

Three strands of pearls are arranged in a decorative arc at the top left of the page. The pearls are light-colored and have a soft glow.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® Mu Omega Chapter
Metropolitan Leadership Institute, Inc.

72nd Annual Debutante Ball

Debutante Application



More than a Moment: A Legacy of Excellence



February 2025

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for showing interest in this year’s Debutante Ball. Over the past 72 years, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Mu Omega Chapter has helped debut some of Kansas City’s finest young ladies by presenting them to adult society through the Debutante Ball’s series of workshops, community service activities and memorable sisterly fellowship moments. Following its incorporation in 2011, Metropolitan Leadership Institute, Inc. joined Mu Omega Chapter to collaboratively present the Debutante Ball biennially. Each component of the Debutante Ball program is specifically designed to encourage and cultivate success-driven, community-minded, poised, and responsible young ladies. We are pleased that you are interested in becoming a 2025 Debutante.

Please read the attached materials and observe the rules and regulations outlined in this packet. The Screening and Awards Committee will look very closely at the grade point average, as well as other stated qualifications required for each applicant. An applicant must have at least a 2.75 (C+) based on a 4.0 grading system to be considered as a Debutante.

Make certain that **all** forms are complete and received or postmarked by the noted due dates. See page 5 for the list of required forms to be returned.

Form Delivery Options:

1. **2025 DEBUTANTE APPLICATION FORM** *(pages 6-11 of this packet)*
 - ◆ Email Option: Emailed to the Screening and Awards Chairman, Jauqua Preston Wilkins, no later than April 12, 2025. Email Subject Line: 2025 Debutante Ball-Application-ApplicantName.pdf
 - ◆ Postal Mail Option: postal service **postmarked** by April 12, 2025.
2. **COUNSELOR REPORT FORM** *(must provide Transcript with this form) (page 12 of this packet)*
 - ◆ Postal Mail Only: postal service **postmarked** by April 12, 2025.
 - Transcript must bear original official seal or stamp of attended/attending educational institution.
3. **COMMUNITY LEADER REPORT FORM** *(page 13 of this packet)*
 - ◆ Email Option: Emailed to the Screening & Awards Chairman, Jauqua Preston Wilkins, no later than April 12, 2025. Email Subject Line: 2025 Debutante Ball-Community Leader Report Form-ApplicantName.pdf

Email Phone	Postal Mail
To: Jauqua Preston Wilkins jauqua@gmail.com Phone: 816-588-3386	Jauqua Preston Wilkins c/o Debutante Ball 3912 NE Clearbrook Drive Lee’s Summit, MO 64064
cc: Audrey Gardner allgardner@yahoo.com Phone: 913-230-5710	

All completed applications, forms, and transcripts must be received or postmarked no later than Saturday, April 12, 2025.



As a Prospective Debutante, it is your responsibility to:

1. Ensure that all completed forms are submitted on or before the **April 12, 2025**, deadline.
2. Ensure that the Authorization of Release of Records Form is signed by your parent or guardian and returned with your application.
3. Provide a stamped addressed envelope to your counselor and confirm that the Counselor Report Form *and* your official transcript are submitted. The envelope should be addressed to Jauqua Preston Wilkins at the noted address.
4. Provide a stamped addressed envelope to the individual you ask to complete the Community Leader Report Form and confirm it is submitted. The envelope should be addressed to Jauqua Preston Wilkins at the noted address. Note that the Community Leader has an option to upload this form, but as a courtesy, provide the stamped envelope as well.
5. Provide a Recent Passport Eligible Photo with your application. This photo may be obtained from any location that provides photos for passports (*i.e.*, drug store, post office, etc.)

We look forward to an expeditious return of all forms. If there are any questions, please contact Jauqua Preston Wilkins at (816) 588-3386 or Audrey Gardner at (913) 230-5710.

Sincerely,

Meredyth A. Vick
General Chairman, Debutante Ball

Lani Stigler
President, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® Mu Omega Chapter

Joycelyn Strickland-Egans
General Co-Chairman, Debutante Ball

Norma Lyons McKelvy
Board Chairman, Metropolitan Leadership Institute, Inc.

