

**2022**

*Debutante Cotillion*  
**HANDBOOK**



ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED®  
DELTA OMEGA OMEGA CHAPTER

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# **INTRODUCTION**

## **Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated ® Delta Omega Omega Chapter 2022 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 2022 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	Michaela Howard Commeke Goodlow Tamia Thomas
Choreography	Angelique Sargent Toniesha Sargent Leah West
Decorations	Jacqueline Pryor Rossia Broughton LaTasha Carlock
Finance, Budget & Collections	Vonysha Goodwin Shawndra Taggart Chandra Griffin Cynthia Bullard Janette Spicer
Hostess	Eula Liddell Jonail Landers
Invitations	Shara Williams Beverly Cotledge
Program and Presentation	Chantal Jones Monique Benford Alycia Wiley
Debutante Liaison	Jacqueline Pryor
Refreshments	Rossia Broughton
Souvenir Journal	Susie Edwards Cynthia Bennett
Technology	Susie Edwards Cynthia Bennett
Publicity	Chelsea Robinson Connie Robinson
Risk Management	Asia Colen Wilkins

# 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, **December 10, 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:

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

**RULES & REGULATIONS  
GOVERNING PARTICIPATION in the  
2022 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 **\$700.00** in donations 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 escorts are the only **high school students allowed to attend the Cotillion**
8. Escorts must be a senior in high school or freshman in college, and not over twenty-one (21) years of age.
9. The Debutantes entry fee (**\$300.00**) is refundable only up to ten (10) days after the date set for payment of fees (**October 11, 2022**). Obligations and commitments have been made based upon the number of participants.
10. Debutantes and their donation contributors **SHALL NOT** hold fundraisers in the name of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated or the Cotillion.
11. 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.***

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 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.***

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 and Photos:**

- ❖ 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)

**The gown must NOT have:**



Halter



Cleavage



Backless



One Strap



Long Sleeves



Strapless



T-Strap



Shawls



Straight or Mermaid



Bustles



Trains



Jacket



Bolero Jacket

***Share a picture of your gown with the Debutante tri-chairmen prior to purchase.***

### Shoe style:

Shoes need to be white in color with a closed toe with a closed heel for safety. No socks are to be worn with shoes. Sling back shoe style is not permitted.

### Requirements for Escorts:

Please give careful thought and consideration to the reliability and availability of the escort chosen. The escorts will be involved in some activities. We would like the names of the escorts and their parents as early as possible.

The deadline for submitting the final Escort Form is **October 11, 2022**. A black tuxedo with appropriate black shoes is required for the escorts. Boutonnieres will be furnished for the escorts.

### Escorts:

The escorts should:

- ❖ Be enrolled in school;
- ❖ Have a reputation of good character and conduct;
- ❖ Never have been married;
- ❖ Not over 21 years of age, nor less than a high school senior or college freshman;
- ❖ Have good personal grooming;
- ❖ Be willing to pay the tuxedo rental, no tails, trench coats, hats or tophat;
- ❖ Be willing to attend activities, when requested;
- ❖ Have not fathered a child;
- ❖ Be appropriately attired at all rehearsals. **Please, no earrings at any function!**
- ❖ If an escort has braids, dreads, cornrows or twists, the style should be neat and pulled away from the face; neat means that the hair should be lined with no designs cut into the hair, or completely braided and with no dye or color added to the hair.

### Parental Responsibilities:

- ❖ To ensure that the debutante follows through with written and verbal communications or directions.
- ❖ To ensure that debutante, escort, presenter, and mother (guardian) are present at rehearsal on
  - **Debutante and Escort 8th, 9th and 10th, Pine Bluff Convention Center;**
  - **Debutante Parents/Guardian December 9th and 10th., Pine Bluff Convention Center;**
- ❖ To be present the night of the Ball in long floor length gowns for mothers and tuxedos, no tails, hat or tophat for father(s) or presenter(s); and
- ❖ To ensure that your guests are appropriately dressed in floor length gowns the night of the Ball.
- ❖ To ensure that your daughter selects an escort who is available and reliable.
- ❖ To review all ad messages with daughter to make sure all messages are appropriate and make sure ads and money match.

