



# **COTILLION HANDBOOK**

**ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.  
EPSILON BETA LAMBDA FOUNDATION**

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## ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC. Epsilon Beta Lambda Foundation

Dear Prospective Debutante, Parents/Guardians,

It is with pleasure that the Epsilon Beta Lambda Foundation announces its 2020 Cotillion Debutante Program. This program is an outstanding opportunity for young ladies to experience a wide array of cultural, academic, and social activities, while at the same time raising funds towards scholarships. It is open to young ladies who are currently enrolled in high school as freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors with plans to enroll in post-secondary educational institutions.

In 1959, Epsilon Beta Lambda Foundation established the Cotillion Debutante Program to enrich the lives of young ladies while allowing them the opportunity to raise money to defray the cost of their education at the collegiate level. While doing so, these young ladies attend workshops over a four-month span learning etiquette skills and social graces; participate in community service projects; and attend educational seminars, which are geared to enhance their academic and personal growth.

This unique program, which culminates with a formal Debutante Cotillion Ball on March 28, 2020, is an experience that will remain in the hearts and minds of each young lady.

If there are any questions, please contact Joseph Lindsey at 478-737-2066 or Tim Jones at 478-747-1475.

Sincerely,

*Joseph Lindsey*

Joseph Lindsey  
Cotillion Chairman

*Tim Jones*

Tim Jones  
Cotillion Co-Chairman

## THE DEBUTANTE

In what has become a Middle Georgia tradition, the presentation of young ladies to society is an anticipated event. This elaborate event, especially for parents, sponsors, and friends, is the Debutante Cotillion Ball sponsored by the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Epsilon Beta Lambda Foundation. Second to the young ladies' presentation is the French minuet that is performed by the debutantes and their escorts.

Even though the actual ball is the highlight of the debutante season, many activities are held before the actual event. These activities embrace the best parts of this time-honored tradition, giving perspective debutantes the opportunity to develop an appreciation of their cultural heritage, yet transforming them as they develop their inner beauty. Highlighting their inner beauty is necessary considering the state of affairs facing this young generation.

Over several months, the ladies meet periodically to participate in etiquette seminars, goal setting, how to prepare for college, physical fitness, the appropriate use of cosmetics, community service, dressing for success, spiritual development, to name a few of the many activities available to them. The goal of the sponsors of the ball is to help these young ladies take pride in which they are, build their self-esteem and make positive and informed choices in their lives. Additionally, with the help of fraternity members and their supporters, the debutantes will look back on the experience as a special moment in their lives and one that will help them grow and develop into productive citizens and beautiful young women.

Throughout the Cotillion experience, young ladies are taught the value of family and positive relationships. This is not a beauty contest. Rather, the young ladies depend on their character, academic achievements, and deposition. She must be charming and not shy when talking to her peers and other adults. It is the chapter's hope that once the Cotillion experience is over, each young lady will have developed lasting friendships as well as an appreciation of self and the world around her.

## DEBUTANTE QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The debutante candidate must:

- I. Be single, never married, and not a parent;
- II. Be a current freshman, sophomore, junior or senior in high school with a minimum grade point average of 2.3;
- III. Have plans to attend a post - secondary educational institution;
- IV. Provide an official sealed transcript;
- V. Provide evidence of extracurricular activities and community service;
- VI. Submit two (2) recommendation forms with the application. At least one form must be from a School Counselor or from a high school Teacher. The forms may not be from family members or Godparents;
- VII. Be willing to commit time for participation in Cotillion Program;
- VIII. Along with her escort, must attend rehearsals and arrive on time;
- IX. Adhere to the rules and regulations set by Cotillion officials;
- X. Be in good standing in her school and community;
- XI. Submit a participation agreement signed by her parent(s) or guardian(s).

## **THE DEBUTANTE SEASON**

Debutante activities begin with the Orientation and culminate the night of the Cotillion. Attendance at Orientation is a requirement for all Debutantes or their parents if the Debutante is unable to attend. Escorts and their parents are invited to attend Orientation as well. Basic information, questions, concerns and comments are addressed during the Orientation. Attendance at Orientation can possibly alleviate future concerns or questions. Debutante activities are planned so that social grace, cultural awareness, acceptance of responsibility and oral expression are enhanced.

