

WELCOME

2023-2024

MEMBERS!



**More information is
available on our website
thebatonrougecotillion.org**



June 20th, 2023

Dear Parents,

Happy Summer! For those of you who do not know The Baton Rouge Cotillion, Inc. was founded in 1975 to provide opportunities for students in Grades 7-12 to learn basic ballroom dancing and social etiquette, while at the same time cultivating greater self-confidence in handling social situations. The Baton Rouge Cotillion offers dance parties and sessions which are supervised and allow members to become better acquainted with their fellow students from schools throughout the Baton Rouge area. Please remind them that they will be required to participate and to cooperate with the dance instructor, etiquette instructor, board volunteers, and parent volunteers. Good manners are based on the consideration of others. Being polite and having proper behavior is expected of all members at all times and will be strictly enforced at all BRC functions. Please remember, although 7th and 8th grade members are encouraged to bring a guest to the dance parties, no guests are allowed at the dance sessions. Be on the lookout for a digital copy of this correspondence on our website.

I hope you are pleased with all of last year's changes that I made including: revamping the website for an easier user experience, relocating the Junior Dance Sessions from Bocage Racquet Club to The Renaissance Hotel allowing us more room to move around during the sessions, moving our Senior Dance Parties out of the downtown area and into The Renaissance Hotel to improve the carpool process and to increase the safety of our members. We will now be offering refreshments at all of our dances and are creating an easier check in process for our kiddos when attending events. I'm excited about our party coordinator's choice on fun themes and new t-shirt designs. It's time to get excited for a year full of new ideas, fresh themes, and even greater improvements with you and our kiddos in mind! Our board is actively looking to make more and more improvements going forward as well, if you have any suggestions I'd love to hear from you. Please email me at: amy@torapath.com. Please note that we have made additional changes to the Dance Session times at The Renaissance. We are trying to accommodate those that have sporting commitments or extra curricular activities on Sunday's so that everyone can fulfill their obligations.

- ALL OF OUR DANCE AND ETIQUETTE SESSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FALL. There are no sessions scheduled after October 29, 2023. If your child is involved in middle school sports, please make every effort to attend all of the sessions in August so that your child will fulfill the membership requirements. Remember that the April 30th Western Round Up counted towards your dance session requirement.
- www.thebatonrougecotillion.org, is your resource for all things BRC related. Find the calendar, dress code, board member contact information, attendance records, etc. You can access this by logging in with the email and password you used when registering your child THIS year.
- To ensure that you receive all information and invitations, it is important that your contact information is current. Log on to the website and update ANY changes to your address, phone or email, and school. All information can be updated under the LOGIN/ACCOUNT DASHBOARD section of the website.
- Additionally, "like" our page at www.facebook.com/BRCotillion and Instagram at www.instagram.com/brcotillion/ for updates. We also have a LinkedIn page at www.linkedin.com/company/the-baton-rouge-cotillion/. We will post social media reminders or any last minute changes on via our platforms.
- Junior members (7th/8th graders) of the BRC are required to attend 7 (total) dance/etiquette sessions. 7th and 8th graders are required to attend at least six dance sessions and one etiquette session. Members must stay for the entire hour session to get credit. See the enclosed brochure for more information. Most often, attendance from the Sunday session will be posted the following Wednesday. Attendance records can be found on the website under the MEMBER tab. Check the website periodically to ensure your child is meeting the minimum requirements.
- All Junior Cotillion parents must chaperone at least one dance session OR a dance party. All Senior Cotillion parents must chaperone at least one dance party. Enclosed you will find a copy of the chaperone responsibilities for the dance sessions. If you choose to chaperone a dance party, further instructions will be given to you upon your arrival at the venue. We welcome all parents any time for help!
- Once you receive this mailer, you may log onto the Baton Rouge Cotillion website to sign up for your chosen chaperone time. We count on you to show up for your scheduled time, so please ask someone to switch with you and text me if you realize that you can't make it for your chosen time.
- Invitations will be mailed for the dance parties. All BRC members are allowed to bring ONE guest to each dance party (not dance sessions). Carpool instructions for each dance party will be mailed with the party invitations.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me via my cell (call or text), 225-252-5828. Have a great summer, and we're looking forward to seeing all of you in August!

