



Once Upon a Cotillion

Tradition. Elegance. Legacy. Excellence.

For more than six decades, the Chicago (IL) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated's Debutante

Cotillion has proudly upheld a distinguished tradition of celebrating the academic, leadership, and extracurricular achievements of exceptional young African American women throughout the Chicagoland area.



Our Cotillion Experience

Being a Debutante mom was an experience I will always treasure. Watching her embrace the journey, grow in confidence and poise, build lasting friendships, and personally engage family and friends in support of her fundraising was incredibly rewarding. The final evening --- seeing each beautiful young woman presented with such grace and promise --- took my breath away. What a beautiful night, and what an incredibly special journey to share with my daughter.

A.R., Debutante Mother

My daughter's Debutante experience was truly enriching and unforgettable. The weekly practices, cultural experiences, service projects, traditions, and special moments shared all propelled her to grow in confidence, grace, and sisterhood. My daughter created meaningful friendships I believe will last a lifetime. As her mother, it was a joy to witness her growth and share this beautiful journey with her. We will cherish the memories and relationships for many years to come.

W.T., Debutante Mother

Year after year, the Debutante Cotillion offers a meaningful experience of personal, social, and professional development, creating lasting connections and cherished memories for participants and their families.



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service
Chicago (IL) Chapter

Kimbra Bell Balark, Chapter President
Joy West, Chapter Vice President

Marcletta Rice, 64th Cotillion Chairman
Cheryl Hamilton- Hill, Vice-Chairman

The Chicago (IL) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated

BECOMING Black Pearls

The Debut Of Rare Excellence



Debutantes

The 2027 Debutante Participation fee is one thousand nine hundred dollars **(\$1900)**. The Debutante Application will open on **Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 6:00 pm** at chicagoillinks.org. Debutantes must be at least a Junior or Senior in high school. Upon notification of acceptance into the 2027 Cotillion Class, a **non-refundable deposit** of nine hundred and fifty dollars (\$950) must be submitted. **The remaining balance of the Debutante fee, nine hundred and fifty dollars (\$950), is due no later than October 31, 2026.**

Debutantes must raise a **minimum of \$3,500**, including Souvenir Journal pages and any other monetary donations. Debutante families must also purchase at least one dinner table of ten **(\$2000)** for the event. The cost of each dinner ticket is \$200.

The Debutante fee covers a portion of the cost of presenting the Cotillion, including:

- Souvenir Journal Portraits
- Debutante/Family Portrait Sitting
- Souvenir Journal
- Debutante Formal Gloves
- Flowers
- Choreographed Formal Dance Instruction
- Photographer and Videographer
- Community Service Activity and Workshops
- Rehearsal Refreshments
- Orientation
- Mother Daughter Tea
- Handbooks and Invitations
- Debutante & Escort Mixer

Escorts

The 2027 Escort Participation fee is five hundred dollars **(\$500)**. The Escort Application will open on **Sunday, October 11, 2026 at 6:00 pm** at chicagoillinks.org. Escorts should be a Junior or Senior in high school, but no older than a Freshman in college. Upon notification of acceptance into the 2027 Cotillion Class, **the non-refundable** escort fee of five hundred dollars **(\$500)** must be remitted. All Escort fees are due no later than **October 31, 2026**.

The Escort fee covers a portion of the cost of presenting the Cotillion, including:

- Souvenir Journal Portraits; Choreographer; Photographer; Community Service; Videographer; Workshops; Formal Dance Instruction; Invitations; and the Debutante & Escort Mixer

2027 Cotillion Dates and Activities

October 1, 2026

Debutante application opens at 6:00pm
[@chicagoillinks.org](http://chicagoillinks.org)

October 9, 2026

Debutante application closes at 6:00pm

October 11, 2026

Escort application opens at 6:00pm
[@chicagoillinks.org](http://chicagoillinks.org)

October 18, 2026

Escort application closes at 6:00pm

October 18, 2026

Debutante non-refundable
\$950 deposit is due

October 31, 2026

Balance of Debutante Fee of \$950 is due
Escort non-refundable Fee of \$500 is due

November 22, 2026

Cotillion Orientation Tea

December 13, 2026

Debutante & Escort Mixer
Get Acquainted Social Event

January 17, 2027

Cotillion Rehearsals are held each Sunday
except Easter Sunday and Mother's Day

May 14, 2027

Mandatory Dress Rehearsal at the
Marriott Magnificent Mile Hotel

May 15, 2027

64th Annual Cotillion of the
Chicago (IL) Chapter of The Links, Inc.