Epsilon Beta Lambda Foundation places special emphasis on all the planned events; therefore, debutantes should strive to attend all planned events by reviewing the schedule of activities and placing them on their personal calendars. The success of the Debutante season depends on the cooperative efforts of all involved. We hope that this experience will be added to your list of most memorable and rewarding events in your life.

### **WHO IS AN ESCORT?**

An Escort is a refined young gentleman who is also schooled in social graces. He accompanies the Debutante to the Cotillion

### **WHAT IS A COTILLION?**

Our Cotillion is a formal ball where young women are introduced to society by their parents or guardians. It is the culmination of months of education, cultural, and community service activities that will enhance their lives. This handbook is designed to provide pertinent information to Debutantes, parents, and guardians. Information will also be provided to escorts and their parents. Debutantes should choose a young man who will enhance her qualities as she is presented to society. This handbook also emphasizes specific rules and regulations governing the Cotillion and all activities involved.

## DEBUTANTE FEES

The financial minimum requirement is that the prospective debutante must report an application fee of \$25.00 and an Activity Fee of \$1,000.00 on or before the deadline date to participate in the Cotillion Debutante Program. Funds attained through fundraising may be paid in installments according to the established payment timeline and reporting procedures.

**NOTE:** Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, Epsilon Beta Lambda Foundation, reserves the right to request the withdrawal of any debutante who does not adhere to the foregoing regulation or any other regulation which jeopardizes the welfare of our organization. No portion of the fee will be returned to the debutante. All monies are non-refundable whatever the reason for the withdrawal.

The debutante commitment fee includes the following:

- 1) Complimentary tickets to the debutante presentation
- 2) Arm Bouquet
- 3) Corsages for the Mothers and/or Guardians
- 4) Boutonnieres for the Escorts, Fathers, Guardians, or Presenter
- 5) Fees for Special activities events
- 6) Copy of Cotillion Presentation on DVD and DVD of all ads
- 7) Cotillion Awards
- 8) Group picture of Debutantes and Escorts

### Fee Schedule:

October 27, 2019	Application Fee Due: \$25.00
February 2, 2020	Activity Fee Due \$1,000.00
March 1, 2020	Final Ads Due
Last Rehearsal	Final Report

*All Debutantes are expected to adhere to the timeline. No debutante will be presented if all fees are not paid. Debutantes needing assistance will be given support to solicit contributions to meet this requirement.*

***No refunds of any kind will be issued.***

## **ALPHA COTILLION SCHEDULE**

All Events TBA

Career Choices & Opportunities Life After School

Community Service Project

Oratorical/Talent Show – Essay required

Personal and Professional Development in the Age of Social Media Workshop  
Stressing the Importance of a Positive Self-Image

African American Women: The Impact of Social Media

Healthy Mind, Body and Soul: It's Not About Size

Spelman/Morehouse Holiday Carol Concert

Worship Service

Cotillion Presentation

Cherry Blossom Parade



## **REHEARSALS**

The Debutante dance is a very special part of the Cotillion evening. Many hours are required to learn the dance so that you feel secure in its execution. There is also a dance for the debutante and her father as well as escorts which will require joint rehearsals with both the fathers and escorts. All participants should plan to arrive at rehearsals prior to the rehearsal start time, as we will begin promptly.

**Weekly rehearsals will begin in late January on Sunday from 4-6 p.m.**

Rehearsals have been scheduled on Sunday afternoons.

**\*\*\*\*Please do not bring guests to the rehearsals. \*\*\*\***

## **DEBUTANTES**

Your attendance at all rehearsals is a requirement. Please adjust your schedules so that nothing will prevent you from attending. The Cotillion Chair, with the advice of the Rehearsal Committee, shall eliminate from participation in any part of the Cotillion a debutante who is absent from any rehearsal without being properly excused by the Cotillion and/or Production Chairperson 24 hours prior to the rehearsal. If more than three (3) rehearsals are missed, for any reason, the Debutante will be required to attend a private instruction session at her own expense and will be reviewed for possible exclusion from the Cotillion. If a problem occurs with a Debutante, the parent will be required to attend all remaining rehearsals.

## **ESCORTS**

Escorts will be required to attend all rehearsals except the first one.

### **Selection of Escort**

It is imperative that your escort attend each scheduled rehearsal. When selecting an escort, please consider his ability to attend and his willingness to cooperate. Debutantes are encouraged to choose as escorts: brothers, cousins, or long-time friends of the family. Each escort must be a high school youngman and are subject to the approval of the Cotillion Chairperson. Escorts' conduct deemed unacceptable will result in immediate dismissal.