Amy DeJean

President
The Baton Rouge Cotillion



2023-2024 Contact Information

Who to Contact:

General Information about Cotillion and Membership:

Amy DeJean, President
225-252-5828
amy@torapath.com
info@thebatonrougecotillion.org

Shannon Hultberg, Vice President
225-806-0986
info@thebatonrougecotillion.org

Communications/Website Coordinator

Mikala Morgan
info@thebatonrougecotillion.org

General Information about 7th Grade Cotillion:

Katie Goodson
225-955-5020

Jamie Meares
225-278-1319

Mary Alford
225-405-8182

General Information about 8th Grade Cotillion:

Linzay Lawrence
225-803-3213

Holly Edmonds
225-445-5689

Betsy Bernhard
225-485-7905

Kelly Wilson
225-772-5475

General Information about Senior Cotillion:

Julie Cooper
225-317-0596

Lisa Spillers
225-572-0808

Andre Rodrigue
225-978-9590

Linzay Lawrence
225-803-3213

Elizabeth Badeaux
504-430-5384

Laurie Marien



2023-2024 Calendar

Dance / Etiquette Sessions

April 30	Round Up Dance Session	Counts as a Dance Session for the 2023-2024 year.
August 6	Dance Session	7th Grade 1:00 - 2:00 pm 8th Grade 2:30 - 3:30 pm
August 20	Dance Session	7th Grade 1:00 - 2:00 pm 8th Grade 2:30 - 3:30 pm
August 27	Dance Session	7th Grade 1:00 - 2:00 pm 8th Grade 2:30 - 3:30 pm
September 10	Etiquette Session	7th Grade 1:00 - 2:00 pm 8th Grade 2:30 - 3:30 pm
September 17	Dance Session	7th Grade 1:00 - 2:00 pm 8th Grade 2:30 - 3:30 pm
September 24	Dance Session	7th Grade 1:00 - 2:00 pm 8th Grade 2:30 - 3:30 pm
October 1	Etiquette Session	7th Grade 1:00 - 2:00 pm 8th Grade 2:30 - 3:30 pm
October 8	Dance Session	7th Grade 1:00 - 2:00 pm 8th Grade 2:30 - 3:30 pm
October 22	Dance Session	7th Grade 1:00 - 2:00 pm 8th Grade 2:30 - 3:30 pm
October 29	Dance Session	7th Grade 1:00 - 2:00 pm 8th Grade 2:30 - 3:30 pm

Attendance will be posted
on our website
thebatonrougecotillion.org
the following week.

Dances

Back to School Dance

Jr. Cotillion - August 4th
Drusilla Seafood Banquet Room
Sr. Cotillion - August 11th
Renaissance Hotel

Winter Wonderland Dance

Jr. Cotillion - January 5th
Boudreaux's Catering
Sr. Cotillion - January 6th
Renaissance Hotel

Spring Dance

Jr. Cotillion - TBD
Sr. Cotillion - TBD

Dance Instructor

Tranane Lissard returns for her 27th year as Cotillion Dance Instructor. Mrs. Lissard is the dance team director for Parkview High School and also has choreographed for all the school's musicals. She was affiliated with 2 M's School of Dance. She has worked with American All-Star Performers Dance Team and a Christian Ballet Group.

Etiquette Instructor

Emily Stitch joins The Baton Rouge Cotillion as our Etiquette Instructor. Mrs. Stitch is the Managing Principal at The Protocol & Etiquette Institute in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Etiquette is her passion and she specializes in dining skills, electronic etiquette, job interview skills, and has a clear understanding of our youth's needs in today's world.

**For all Cotillion events, be on time
and make sure to dress
appropriately.**



Basic Information at a Glance

A. Junior Dance Sessions

- (a) Place: Renaissance Hotel (Bluebonnet Blvd.)
- (b) Cotillion members meet in the Ballroom in the conference area of the hotel
- (c) Time: 7th Grade (1:00 - 2:00pm) 8th Grade (2:30 - 3:30pm)
- (d) Dress Code
 - i. Members are to attend in appropriate attire
 - (a) Girls: dress, skirt and blouse, closed toe and closed heel shoes
 - (b) Boys: slacks and shirt with collar, belt, and dress shoes. Boys must arrive with their shirts tucked in.
 - (c) **PLEASE NOTE:**
 - i. **NO tennis shoes or flip-flops**
 - ii. **NO t-shirts, tanks, halters, racer backs, spaghetti straps, strapless tops, bare midriffs or rompers**
 - iii. **NO shorts, capris or leggings**
 - iv. **NO jeans of any style or color (including a skirt)**
 - v. **NO gum chewing**
- (e) Requirements
 - i. Seventh and eighth grade members must attend at least seven (7) sessions to retain their membership. One of the seven must be an etiquette session.
 - ii. Members must arrive on time; members 15 minutes or more late may attend that dance session but the dance session shall not count towards his/her dance session requirements.
 - iii. Members are responsible for signing the roll to validate their attendance at each dance session.

