

**WELCOME**  
**2022-2023**  
**MEMBERS!**



**More information is  
available on our website  
[thebatonrougecotillion.org](http://thebatonrougecotillion.org)**



June 10, 2022

Dear Parents,

Happy Summer! As you 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. In addition to the dance parties, supervised dance/etiquette sessions are held which 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, and that good manners are based on the consideration of others. Polite and 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.

I hope you are excited about all of the changes I have made this year improving The Baton Rouge Cotillion experience some 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 downtown and into The Renaissance Hotel to improve the carpool process and to increase the safety of our members. We have also decreased the amount of dance requirements and started them after school begins in the Fall for a better chance of attendance. We have also reformatted the Sunday dance sessions to include 7th and 8th grade members allowing for a better opportunity to meet more friends. 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 [president@thebatonrougecotillion.org](mailto:president@thebatonrougecotillion.org).

- ALL OF OUR DANCE AND ETIQUETTE SESSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FALL. There are no sessions scheduled after October 16, 2022. 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. There are no bonus sessions this year so be mindful when choosing which sessions to attend. [Remember that the April 3rd western round up counted towards your dance session requirement.](#)
- [www.thebatonrougecotillion.org](http://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. A list of all current 7th & 8th grade members and their schools can be found on the website as well.
- 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](https://www.facebook.com/BRCotillion) and Instagram at [www.instagram.com/brcotillion/](https://www.instagram.com/brcotillion/) for updates. We also have a LinkedIn page at [www.linkedin.com/company/the-baton-rouge-cotillion/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-baton-rouge-cotillion/)
- Junior members (7th/8th graders) of the BRC are required to attend 6 (total) dance/etiquette sessions. 7th and 8th graders are required to attend on at least one of the dates that includes etiquette instruction. Members must stay for the entire two hour session to get credit. See the enclosed brochure for more information. 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 parents must chaperone at least one dance session OR a dance party. Enclosed you will find a copy of the chaperone responsibilities for the dance sessions. If you choose to chaperone a dance party, instructions will be given to you upon your arrival at the venue.
- You will receive a sign-up genius email in a few weeks to schedule your chosen chaperone time. We count on you to show up for your scheduled time, so please ask someone to switch with you 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 Amy DeJean at [president@thebatonrougecotillion.org](mailto:president@thebatonrougecotillion.org). Have a great summer, and we're looking forward to seeing all of you in August!

Amy DeJean

President  
The Baton Rouge Cotillion



# 2022-2023 Contact Information

## **Who to Contact:**

### **General Information about Cotillion and Membership:**

Amy DeJean, President  
president@thebatonrougecotillion.org

### **Webmaster / Database:**

Catharine McKay  
webmaster@thebatonrougecotillion.org

### **General Information about 7th Grade Cotillion:**

Betsy Bernhard  
225-485-7905

Holly Edmonds  
225-445-5689

Kelly Wilson  
225-772-5475

### **General Information about 8th Grade Cotillion:**

Linzay Lawrence  
225-803-3213

Elizabeth Badeaux  
504-430-5384

Laurie Marien  
225-252-3265

### **General Information about Senior Cotillion:**

Corrie Hester  
225-954-6559

Jennifer Jarreau  
225-235-6453

Andre Rodrigue  
225-978-9590

Julie Cooper  
225-317-0596



# 2022-2023 Calendar

## Dance / Etiquette Sessions

August 14	Dance Session	3:00 - 5:00 pm 7 + 8 Grade
August 21	Dance + Etiquette Session	3:00 - 5:00 pm 7 + 8 Grade
August 28	Dance Session	3:00 - 5:00 pm 7 + 8 Grade
September 11	Dance + Etiquette Session	3:00 - 5:00 pm 7 + 8 Grade
September 18	Dance Session	3:00 - 5:00 pm 7 + 8 Grade
September 25	Dance Session	3:00 - 5:00 pm 7 + 8 Grade
October 9	Dance Session	3:00 - 5:00 pm 7 + 8 Grade
October 16	Dance Session	3:00 - 5:00 pm 7 + 8 Grade

## Dances

### **Back to School Dance** *Country vs. Country Club Attire*

Jr. Cotillion - August 12<sup>th</sup>  
Drusilla Seafood Banquet Room  
Sr. Cotillion - August 13<sup>th</sup>  
Renaissance Hotel

### **Winter Wonderland Dance** *Semi-Formal Attire*

Jr. Cotillion - January 6<sup>th</sup>  
Boudreaux's Catering  
Sr. Cotillion - January 13<sup>th</sup>  
Renaissance Hotel

### **Spring Dance** *Cotillion-Fest Festival Attire*

Sr. Cotillion - March 24<sup>th</sup>  
Renaissance Hotel  
Jr. Cotillion - March 25<sup>th</sup>  
Boudreaux's Catering

## What is Cotillion?

The Baton Rouge Cotillion, Inc. is a private non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide opportunities for students in grades 7 - 12 to learn dancing and social etiquette while at the same time, cultivating greater self confidence in handling social situations.

Members may participate in the organization-sponsored activities by following the guidelines established by the Board of Directors. In order to participate in these activities, it is imperative that Cotillion members and their guests abide by all the policies of the organization.

## Dance Instructor

Tranane Lissard returns for her 26th 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

April Setliff joins The Baton Rouge Cotillion for her 4th year as the Etiquette Instructor. Mrs. Setliff was trained and certified in New York City by the American Academy of Etiquette. She is a graduate of LSU College of business and is the founder of Red Stick Refinement.

## **MAKEUP SESSIONS**

**are tentative on natural disasters and unforeseen events.**

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

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**Attendance will be posted on our website**  
**[thebatonrougecotillion.org](http://thebatonrougecotillion.org)**  
**the following week.**



# 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: 3pm-5pm
- (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
    - (c) **PLEASE NOTE:**
      - i. **NO tennis shoes or flip-flops**
      - ii. **NO t-shirts, tanks, halters, racer backs, spaghetti straps, strapless tops, bare midriiffs 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 six (6) sessions to retain their membership. One of the six must include 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.
  - i. Country vs. Country Club - western wear or country club attire
  - ii. Winter Wonderland - semi-formal attire
  - iii. Cotillion-Fest - festival attire, basketball jerseys, neon colors, boas, etc.
- (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.
  - i. Country vs. Country Club - western wear or country club attire
  - ii. Winter Wonderland - semi-formal attire
  - iii. Cotillion-Fest - festival attire, basketball jerseys, neon colors, boas, etc.
- (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.



# 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 the first week of January, you should call the membership chairman.

## **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 176 available spots. All other proposals are put in the draw until the 175 openings are filled. Every child has an equal chance. We do not separate by schools; however, each individual school is limited to no more than 25 members per grade. We will have 88 boys and 88 girls in the 7th grade.

## **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 CALL 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 2022-2023

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 are from 3pm-5pm.

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 Jr. Dances

## **Carpool/Check-in**

- Do not let parents drive off until reminded of the following:
  - One guest per member
  - Pick up time 9:30 pm.
- 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**

- Six (total) chaperones will work each sign in table for a total of six check-in "spots".
- Members and their guests sign in together at any one of the check-in "spots".
- 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
- Have chaperones outside in the carpool line texting names to another chaperone who has the megaphone.
- 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.