## **PERSONAL APPEARANCE AND REHEARSAL DRESS CODE**

The rehearsal dress code is designed to allow for participant comfort while maintaining an environment conducive to learning the debutante dance. The following clothing items will not be worn by debutantes and/or escorts:

1. any article or apparel which displays obscene words, pictures, or designs; any article that conveys a sexually suggestive remark, a pro-alcohol message, a tobacco and/or drug related message;
2. head wear to include, but not limited to, hats, hoods, wave-caps, sweatbands, bandannas, sunglasses, goggles, headsets, combs, picks, curlers, or rakes in the hair;
3. skirts, dresses, or shorts that do not extend beyond the fingertips fully extended and/or reach mid-thigh;
4. tank, tube, or halter tops and strapless dresses and backless dresses;
5. stretch lycra, spandex or nylon tights, leotards, biker pants, or underwear worn as outer garments, including exposed bra straps;
6. stretch pants or hose covered by jackets, shirts, or tops that do not extend beyond the fingertips fully extended and/or reach mid-thigh;
7. apparel that exposes the mid-section or body below the armpits;
8. pants or shorts worn below the intended waistline;
9. cut-off shorts and pants with rips or holes;
10. flip flops, slippers, and/or bare feet at any time;
11. any item that may be considered disruptive to the workshops or rehearsal sessions.

**If an item is deemed inappropriate, the participant will be denied entrance to rehearsal until the situation is rectified. The second violation of the dress code will result in exclusion from rehearsal. The third violation will result in expulsion.**

## SOUVENIRPROGRAM/DVD

The Souvenir Program provides a visually lasting memory of the Debutante Cotillion. Hence, it is important for this document to be a product of quality – one that may be treasured for years to come. This is a publication in which parents, relatives, friends, and businesses can express their thoughts about their special debutantes and, in some instances, advertise their business. The Foundation will produce a digital DVD of all ads which will be electronically viewed and distributed at the event and posted on our social media and website for an entire year.

Any debutante wishing to sell advertisements for the Cotillion Ball Souvenir Booklet is invited to do so. Selling advertisements is not difficult. Make sure that each advertisement, regardless of the size, is legible. Ads should be camera ready to avoid errors. Include on the ad form, your name, the size of the advertisement and any other information the debutante wishes to be known about the printing of the advertisement.

Debutantes will be given appropriate forms as well as a documented letter granting them permission to secure ads and patrons.

Below is a price list for the various sizes of the advertisements:

Full Page	\$150.00
Half Page	\$75.00
Quarter Page	\$40.00
One eighth Page	\$25.00
Patron Listing	\$10.00

Please make all checks or money orders payable to the Epsilon Beta Lambda Foundation, Inc. Debutantes should note Debutante Cotillion on the check or money order.

Please continue to encourage your friends, family, community, church, and business contacts to purchase an advertisement or to make a direct tax-deductible contribution payable to the **Epsilon Beta Lambda Education Foundation**. Their commitment and support will help to improve education and prepare middle and high school students for college, promote goodwill, and positively impact the community.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS, AND AWARDS**

### **COTILLION QUEEN**

The winner of the Cotillion will receive 90% of her total contributions above the \$1,000.00 activity fee, one dozen gold roses, a specially designed trophy, group, and individual pictures.

### **FIRST RUNNER-UP**

The First Runner-Up will receive 85% of her total contributions above the \$1,000.00 activity fee, a half dozen roses, a trophy and court group pictures.

### **SECOND RUNNER-UP**

The Second Runner-Up will receive 80% of her total contributions above the \$1,000.00 activity fee, a half dozen roses, a trophy and court group pictures.

### **THIRD RUNNER-UP**

The Third Runner-Up will receive 75% of her total contributions above the \$1,000.00 activity fee, a half dozen roses, a trophy and court group pictures.

**All other Debutantes** will receive 50% of her contributions above the \$1,000.00 activity fee.

**Please Note:** All participants will receive a group picture and DVD copy of the Cotillion presentation.

## **THE COTILLION QUEEN'S COURT**

Debutantes aspiring to be the queen of the Cotillion Ball may do so by raising the largest amount of contributions beyond the \$1,000.00 activity fee.