B. Junior Cotillion Dances

- (a) Junior members in good standing may attend Junior Cotillion parties.
- (b) One guest (7th-8th grade) per member may be invited to attend Junior Cotillion parties.
- (c) Proper attire and courteous behavior is expected of all persons attending any function sponsored by The Baton Rouge Cotillion, Inc. Themes will be announced via email, social media, and invitations.
- (d) Board members may receive additional guest passes at the President's discretion.
- (e) All Past Presidents shall receive one Board Guest pass for all Jr. and Sr. Cotillion events (dances) for the entirety of that Past President's life or until The Baton Rouge Cotillion, Inc. is disbanded.

C. Senior Cotillion Dances

- (a) Senior members in good standing may attend Senior Cotillion parties.
- (b) One guest (9th-12th grade) per member may be invited to attend Senior Cotillion parties.
- (c) The Senior Advisors or President must approve any "special" arrangements or changes in plans. (Please make arrangements ahead of time due to sporting events and/or school related functions.)
- (d) Proper attire and courteous behavior is expected of all persons attending any function sponsored by The Baton Rouge Cotillion, Inc. Themes will be announced via email, social media, and invitations.
- (e) Board members may receive additional guest passes at the President's discretion.
- (f) All Past Presidents shall receive one Board Guest pass for all Jr. and Sr. Cotillion events (dances) for the entirety of that Past President's life or until The Baton Rouge Cotillion, Inc. is disbanded.

D. Membership

- (a) All members who have met their membership requirements are members in good standing and shall receive an invitation to renew their membership for the following year.
- (b) Proposal of New Member forms shall be available on the website for existing members.
- (c) All Renewal and Proposal Forms are due in January.



Behavior Guidelines for Members

All members, parents of members, and guests of members shall strictly adhere to the provisions of Cotillion, the violation of which shall result in referral to the Board for discretionary action to address same and may result in probation, suspension, and/or expulsion from Cotillion.

The Board has the complete, unfettered discretion to take whatever action it deems appropriate, including suspension and/or termination of membership of a Student Member, where same and/or his/her parent(s) and/or his/her guest displays any behavior whatsoever that is or could be interpreted to be contrary to the purpose of Cotillion.

- Student Members are responsible for the behavior of their guests. As such, Student Members should be extremely careful in selecting a guest for a social function to avoid loss of student membership privileges because of non-complying guest behavior.
- Any damage caused by a Student Member and/or his/her guests will be the responsibility of that member and his/her parent(s) and/or guardian.
- Physical violence or possession of weapons of any kind will not be tolerated at any Cotillion function. Immediate termination of membership will be executed.
- Use and/or possession of alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, and/or illegal drugs of any kind whatsoever are prohibited at Cotillion functions. Tobacco or e-cigarette smoking is prohibited at all Cotillion functions.
- The Baton Rouge Cotillion Board of Directors shall respond to any and all incidents of a threatening nature. Threatening statements could be made in anger or in a joking manner, but we must take action to protect all individuals involved. Safety to the BRC population is of utmost importance and our top priority. Parents are urged to caution their children about statements or actions of a threatening nature. Threatening statements or actions include not only threats of harm, but also physical harassment, bullying, sexual harassment, and/or discrimination of any kind. Any member or parent/guardian of a member making a threatening statement may be removed from BR Cotillion events, until such time as a professional evaluation determines that the member is not a threat to himself/herself or to others.
- Members caught displaying lewd hand gestures in photos from the dances will be at risk of suspension from future dances.

Pink Slip Policy:

- **If a member receives a Pink Slip from a board member for uncooperative, disruptive, and/or disrespectful behavior by themselves or their guest during any of the dances, the parents will be called immediately. The slip will be mailed to the parents following the dance. Three pink slips will result in termination of membership.**



Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Membership

1. *When will I receive renewal and proposal forms?*

E-mail notices will be sent to members in good standing in January. If you have not received your email by mid January, you should email the membership chairman at membership@thebatonrougectotillion.org

2. *Who is a legacy?*

A legacy is the 6th grade full or half sibling, related by blood, of a current Cotillion Student Member or of a former Cotillion Student Member.