Important E-File Structure Procedures:

For Debutantes/Parents/Guardians/Sponsors emailing forms: **Upload completely filled out documents, named as such:**

ApplicantName-FileName-COMplete.pdf

Example: *KaylaHarris-CommunityLeaderForm-COMplete.pdf*

All email subject lines shall begin with

2025 Debutante Ball-Subject Description-ApplicantName

Example: *2025 Debutante Ball-Application-KaylaHarris.pdf*

Following these easy formatting rules will allow the committee to stay organized and maintain accurate consistent records.



GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEBUTANTES AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS

INTRODUCTION

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® is an international organization of over 360,000 college-educated women in more than 55 nations and all 50 of the United States with a common goal to improve human life through service to others. Founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1908, it is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American college-educated women.

The Sorority's purpose is:

- ◆ to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards,
- ◆ to promote unity and friendship among college women,
- ◆ to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social stature,
- ◆ to maintain a progressive interest in college life,
- ◆ and to be of "Service to All Mankind."

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Mu Omega Chapter in collaboration with Metropolitan Leadership Institute, Incorporated present the Debutante Ball biennially as a means to present highly motivated, talented young women with records of high scholastic achievement and committed community service to the cultural and social community of the Kansas City metropolitan area.

About Mu Omega Chapter

Since its chartering on May 10, 1924, Mu Omega Chapter has held true to its duty to be of service to all mankind by implementing programs of service impacting countless lives in the Kansas City community. The Sorority's 2022-2026 International Program Initiative's theme is "Soaring to Greater Heights of Service and Sisterhood" where Mu Omega Chapter hopes to incorporate a few program initiatives like "Empower Our Families" and "Uplift Our Local Community" through activities fostered through this Debutante Ball Season. We are eager to get started. For more information, visit www.akamuomega.com

About Metropolitan Leadership Institute, Inc.

The Metropolitan Leadership Institute, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization established to provide educational assistance and leadership training to residents in the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area by providing scholarships for youth, as well as facilitating community service programs designed to enhance the economic, health, and cultural well-being of families. For more information, visit www.mlikck.org



About Being a Debutante

A Debutante is a young lady who has been prepared in the social graces and who is community service oriented. The Debutante Ball is an avenue used to introduce and debut deserving and outstanding young ladies as Debutantes to Kansas City society in a formal setting. Being a debutante is a commitment not only to yourself, but to the many new friendships you will foster. Throughout the season, you will be committing your time to community service activities, waltz rehearsals, etiquette workshops, career seminars and much more but your ultimate commitment is the one you make on November 28, 2025, in front of family and friends during the Debutante Ball Final Presentation. Take advantage of all the Debutante Ball program has to offer. Meet new people. Learn and participate in workshops, training and seminars. Have fun dancing with your father or guardian. Earn scholarships. But most importantly, prepare to be amazing and Soar Gracefully in Excellence in all you do.

QUALIFICATIONS

To be considered for presentation, a young lady must:

- ◆ be a high school senior or a college freshman during the **2025-2026** school year.
- ◆ have a cumulative grade point average of at least **2.75 GPA (C+)** based on a 4.0 grading scale.
- ◆ have and exhibit high ethical and moral standards.
- ◆ not be pregnant (*before or during the Debutante Ball season*), never have had a child, and never have been married or engaged.
- ◆ not have been introduced to society in a formal presentation. (*Activities sponsored by a church, secondary school and Little Miss AKA Pageant are acceptable.*)

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

- ◆ **The Presentation Fee is \$750.00** which must be paid in full on or before July 23, 2025. The fee can be paid in two installments:
 - Saturday, June 21, 2025 - The First installment, or at least half of the Fee, is due.
 - Wednesday, July 23, 2025 - The Final installment of the Fee is due.
 - The Presentation Fee includes two (2) invitations to the Debutante Ball Dinner and Presentation.
 - The Presentation Fee does not include the cost of the formal dress.
- ◆ **Scholarships Eligibility-** To be eligible for scholarships, each Debutante will be responsible for securing a minimum of **\$1,250.00** in advertisements and/or patrons listing for the souvenir brochure and for securing a minimum of eight (8) invitations to the Debutante Ball. The souvenir brochure will be available the night of the Debutante Ball.

