



**ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.®**  
**GAMMA PHI OMEGA CHAPTER**  
**2023-2024**  
**DEBUTANTE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**



## **Dear Prospective Applicant:**

It is with great pleasure that the Gamma Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated announces its **2023-2024 “*Pearls, Poised for Perfection*” Debutante Leadership Program**. The program’s primary goal is to provide life skills training as well as postsecondary institution preparation for high school junior and senior young women. This will be accomplished via community service projects, cultural activities, educational workshops and monthly meetings focused on character development, social etiquette and college/career preparation. At the culmination of the program, Debutantes will be presented to the community during its formal Pageant and Ball.

The program application process has begun, and each applicant is asked to first ensure she meets the minimum requirements as noted below and if affirmative, proceed with the specific application process as outlined in this packet. All applicants are reminded to adhere to the stated deadlines and take heed of the additional requirements as outlined in this packet.

Thank you for your interest in this program and we are honored that you chose to apply to become a Debutante with the Gamma Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated!

We look forward to working with you and your prospective Debutante.

Yours in Service,  
The Debutante Committee



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## **Program Overview**

The Debutante Leadership Program of the Gamma Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated is an illustrious and exclusive program. Debutantes will participate in programs and activities focused on broadening their perspectives educationally, socially and culturally. The infusion of social activities will enable the participants to bond with their fellow Debutantes and sharpen social skills needed in their post graduation years. The formal Pageant and Ball provides the opportunity for the community to share in the culmination of the program. Perhaps the greatest reward of this program is that each participant has the opportunity to receive scholarship funds for her post-secondary education.

Following the application process and requirements, the accepted young ladies will receive correspondence detailing the date, time, and location of the orientation. This Parent Meeting/Program Orientation meeting should be attended by the Debutante and at least one parent or guardian, as a complete overview of the program, important dates and events will be disseminated. Debutantes should dress in professional casual attire for the orientation. If you have any questions or concerns prior to the official orientation, please email all inquiries to [gpodebutante@gmail.com](mailto:gpodebutante@gmail.com).

## **Program Eligibility Requirements ~ Debutante Qualifications -**

All applicants must meet the minimum eligibility requirements listed below in order to participate in Gamma Phi Omega Debutante Leadership Program.

- Must classify as a Freshman, Sophomore, or Junior in high school or home school as of August 2023.
- Must possess a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (C+) or better on a four-point scale as of August 2023.
- Must exhibit high moral and ethical standards.
- Must be unmarried, not expecting and have no children.
- Must be willing to fully commit to the debutante program activities, pageant and debutante ball preparation activities, and attire requirements of the Pageant committee.
- Complete Gamma Phi Omega Debutante Leadership Program Application.



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## **Process Once Minimum Requirements Are Met**

- Complete debutante leadership program application. Please answer every section as *incomplete application will not be accept*.
- Application ***DUE DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 2023 (MUST BE POSTMARKED)***.
- Letters of program acceptance will be emailed to the applicable applicants by December 8, 2023. Please note that a submitted application and/or interview does not guarantee acceptance into the program.
- Once accepted, a nonrefundable program fee of \$575 must be paid at the orientation in January 14, 2024.
- Debutantes, along with at least one parent or guardian should be prepared to attend our Parent Meeting/Program Orientation on Sunday, January 14, 2024.

## **Payment Options**

Option 1: Square Reader Payment—using your credit card or debit card to make payment. There is a 3% fee charge.

Option 2: Cash Payment.

Option 3: Mailed (and postmarked for receipt) no later than January 10, 2024. Make certified check or money order payable to **Gamma Phi Omega Chapter – Post Office Box 3231 – Buffalo New York 14240**

Receipts will be provided for all fees paid.