3. *If there aren't legacies in upper grade "drawings," how is priority established?*

Priority is established by the number of consecutive years a person has been on the waiting list. These proposals are given priority in the draw for any available spaces. A candidate must be proposed each and every year to remain and advance on the waiting list. Spaces are not necessarily filled by persons from the same school or of the same gender as the member who has dropped. All persons who have been on the waiting list the longest have an equal chance to be drawn.

4. *Who proposes 6th grade legacies? Who proposes non-legacies?*

Parents of 6th grade legacies propose their own child. Parents of any current Cotillion member can propose a child for membership.

5. *What are the requirements for proposal?*

Baton Rouge Cotillion proposed members must be currently enrolled in a school with a physical address in the city of Baton Rouge.

6. *What are the procedures for the 7th grade draw?*

Legacies are given the first openings of the available spots. All other proposals are put in the draw until all the openings are filled. Every child has an equal chance. All schools have an equal chance.

7. *What are the procedures for the 8th – 12th grade draw?*

Vacancies occur in upper grades because members move, choose to drop their membership, do not respond to renewal requirement deadlines, or do not attend the required number of Dance Sessions as a 7th or 8th grader. When vacancies occur, priority is given to those persons who have been on the waiting list for the most consecutive years. These persons are placed in the draw for the vacant spot or spots in a given grade.

8. *Will parents of former Cotillion members automatically receive proposal instructions for their younger legacy siblings?*

No. If you know someone whose child is a legacy, but older siblings have already graduated, PLEASE TELL THEM TO EMAIL THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN TO GET PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS. Remember this is a volunteer organization. The parents of younger legacies have the ultimate responsibility for proposing their children.



Dress Code for Dances

In order to maintain an atmosphere that promotes respect and upholds the mission and high standards of The Baton Rouge Cotillion (BRC), the following dress code guidelines apply to all members and guests at BRC dances.

The Baton Rouge Cotillion Executive Board will have final say in all dress code decisions. Any member or guest that is dressed in a manner that is not in alignment with the dress code upon arrival or at any time during the dance, will not be allowed to stay. Parents of the member or guest will be called and will have to pick up their child at the dance. A parent will need to sign out the member or guest regardless of how they arrived to the dance.

The goal of this policy is modesty, and while what may be modest for one person, may not be modest for another due to individual body types. Use your judgment and when in doubt, opt for being cautious to avoid a member or guest being asked to leave the dance.

- Skin-tight clothing is not permitted. (e.g., bike pants, tights, leotards, leggings—unless worn under shorts or skirts)
- Clothing should not be revealing and should not become revealing while dancing. This includes, but is not limited to, exposure of the chest, abdomen/navel, lower back, buttocks, and undergarments. Regardless of neckline, tops must be modest and must not reveal cleavage. Changes to the outfit during the event are not permitted.
- Clothing should be free of images, symbols, or text that could be offensive to others. This includes, but is not limited to, alcohol, drugs, sex, violence, firearms, or makes derogatory remarks toward any group of people.

Semi-formal attire shall include:

- **Boys:** Slacks, collared shirt with tie, belt and socks are required. Coat is optional, dress shoes or tennis shoes are acceptable.
- **Girls:** Semi-formal attire -- any neckline or shoulder strap size is acceptable as long as it is modest and doesn't reveal cleavage. No midriff shall be shown, even while dancing (which includes no cutouts on the sides). Tennis shoes are acceptable for Winter Wonderland and any of our dances.

Please note: Any photos with either individuals or groups making inappropriate gestures or wearing inappropriate outfits will be deleted before being uploaded to the photographer's website.

To be safe -- when in doubt, just don't wear it.



Parent Chaperone Responsibilities for Dance & Etiquette Sessions 2023-2024

Thank you for volunteering to chaperone at the BRC Dance Sessions for this coming year. If you are unable to chaperone on the date you have selected, please find someone to switch with you, or call another BRC parent to substitute for you.

LOCATION: Renaissance Hotel - 7000 Bluebonnet Blvd. 70810

TIME: Chaperones must be present at least 15 minutes before the Dance/Etiquette Session begins, as some members do arrive early. The dance sessions for 7th grade members are from 1pm-2pm. The dance sessions for the 8th grade members are from 2:30pm-3:30pm.

At each Dance/Etiquette Session, there will be two members of the Board of Directors who will assign you one or more responsibilities.

