure) and mother (guardian) are present at scheduled rehearsals.
- œ To be present the night of the video production in long floor length gowns for mothers and tuxedos, no tails for father(s) or presenter(s); and
- œ To review all sponsorships collected with daughter to make sure all amounts of money match the level of sponsorship.

Requirements for Mothers:

- œ Formal floor length dresses or gowns please do not select the color white or wear boots.
- œ No slippers or ballerina shoes
- œ No palazzo pants
- œ Hosiery is required.
- œ No pants or pant suits allowed.

Requirements for Fathers/Presenters:

The proper person to present the debutante is her father. If this is not possible, please let us know the person who will be presenting her - uncle, brother, grandfather, godfather, etc. Fathers should begin to practice waltzing with their daughters as soon as possible and should practice as often as possible.

A tuxedo with appropriate black shoes and black socks are required for fathers/presenters. Boutonnieres will be furnished for fathers/presenters.

Miss Debutante Contest Requirements

Each debutante may compete for the title of “Miss Deb” by **securing sponsorships**. Each of the three top contestants will receive 30% of the value of the **sponsorships** that she submits. (i.e. \$1,500 x .30 = \$450.00). The contestant reporting the highest amount of **sponsorships** will be crowned “Miss Deb”. **All debutantes must submit a minimum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) in sponsorships.**

The sponsorship levels are as follows:

Supreme	\$100 or more
Elite	\$60 - \$99
Premier	\$35 - \$59
Patron	\$1 - \$34

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

1. There must be absolutely **NO** soliciting under the name of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Delta Omega Omega Chapter and First Sisters Outreach, Incorporated without the use of the Sponsor Support Forms. Whenever you ask for or collect monies, be sure you have the forms with you.
2. Selling of raffle tickets, dinners, GoFundMe or the like to solicit sponsorships are **NOT** permitted.
3. On the final reporting date of **Thursday, December 9, 2021** you will be expected to return all unused forms to us. Each debutante participant who receives forms must return all unused forms to us even if she later decides that she will be unable to participate in the debutante program.

INFORMATION FOR REPORTING AND SECURING SPONSORS:

1. To secure sponsors, debutante participant must use the designated Sponsor Support Form. These forms will contain your Program Participation Number (The Participation number will be given to you at 1st Debutante Activity).
2. The Sponsor Support Form must be used each time you solicit a potential sponsor. The bottom half of the form is to be returned with the sponsorship funds. The sponsor will keep the top half of the form.
3. On the portion of the form that is returned, the sponsor should indicate their level of giving,

name and address. This information will be used for mailing tax notifications.

4. We encourage the debutante participants to keep a record of all individuals and entities whom they mailed or provided Sponsor Support Forms.

Collection and Preparation Guidelines

Checks, cashier's checks, and money orders will be accepted on the collection date.

A. Personal checks over \$100 WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

B. If a check received on collection day is returned due to non-sufficient funds, funds must be replaced within 24 hours of notification. Funds are to be replaced by cash, money order or cashier's check. If these funds are not replaced as noted, the affected prospective debutante could lose her rank in the contest.

2. If your sponsors respond to your request promptly and with cash, please convert cash to a Cashier's Check or Money Order made payable to **AKA Delta Omega Omega Chapter**. It is much safer, faster, and easier for all concerned.
3. The collection will be on **December 9, 2021** beginning at 4 p.m. and will continue according to the established scheduled.
4. Prior to the collection date, each debutante will select a scheduled time slot to turn in her sponsors. Should a conflict develop contact one of the Tri-Chairmen to determine if a schedule adjustment can be made.
5. **Sponsorships and donations submitted by participants are not refundable.**
6. **When you arrive for your scheduled collection time** a member of the Finance or Souvenir Booklet Committee will greet and guide you and your parent(s)/guardian through the collection stations.
 - a. **Station # 1 – Sign in** and receive a collection envelope
 - b. **Station # 2 – Present Sponsor Support Forms and monies will be verified against donations.**