A Debutante can achieve first, second, or third, place respectively by reporting the first, second, or third largest amount in donations beyond the minimum Activity Fee of \$1,000.00. All donations may be tax deductible.

All Debutantes will receive a free photograph package.

**Debutantes must turn in all funds by the final rehearsal of the Cotillion Ball.**

## **SUPERLATIVES**

Each year the debutantes are given an opportunity to vote among themselves for superlatives.

### **MOST INTELLECTUAL (HIGHEST GPA)**

One who is guided by thought and reasoning rather than emotion.

### **MOST ALL-AROUND**

Not only did this young lady make all rehearsals, she exemplified intelligence, high moral character, a lady-like demeanor, and a friendly and encouraging attitude.

### **MOST LOQUACIOUS**

In short, this young lady is quite talkative. In fact, at times she is given to excessive talking.

### **MOST SOPHISTICATED**

She is experienced in and knowledgeable of the arts, etiquette, and she is most mannerable. Her conversations are interesting and intellectually appealing.

### **MOST CONGENIAL**

This young lady is pleasant, friendly, and works well with others.

### **ORIGINAL NOSEGAY**

This young lady is one who designs the most original nosegay.



**COTILLION DEBUTANTE APPLICATION**

Debutante Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home #: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Schedule:

	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Evening</b>
<b>Sunday</b>			
<b>Monday</b>			
<b>Tuesday</b>			
<b>Wednesday</b>			
<b>Thursday</b>			
<b>Friday</b>			
<b>Saturday</b>			

Parent(s)/ Guardians Information

**Parent(s)/ Guardians Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home #: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/ Guardians Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact(s) Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home #: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Debutante Information Profile

Name \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Prospective College \_\_\_\_\_

Intended Major/ Concentration \_\_\_\_\_

Extracurricular/ Community Involvement

High School Activities

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Honors/ Awards/ Achievements

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Community Service/ Civic/ Volunteer Activities

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Religious Affiliation and Church Activities

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Special Accommodations

If selected, do you have any special needs that we need to be aware of?      Yes      or      No

If yes, please describe:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Quote

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

All applications must be completed in their entirety to be reviewed and considered. Applications must be typed or printed legibly in blue or black ink. Before submitting your application, please be sure that the following items in the checklist below have been enclosed.

- One (1) Original COMPLETED application package
- One (1) Official Transcript
- Two (2) Sealed Letters of Recommendations (sealed in an envelope) must be from guidance counselor, teacher, or a community person.
- \$25.00 Application Fee

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND SIGNATURES**

**Debutante/Parent/ Guardian**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, confirm that she meets all the Debutante Cotillion participation criteria listed and understand that she must maintain these standards throughout the Debutante Cotillion Program.

I agree that my daughter will fully participate in all events and programs relating to the Debutante Cotillion Program and represent herself, her family and the Epsilon Beta Lambda Foundation with the utmost courtesy and respect.

By signing this form below, I affirm that all contents of the Debutante Cotillion Program application are accurate and complete (as submitted) to the best of my knowledge. I understand that falsified statements and/or misrepresentations will result in immediate dismissal from the program and forfeiture of the Qualifying Fee. I authorize representatives of the Debutante Cotillion Program committee to verify statements made in the attached application packet.

I understand that all personal information will be kept in strict confidence by the Epsilon Beta Lambda Foundation and Cotillion Debutante Program Committee. I grant permission to the Epsilon Beta Lambda Foundation to take photographs and use images or likeness thereof to help promote the Cotillion Debutante Program.

My signature below confirms that I have provided truthful and complete information in this application and that I understand that I may be contacted if there are questions or concerns about my application package.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Debutante Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_





## RECOMMENDATION FORM

**Debutante:** \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity have you known her?

\_\_\_\_\_

What words come to mind when you think of the applicant?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please circle the answer which best applies to each area:

<b>Integrity</b> (consistent in principles, values, and actions)	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
<b>School and Community Service</b> (participates in school activities and involved in community service)				
<b>Character</b> (displays sound judgment and high moral values)				
<b>Relationship with Peers</b> (positively influence and works well with others)				
<b>Academic Motivation</b> (studious, engaged in class and makes good grades)				
<b>Positive Attitude</b> (displays friendly disposition, helpful and encouraging to others)				
<b>Responsibility</b> (personally accountable for actions and fulfills commitment)				

Please comment briefly about the applicant's personality, character, academic aspirations, citizenship, and etc.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_