FORMAL DRESS

The dresses for the Debutante will be purchased from an establishment selected by the Debutante Ball Committee. A dress showing and payment schedule for the purchase of the dresses will be made at a later date. (*The cost of the formal dress is in addition to the Presentation Fee.*)



GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEBUTANTES AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS

ESCORTS

The Debutante should choose her own escort and *should do so very carefully*. The young man should:

- ◆ have a reputation of good character and conduct.
- ◆ never have been married or have children.
- ◆ be under 21 years of age, but not younger than 14 years of age.
- ◆ have good personal grooming habits.
- ◆ be willing to pay the tuxedo rental fee.
- ◆ be willing to attend all waltz rehearsals and other events as scheduled.
- ◆ be enrolled in an educational institution.

Parents/Guardians of the Debutante should make an effort to know the escort and his parents/guardians.

Attachments Checklist:

- Debutante Application Introductory Letter (pages 1-5).
- Debutante Application (pages 6-11): RETURN no later than Saturday, April 12, 2025.
- Counselor Report Form (page 12): Confirm delivery. RETURN no later than Saturday, April 12, 2025.
- Community Leader Report Form (page 13): Confirm delivery. RETURN no later than Saturday, April 12, 2025.
- Sponsor Expectations & Sponsor Report form (Supplemental Application attachments): Confirm delivery. RETURN no later than Saturday, April 12, 2025.

2025 DEBUTANTE APPLICATION FORM

Directions:

- ◆ The applicant must answer **all** questions on this application. All information **must be TYPED**.
- ◆ If mailed, the completed application must be printed on **white 8 ½" x 11"** paper.
- ◆ Prior to uploading or emailing, save this file name as: **YourName-DebutanteApplication-COMplete.pdf**. Example: *KaylaHarris-DebutanteApplication-COMplete.pdf*

1. **Applicant's Name:** _____
Last First Middle

2. **Applicant's Address:** _____

3. **City, State & Zip:** _____

4. **Home Phone Number:** _____ **Cell Phone Number:** _____
(Include Area Code) (Include Area Code)

5. **Birth Date:** _____
(MM/DD/YYYY)

6. **Home/Personal Email Address:** _____

7. **Social Media Accounts:** _____
(List all – e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, Tik Tok, etc.)

a. **Name the individual who is sponsoring you:** _____

8. **School:** _____

9. **School Address:** _____

10. **School City, State & Zip:** _____

11. **School Phone Number:** _____

12. **Are you working?** Yes No 13b. **Are you planning to work in the fall?** Yes No

13. **There will be a Talent Presentation for individuals and/or groups. Check your talent(s); if your talent is not listed, check the 'Others' box and list your talent(s).**

Public Speaking Writing Visual Arts Performing Arts Music-vocal or instrumental

Photography Athletics Storytelling Dance Video Creation

Others (List) _____

2025 DEBUTANTE APPLICATION FORM

ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

14. Please list all school, church, work, and community activities and organizations in which you have participated, including any positions held and the years involved, throughout high school. Please include current or anticipated activities.

Activity/Organization	Position Held (i.e., officer, member, etc.)	Year(s) involved

2025 DEBUTANTE APPLICATION FORM

15. Recognitions and/or Community Awards received in past three years:

Award	Received From	Date Received

2025 DEBUTANTE APPLICATION FORM

16. In 100 words or less, please describe your career plans or aspirations.

17. The purpose of the Debutante Ball is to present highly motivated, talented young women with records of high scholastic achievement and committed community service to the cultural and social community of the Kansas City metropolitan area. In 100 words or less, explain how your participation in the Debutante Ball will contribute to and enhance this effort.

2025 DEBUTANTE APPLICATION FORM
PARENT/GUARDIAN SECTION – CONTACT INFORMATION

Directions:

- ◆ This section is to be completed, signed by parent/guardian, and returned with your application.