CHAPERONE RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. TO ENFORCE COTILLION RULES AND POLICIES

- Members may not attend the Dance/Etiquette Session if inappropriately dressed. No shorts, capris, leggings, jeans of any style or color (including a skirt), t-shirts, tank tops, halters, racer backs, spaghetti straps, strapless tops, bare midriffs, or rompers, as well as tennis shoes and flip-flops. Boys must wear a belt. Shoes must be closed toe and closed heel. Gum chewing is not allowed.
- If a member is inappropriately dressed at a Dance/Etiquette Session that Session will not count toward their attendance requirements.
- Non-members may not attend Dance/Etiquette Sessions. No guests are allowed.
- Anyone arriving fifteen minutes after the start of the Dance/Etiquette Session will not be counted present. They may attend the Dance/Etiquette Session, but it will not count toward their attendance requirements.
- **All members must sign the roll to document attendance.**

2. TO BE SURE ALL MEMBERS ATTENDING COTILLION DANCE AND ETIQUETTE SESSIONS ATTEND THAT SESSION AND ARE PICKED UP WHEN IT IS OVER.

- Two chaperones need to be stationed outside of the entrance drop off/pick up area as Junior members arrive and leave. Greet members as they arrive and direct them inside. As members leave, keep all members in the drop off/pick up area until picked up by a parent or adult driving a carpool. At least one chaperone must stay until every member has been picked up.
- Two or more chaperones will be stationed in the check-in area to welcome members and ask them to sign in/get their name tag. They are considered tardy when 15 minutes late. The Dance/Etiquette Session does not count if tardy.

3. TO ASSIST THE DANCE/ETIQUETTE INSTRUCTORS AND MEMBERS DURING THE SESSION AND TO DISCIPLINE MEMBERS AS NEEDED.

- Chaperones are expected to take an active role in maintaining discipline during the Dance/Etiquette Session. Students are expected to be attentive, cooperative, and courteous to others at all times. Strict attention is to be given to the Dance/Etiquette Instructors and his/her requests followed without incident.
- Parents are to assist the Dance/Etiquette Instructors in any way that will help facilitate the Session.



Chaperone Guide for Dances

Carpool/Check-in

- Do not let parents drive off until reminded of the following:
 - One guest per member
 - Pick up time is stated on the invitations based on Junior Cotillion and Senior Cotillion.
- Each guest must check in with the sponsoring member.
- If someone is trying to come in who is not a member or is a guest without a sponsoring member, consult an advisor or other Board member and do not admit him/her into the party.
- This is also the time to check for appropriate attire.

Check-in Tables

- Chaperones will work each sign in table.
- Members and their guests sign in together at any one of the check-in "spots".
- Junior Cotillion – If the students have a phone to check, have a Chaperone place the phone on the designated "phone table".
- Report any problems to an advisor or other Board member.

Phone Check/Retrieval

- Two chaperones will work to check phones, one at the end of each sign in table.
- Once check in has ended, phones should be arranged on the phone retrieval table for easier distribution at dismissal.

Coat/Purse/Bag Check

- All coats/purses, bags will be left in a designated area.
- You have the right to check any suspicious bag.
- Please accompany any member/guest to take any item from this area.

Dance Floor and Photo Booth

- Once a member and his/her guest have entered the party, they may not leave until a parent or adult comes to pick them up at the end of the party.
- Carefully monitor each exit.
- Carefully monitor the activities on the dance floor and the photo booth.
- Be visible and alert for anything suspicious. Feel free to correct any inappropriate dancing or behavior, or refer to a Cotillion Board member.

Bathroom

- Chaperones need to monitor bathroom areas at all times.
- Be visible and alert for anything suspicious. Feel free to correct any inappropriate dancing or behavior, or refer to a Cotillion Board member.

Refreshments

- Monitor the food/drinks as needed and do not allow misbehavior at the refreshment area.

T-Shirts

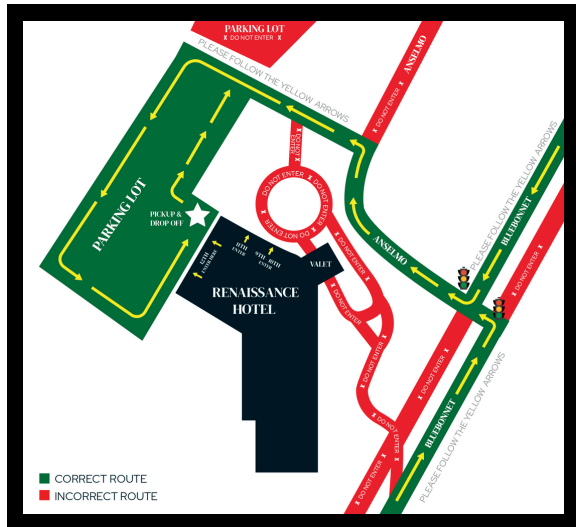
- After sign-in area has been cleaned up, set out t-shirts by size in stacks.
- Attendee must show a wristband to receive a t-shirt.
- Cut off wristband, then hand t-shirt.