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## Participant's Expectations

Albeit dedication and commitment, Debutantes participating in 2023-2024 Debutante Leadership Program will reap great rewards. Therefore, there are some significant expectations for each young lady to successfully complete the program. Debutantes choosing to participate will be **required to**:

- Remit a \$575 Program fee postmarked or received by January 14, 2024. **NOTE:** Payments postmarked after January 14, 2024 may not be considered for the program. This fee will cover months of cultural activities, educational workshops and community service projects as well as Pageant branded attire/accessories.
- Raise a minimum \$1,200 Journal Ads. The scholarships awarded are directly tied to the Debutantes' fundraising efforts throughout the course of the program. The Journal Ads can be raised through various fundraising efforts including, but not limited to, the recruitment of sponsors, patrons and selling advertisements in the Souvenir Ad booklet.
- Purchase a minimum of 10 tickets (one table) for friends, family and other supporters for the 2024 Debutante Pageant and Ball.
- Attend all scheduled program events. The chapter is aware that scheduling conflicts beyond the Debutante's control may occur and, provided that an one time acceptable "proof of absence" is presented, the absence will not count against her. However, each Debutante is expected to attend 100% of the scheduled events and activities.
- Purchase an approved Pageant gown and applicable accessories to wear during the ball and adhere to the overall appearance in terms of hair, nails, etc. The Pageant Formalwear Committee will provide specifics on gown selection, shoes, etc.
- Select a male Escort (peer) for the Debutante Pageant and Ball to participate in a choreographed dance with the Debutante. The chapter recommends a close friend or family member who is dependable. The Escorts will be asked to rent his formalwear from the designated Pageant vendor. Escorts should be chosen by June 1, 2024. The Escort Committee will be available to assist any Debutante who does not have a Escort for the Pageant Ball.
- In addition, a male Sr. Escort (adult) for the presentation (typically a father or father figure) should be selected.
- Attend all dance/ball rehearsals.



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## Application Checklist

All applications must be completed in their entirety to be reviewed and considered. Before submitting your application, please be sure that the following items in the checklist below are uploaded. We highly suggest applicants have their letter of recommendation completed as soon as possible.

COMPLETED application package, which includes the following:

- Unofficial Transcript -this document must be uploaded with application submission.
- Three Recommendation Forms - located on our website.
- Two (2) from a "School representative ,Clergy, employment, community member etc.).
- One (1) from a Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority member. ( all non-family members)
- Answer Essay Prompt- (section 11 of application)
- \$25 Application Fee -must be paid with submission. (non-refundable).

Please send application payment to:

**Gamma Phi Omega Chapter – Post Office Box 3231 – Buffalo New York 14240**

**DUE DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 2023 (MUST BE POSTMARKED).**



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## Debutante Application

Applicant's Name:

Mailing Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Student Email:

DOB:

Student Home Phone:

Student Cell Phone:

Favorite Quote:

Social Media Address:

### PARENT/GUARDING INFORMATION:

Parent/Guardian #1 (Mother/Father/Other):

Full Name:

Parent Guardian Address:

Guardian Email address:

Parent/Guardian #2 (Mother/Father/Other):

Full Name:

Parent Guardian Address:

Guardian Email Address:



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**EDUCATION INFORMATION:**

Grade: 9th    10th    11th

School Name:

School District:

Current GPA (Chapter Use Only):

Future College/University:

College/University City:

College/University Anticipated Major:

Please list your current (2021 to present) extracurricular, volunteer & work activities in there order of importance to you. Use only the space available to provide details of your activities and accomplishments. All school and program acronyms and abbreviations should be spelled out completely to ensure information is transferred accurately.

Start to End Date (mm/yy to mm/yy)	

Start to End Date (mm/yy to mm/yy)	

**CHURCH CIVIC INVOLVEMENT**

List any volunteer work you've performed intended to help people in a particular area:

Community Service Project(s) and Hours Served:

Your Answer

Talents, Hobbies, and Special Interests:

Your Answer

List any allergies (food or other):

Your answer



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How did you hear about the Debutante Leadership Program?

Your Answer

The following section is for informational and planning purposes and has no impact whatsoever on the Debutante selection process.

T-Shirt Size

Adult women sizes

- XS
- S
- M
- L
- XL
- XXL

Are your ears pierced?

Are you allergic to nickel?

- 1st question-YES
- 1st question-NO
- 2nd question-YES
- 2nd question-NO

## REQUIRED ESSAY

Write a 400-600 word (MUST remain in that word-count range), typewritten, single spaced, Times Roman 12-font ESSAY. Upload your essay to this application (include your first and last name) to respond to the following question: Social media can be a powerful force in the lives of young people and at times, can promote unrealistic body types and lifestyles which can lead to negative consequences. In you essay please explore the negative consequences of social media for black teenagers and what can black teenagers do to combat these negative effects?