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s)

Mother's/Guardian's Full Name:	_____	Father's/Guardian's Full Name:	_____
Email Address:	_____	Email Address:	_____
Mother's/Guardian's Address:	_____	Father's/Guardian's Address:	_____
City/State/Zip:	_____	City/State/Zip:	_____
Work Phone:	_____	Work Phone:	_____
Home Phone:	_____	Home Phone:	_____
Cell Phone:	_____	Cell Phone:	_____

My parent(s) or guardian(s) and I will attend all required meetings, required rehearsals, and scheduled activities, as well as assist in every way possible to make this activity a meaningful experience.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mother's/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Father's/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have reviewed this application.

Sponsor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Jauqua Preston Wilkins
c/o Debutante Ball
3912 NE Clearbrook Drive
Lee's Summit, MO 64064

2025 DEBUTANTE APPLICATION FORM

PARENT/GUARDIAN SECTION - AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF RECORDS

Directions:

- ◆ The Applicant's parent or guardian must complete and sign the *Authorization for Release of Records* (page 11) and return with your application (pages 6-10) in order for the school to release the student's official transcript to the Screening and Awards Committee later during the Debutante season.
- ◆ If sending via Postal Mail, all information **must be TYPED** and printed on **white 8 ½" x 11"** paper.

_____ Date

Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's Birth Date: _____

Home Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Work Phone Number: _____

Student ID Number: _____ Cell Phone Number: _____

Current School Name: _____

School Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

High School Previously Attended: _____

I, _____, the parent or guardian of the above-named student, authorize the release of records of the official transcript to the following individual:

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian: _____

Address of Parent or Guardian: _____

Phone Number of Parent or Guardian: Daytime: _____ Evening: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____

Jauqua Preston Wilkins
c/o Debutante Ball
3912 NE Clearbrook Drive
Lee's Summit, MO 64064

COUNSELOR REPORT FORM

Directions:

- ◆ Please complete this form and return a **printed hard copy** in the stamped, addressed envelope that has been provided to you by the applicant for your convenience.
- ◆ Please attach the applicant's **Official Transcript** which should include five (5) semesters of completed work. If necessary, attach the last grade card report.

1. Applicant's Name: _____
Last First Middle

2. School Name: _____ Current Grade Level: _____

3. Length of time you have known the applicant: _____ Years _____ Months

4. Optional: Does the applicant have exceptional ability or talent in any particular field? Yes No

a. If yes, please provide information: _____

5. Please explain your grading system if it is different from the usual high grade of 1 or A = 4.0 to 5 or F = 0.0 points or failing.

6. What is your overall evaluation of the applicant? Highly Recommend Strongly Recommend Satisfactory
 Not Recommend Insufficient Evidence to Evaluate

Counselor's Name: _____ Daytime Phone Number: _____
(Please Print) (Include Area Code)

Counselor's Signature: _____

Please mail this form **along with Official Transcript** to:

Jauqua Preston Wilkins
c/o Debutante Ball
3912 NE Clearbrook Drive
Lee's Summit, MO 64064

COMMUNITY LEADER REPORT FORM

Directions:

- ◆ Please complete this form and return a **printed hard copy** in the stamped, addressed envelope that has been provided to you by the Applicant for your convenience or...
- ◆ Prior to uploading or emailing, save this file name as: **ApplicantName-CommunityLeaderForm-COMplete.pdf**. Example: *KaylaHarris-CommunityLeaderForm-COMplete.pdf*

1. Applicant's Name: _____
Last First Middle

2. How long have you known the Applicant? _____

3. In what way have you been associated with the Applicant? _____

4. The purpose of the Debutante Ball is to further expose highly motivated, talented young women with records of high scholastic achievement to the cultural and social community of the Kansas City Metropolitan area. Please explain how the applicant's involvement could enhance this effort.

Community Leader's Name: _____

Community Leader's Title: _____

Community Leader's Address: _____
Number/Street City/State/Zip

Daytime Phone Number (Include Area Code): _____

Community Leader's Signature: _____

Email | Phone

To: Jauqua Preston Wilkins

jauqua@gmail.com

Phone: 816-588-3386

cc: Audrey Gardner

allgardner@yahoo.com

Phone: 913-230-5710

Postal Mail

Jauqua Preston Wilkins

c/o Debutante Ball
3912 NE Clearbrook Drive
Lees Summit, MO 64064