Carpool/Dismissal

- Member and guest must leave with a parent or older sibling
- The rest of the chaperones will keep the students relatively quiet so they can hear their name called.
- Chaperones are to remain until every member/guest has left.



Carpool Guidelines Based on Location



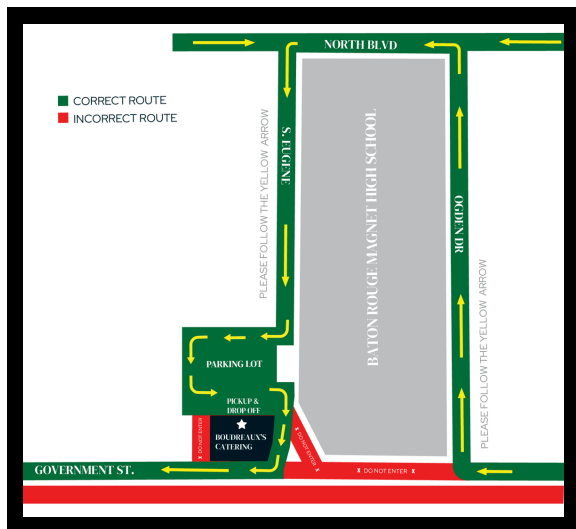
The Renaissance Hotel

7000 Bluebonnet Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70810

From Bluebonnet, take Anselmo to the parking lot behind the hotel. Your teen should get out and be picked up by the side doors, not the front doors. We do not want to disrupt hotel guests and valet services.

For pick-up, we want you to text your child and let them know to look for your car once you are close to the front of the line.

Do NOT tell your teen and their friends to walk down the line and look for your vehicle, this is dangerous, disrupts our process, and more than anything, is a safety issue for everyone involved.



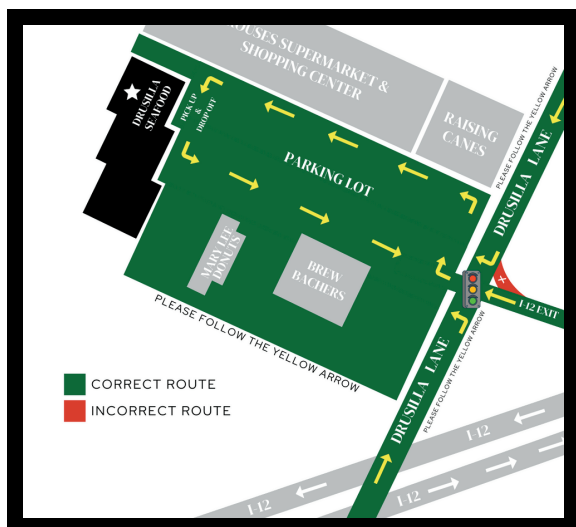
Boudreaux's Catering

2647 Government St, Baton Rouge, LA 70806

To get in our carpool line, you should take North Blvd. to South Eugene into the Boudreaux's parking lot. Do NOT take Government Street to get to Boudreaux's because it will make traffic even worse. You will be redirected to the correct course.

Once you are in line, text your child to let them know to look for you and where you are in the carpool line. Do NOT tell your child and their friends to walk down the line and look for your vehicle or come to meet you, this is dangerous, disrupts our process, and more than anything, is a safety issue for everyone.

Parents are NOT allowed to tell their children to cross Government Street for pickup. They need to stay in the Boudreaux's parking lot and wait for you to arrive at the entrance of Boudreaux's. We are trying to ensure safety in that area of town for everyone involved: children, parents, chaperones, and volunteers



Drusilla Seafood

3482 Drusilla Ln D, Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Whether you're exiting from the interstate or entering the parking lot from Drusilla Lane, when you pull into the parking lot, take a right turn and line up on the perimeter of the parking lot. This will allow for non-cotillion drivers to move freely though the parking lot.

For pick-up, we want you to text your child and let them know to look for your car once you are close to the front of the line.

Do NOT tell your teen and their friends to walk down the line and look for your vehicle, this is dangerous, disrupts our process, and more than anything, is a safety issue for everyone involved.