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## DEBUTANTE PARTICIPANT CONTRACT

By signing this form below, I affirm that all contents submitted in this 2023-2024 Debutante Leadership Program application are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that falsified statements and misrepresentations will result in immediate dismissal from the program and that all fees paid up to that point, as well as balances owed, are non-refundable. I authorize representatives of the 2023-2024 Debutante Leadership Program committee to verify statements made in the attached application packet.

- I agree that, as a debutante, I will adhere to program policies and regulations as communicated; pay a \$575 Program Fee; agree to raise and/or otherwise remit a minimum \$1,200 Presentation Fee, commit to the sale of a minimum of 10 ball tickets and other expenses not contained in this document by the date specified contained herein the packet.
- I agree to wholeheartedly and positively participate to my fullest in all events and programs relating to the Debutante Leadership Program.

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

## PARENT/GUARDIAN PARTICIPANT CONTRACT

By signing this form below, I affirm that all contents submitted in this 2023-2024 Debutante Leadership Program application are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that falsified statements and misrepresentations will result in my daughter's immediate dismissal from the program and that all fees paid up to that point, as well as balances owed, are non-refundable. I authorize representatives of the 2023-2024 Debutante Leadership Program committee to verify statements made in the attached application packet.

- I agree that, as a parent of a debutante, I will ensure my daughter adheres to program policies and regulations as communicated; pay a \$575 Program Fee; help my daughter to raise and/or otherwise remit a minimum \$1,200 Journal Ads, commit to the sale of a minimum of 10 ball tickets and other expenses not contained in this document by the date specified contained herein the packet.
- I agree to participate to my fullest in all events and programs relating to the 2023-2024 Debutante Leadership Program and represent my daughter and the Gamma Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated with the utmost of courtesy, respect and dignity.
- I further authorize the 2023-2024 Debutante Leadership Program committee and its representatives to use my daughter's name and likeness in relative media and in marketing the 2023-2024 Debutante Leadership Program.
- I give my permission for my daughter to participate in all events within the Pageant program including, but not limited to, sleepovers, community service projects, workshops and social events, with the understanding that the details of said events will be provided to me in advance and that all events will be staffed and chaperoned by numerous members of the Gamma Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. I understand that Gamma Phi Omega nor the individual members of this organization are responsible for my child's transportation to and from events.



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- The Gamma Phi Omega Chapter reserves the right to use photographs of me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including for example such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web, or Social Media content.
- I hereby grant Gamma Phi Omega (GPO) and their respective affiliates, licensees, contractors, assignees, advertising agencies, and others directly or indirectly associated with the Debutante Leadership Program, in perpetuity, the right to use in GPO's sole discretion, all or any parts of my child's picture, image, likeness, voice, name and biographical information, for the promotion of, use in, and promotion of the Debutante Leadership Program, as solely determined by GPO, in any and all media, whether print, visual, audio, and/or all of a combination thereof, now known or hereafter at any time developed throughout the universe, including, without limitation, television, web casting, and Internet distribution.
- I agree to indemnify and hold harmless Gamma Phi Omega (GPO) and their respective agents, representatives, affiliated entities, successors, heirs and designees or legatees, harmless from and against any and all claims, damages, liabilities, cost and expenses, associated with my child's participation in the Debutante Leadership Program.
- The Gamma Phi Omega Chapter reserves the right to eliminate any incomplete, unsigned, late or illegible application from consideration.
- The Gamma Phi Omega Chapter retains the right to exercise exclusive control, regarding the participation of any applicant in the 2023-2024 Debutante Leadership Program by declining an applicant's participation, withdrawing the privilege of participation, or by further declining any participant's continued participation in the pageant Season, including the culminating event.
- THE UNDERSIGNED HAS CAREFULLY READ THIS AUTHORIZATION AND FULLY UNDERSTANDS ITS CONTENTS. UN-DERSIGNED/PARTICIPANT IS AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND WAIVER OF RIGHTS, AND THE PARTICIPANT AGREES TO VOLUNTARILY PARTICIPATE IN THE DEBUTANTE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM AND AGREES TO THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH HEREIN OF HIS/HER/THEIR OWN FREE WILL.

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

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO UPLOAD**

- ⇒ Unofficial Transcript
- ⇒ Official Transcript
- ⇒ Essay

Submit \$25.00 Application Fee (non-refundable)  
Square Card Payment—Using your credit or bank card payment. (3% fee charge).  
Be sure to add Debutante Leadership Application and the Potential Debutante Name