### Requirements for Mothers:

- ❖ Formal floor length dresses or gowns please do not select the color white or wear boots.
- ❖ No slippers or ballerina shoes
- ❖ No palazzo pants

- ❖ Hosiery is required.
- ❖ 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 donations**. Each of the three top contestants will receive 30% of the value of the **donations** that she submits. (i.e. \$1,500 x .30 = \$450.00). The contestant reporting the highest amount of **donations** will be crowned “Miss Deb”. **All debutantes must submit a minimum of seven hundred dollars (\$700.00) in donations.**

The donation levels are as follows:

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

**DONATION INFORMATION**

1. There must be absolutely **NO** soliciting under the name of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Delta Omega Omega Chapter without the use of the Donation 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 donations are **NOT** permitted.
3. On the final reporting date of **Thursday, November 10, 2022** 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 DONATIONS:**

1. To secure donations, debutante participant must use the designated Donation Support Form. These forms will contain your Program Participation Number (The Participation number will be given to you at 1<sup>st</sup> Debutante Activity).
2. The Donation 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 Donation 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 **November 10, 2022** 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. **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 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 receipted.
  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 Donation 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 supporters, all Support Forms, donations and contributions must be reported by participants. All 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 very 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 2022 Debutante Cotillion. I agree to abide by all of the rules and regulations.

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Signature of Participant

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Date

---

Signature of Parent or Guardian

---

Date

**THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN **October 11, 2022****

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 October 11, 2022**

**2022 Schedule of Activities for Debutantes**  
**This page is currently being developed by**  
**the Activities Committee**

Info Distribution/Collections	Program Activity
Community Service Activity	Practice

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Facilitator/Location</i>
	<b>Orientation/Meet &amp; Greet</b>	How to become a debutante, compete for Miss Debutante title, participation requirements.	Tish Bullard, Tonya Colen, Rhonda Hill Jones Location TBD
	<b>College/Career Planning and Readiness</b>	Starting early to secure admissions, scholarships, and long-range planning for college/career and beyond.	<b>AKA-DOO Target 1- #CAP</b> Zoom details TBA
	<b>Vision Board: Don't Call It A Dream-Call It A Plan!</b>	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
	<b>Debutante Entry Fee Collection</b>	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
	<b>Pink Table Talk: Teen Domestic Violence</b>	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
	<b>Waltz Zoom/Video Practice</b>	Designated time to practice for the waltz with the video recording or with choreographer	Zoom details TBA
	<b>Say It Like You Mean It!</b>	Public speaking session with small group activities designed to instill confidence when speaking in public.	Soror Kimberly Stepps Zoom details TBA
	<b>Ring the Bells!</b>	Community service project in conjunction with the Salvation Army	<b>AKA-DOO Target 5 - Global Impact</b> Date and Location TBD
	<b>Love For the Holidays:</b>	Christmas tree ornament painting; one to donate to area nursing homes, and one to keep.	<b>AKA-DOO Target - The Arts</b> Location TBD
	<b>Waltz Zoom/Video Practice</b>	Designated time to practice for the waltz with the video recording or with choreographer	TBA
	<b>Etiquette, Fashion, and Being A Lady</b>	What it means to be a lady, through etiquette (fine dining), fashion/attitude, and being.	Designated Sorors Zoom details TBA
	<b>Donation Collection</b>	Cotillion donation 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
	<b>Financial Management: Learning to Save, Invest, &amp; Spend</b>	Securing the bag through financial education.	<b>AKA-DOO Target - Building Your Economic Legacy</b>
	<b>Cotillion Headshot Photographs</b>	Scheduled time for official cotillion headshots.	Debs will be schedule and notified of their time slot Location TBD
	<b>Eye Glass Collection- Community Service Project</b>	Community service project in conjunction with the Lions Club of America	<b>AKA-DOO Target - Global Impact</b> Date TBD, AKA Sorority House
Lo			
	<b>A Little Swag for You</b>	Distribution of swag bags: t-shirts & pearl sets	
	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Activity</b>	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

<b>Virtual Cotillion Presentation</b>		Date the Cotillion production will be broadcast via social media.	Time and social media platforms TBD
	<b>For the Love of Heart Health-Community Service Project</b>	Community service activity involving heart health awareness.	<b>AKA-DOO Target - Women's Healthcare and Wellness</b> Date/Location TBD
	<b>Paint Party</b>	Rest/Relax/Relate: Kick back for some fun through painting.	<b>AKA-DOO Target - The Arts!</b> Date/Location TBD
	<b>Graduate Recognition</b>	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.