***PLEASE NOTE: NO ADDITIONAL MONEY WILL BE APPLIED TOWARDS THE CONTEST AFTER STATION #2.**

c. **Station # 3 – Money order or Cashier's check will be accepted.**

5. **As soon as you have completed the process at Station #3, please leave the premises.**

6. “Miss Debutante” winner and runners-up will be notified by the chapter President or her designee as soon as collections and calculations have been completed.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- ⌘ Please have **cashier’s check payable to AKA Delta Omega Omega Chapter**, and make sure that the debutante’s full name appears on the remittance line.
- ⌘ Participants competing for “Miss Debutante” must have their Sponsor Support Forms and cashier’s check submitted during their scheduled time slot. Failure to adhere to this rule will forfeit the opportunity to compete for “Miss Debutante”.
- ⌘ In order, not to disappoint our sponsors, all Sponsor Support Forms, sponsorships and contributions must be reported by participants. All sponsorships and contributions are not refundable once submitted. This rule applies to competing and non-competing debutantes.
- ⌘ Please take time to carefully verify the correct spelling of your donors first and last names. This is every important that we recognize donors and print their names correctly in the souvenir journal.

RULES FOR WRITING PARENTS' AND PRESENTERS' NAMES

- A. Print or type your name as you want it to appear in the souvenir program book.
- B. Print or type your parents' (guardians') names as you want them to appear in the souvenir program book.
 - 1. If parents are married to each other, **Mr. and Mrs. John Doe.**
 - 2. If parents are divorced and your mother has remarried and you live with your mother, **Mr. & Mrs. William Smith and Mr. John Doe.**
 - 3. If parents are divorced and your mother has not remarried and you live with your mother, **Mrs. Mary Jones Doe and Mr. John Doe**
 - 4. If your parents are divorced and neither your mother nor father has remarried and you live with your father, **Mr. John Doe and Mrs. Mary Jones.**
 - 5. If your parents are divorced, your mother has remarried and you live with your Father who has remarried **Mr. and Mrs. John Doe and Mr. and Mrs. William Smith.**
 - 7. If your mother is a widow, **Mrs. John Doe and the late Mr. John Doe.**
 - 8. If your father is a widower, **Mr. John Doe and the late Mrs. Mary Jones Doe.**
 - 9. If your mother is deceased and your father has remarried, **Mr. and Mrs. John Doe and the late Mrs. Mary Jones Doe.**
 - 10. If your father is deceased and your mother has remarried, **Mr. and Mrs. William Smith and the late Mr. John Doe.**
- C. Print or type escort's names as you want it to appear in the souvenir program book.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT
(form is available online)
<https://www.akadeltaomegaomega.com/debutante-cotillion>

I have read and understand the rules and regulations governing participation in the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Delta Omega Omega Chapter **2021 Virtual Debutante Cotillion**. I agree to abide by all of the rules and regulations.

Signature of Participant

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN
November 5, 2021

DEBUTANTE DATA FORM

(Type or Print Legibly)

Full Name: _____
First Middle or Initial Last

Address: _____
Street or P. O. Box City State Zip Code

Home Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

School Attending: _____

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Name: (Please indicate: Mr., Ms. or Mr. and Mrs.)

As you wish the name(s) to appear in the Souvenir Journal

Address: _____
Street or P.O. Box City State Zip Code

Presenter: _____

Relationship of Presenter to you: _____

Escort: _____
First Middle or Initial Last

Memberships:

Organizations

Office(s) Held

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Community Service:

Hobbies: _____

THIS FORM IS DUE NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 5, 2021

2021 Schedule of Activities for Debutantes

	Info Distribution/Collections	Program Activity	
	Community Service Activity	Practice	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Facilitator/Location</i>
Sunday October 31, 2021	Orientation/Meet & Greet	How to become a debutante, compete for Miss Debutante title, participation requirements.	Tish Bullard, Tonya Colen, Rhonda Hill Jones Location TBD
Thursday, November 4, 2021	College/Career Planning and Readiness	Starting early to secure admissions, scholarships, and long-range planning for college/career and beyond.	AKA-DOO Target 1- #CAP Zoom details TBA
Tuesday, November 9 or Thursday, November 11, 2021	Vision Board: Don't Call It A Dream-Call It A Plan!	Activity for goal setting, planning, and giving thought to your life goals; with self-care and Black Girl Magic for a few sides.	Soror Tish Bullard or designee
Monday, November 15, 2021 6:00 p.m.	Debutante Entry Fee Collection	Cotillion entry fee collection. You will be notified by a Tri-Chairwoman of your designated submission time.	Location TBD Debs will be schedule and notified of their time slot
Tuesday, November 16 or Thursday November 18, 2021	Pink Table Talk: Teen Domestic Violence	Open and honest conversation about domestic violence, being an ally, and abduction avoidance.	CASA Representatives/Jefferson County Sheriff or Pine Bluff Police Department Zoom details TBA
November 2021	Waltz Zoom/Video Practice	Designated time to practice for the waltz with the video recording or with choreographer	Zoom details TBA
Tuesday, November 29 or Thursday December 2, 2021	Say It Like You Mean It!	Public speaking session with small group activities designed to instill confidence when speaking in public.	Soror Kimberly Stepps Zoom details TBA
December 2021	Ring the Bells!	Community service project in conjunction with the Salvation Army	AKA-DOO Target 5 - Global Impact Date and Location TBD
Saturday, December 4, 2021	Love For the Holidays:	Christmas tree ornament painting; one to donate to area nursing homes, and one to keep.	AKA-DOO Target - The Arts Location TBD
November 2021	Waltz Zoom/Video Practice	Designated time to practice for the waltz with the video recording or with choreographer	Zoom details TBA
Tuesday, December 7 or Thursday December 9, 2021	Etiquette, Fashion, and Being A Lady	What it means to be a lady, through etiquette (fine dining), fashion/attitude, and being.	Designated Sorors Zoom details TBA
Thursday, December 9, 2021 4:00 p.m.	Sponsorship Collection	Cotillion sponsorship collection. You will be notified by a Tri-Chairwoman of your designated submission time.	Location TBD Debs will be schedule and notified of their time slot
Tuesday, December 14	Financial Management: Learning to Save, Invest, & Spend	Securing the bag through financial education.	AKA-DOO Target - Building Your Economic Legacy Zoom details TBA
Thursday December 16	Cotillion Headshot Photographs	Scheduled time for official cotillion headshots.	Debs will be schedule and notified of their time slot Location TBD
December 2021/January 2022	Eye Glass Collection- Community Service Project	Community service project in conjunction with the Lions Club of America	AKA-DOO Target - Global Impact Date TBD, AKA Sorority House
Saturday, January 8, 2022 or Sunday, January 9, 2022	Virtual Cotillion Video Shot	Date for video recordings with Debutantes, parents, and others	Location TBD
Saturday, January 8, 2022 or Sunday, January 9, 2022	A Little Swag for You	Distribution of swag bags: t-shirts & pearl sets	
January 2022	Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Activity	An activity designed to recognize the contributions of Martin Luther King, Jr. to the global community and the Kick Off to Black History Month	Details, Date/Location TBD
Saturday, January 29, 2022	Virtual Cotillion Presentation	Date the Cotillion production will be broadcast via social media.	Time and social media platforms TBD

February	For the Love of Heart Health-Community Service Project	Community service activity involving heart health awareness.	AKA-D00 Target - Women's Healthcare and Wellness Date/Location TBD
March	Paint Party	Rest/Relax/Relate: Kick back for some fun through painting.	AKA-D00 Target - The Arts! Date/Location TBD
April	Graduate Recognition	We made it to the end; recognition of graduating seniors from high school.	Date/Location TBD

Special Notes:

All activities will include:

- A getting ready for college/career preparation moment. During this couple of minutes, scholarship deadline announcements will be made.
- A moment in Black History, and notable achievements by Black women.