

# 2022 Precious Pearls Debutante Program & Cotillion

Virtual Informational Session

**Date: Saturday, September 25, 2021**





The Boston Pearl Foundation, Incorporated &  
The Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated

# *Precious Pearls Cotillion*

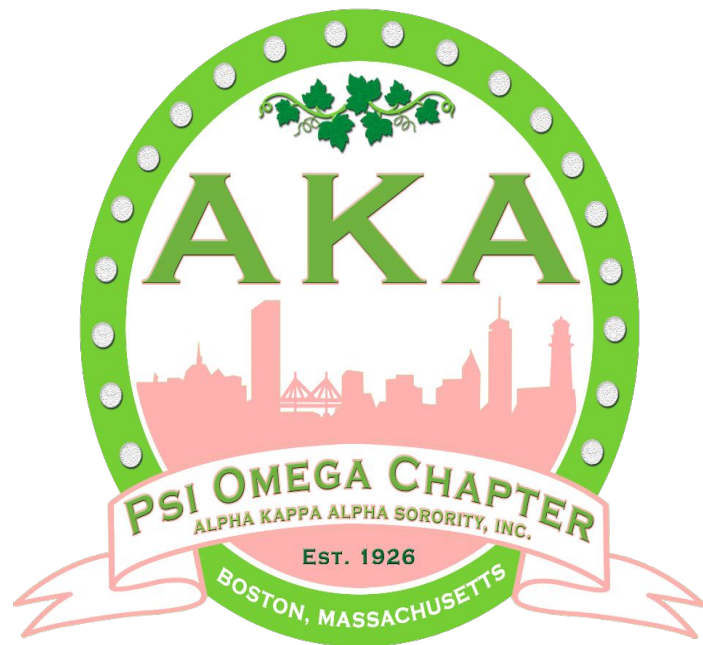


June 4, 2022

**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated** is the first Greek-letter organization established by Black college women. Founded in January 1908, the organization today thrives as a sisterhood of college educated women who have consciously chosen the affiliation as a means of self-fulfillment through volunteer service. Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Inc. provides “Service to All Mankind” growing the vine from Chicago, Illinois, the headquarters. For more information about Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., please visit [www.aka1908.com](http://www.aka1908.com).



**Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated** was established in 1926 and is the oldest graduate chapter of the sorority within the New England states. For 95 years, Psi Omega Chapter has maintained an ongoing commitment to promote leadership development among Black women, support scholarship awards to promising young women, and provide financial and in-kind assistance to initiatives important to the welfare of Black people. Through the Precious Pearls Debutante Program, Psi Omega Chapter and The Boston Pearl Foundation, Inc. foster the development of young women by providing mentoring, educational enrichment, and community service opportunities. For more information about Psi Omega Chapter, please visit [www.akaboston.org](http://www.akaboston.org).



**The Boston Pearl Foundation, Incorporated** was established in August 2005 by the members of the Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. as a vehicle to expand the scope of scholarly assistance and community enrichment available in the Boston area. One mission of the Foundation is to advance and support education by providing underserved students with the financial assistance needed to attend college. Specifically, the focus of the Foundation is to further the education of young Black women who enroll as freshmen in a four-year college or university. The second purpose of the Foundation is to support charitable community programming in the greater Boston area. For more information about The Boston Pearl Foundation, Inc., please visit

[www.bostonpearlfoundation.org](http://www.bostonpearlfoundation.org).







The debutante tradition, as we know it in the United States, has its roots in England. The idea that a girl should be presented to society stems from the time when a daughter of a marriageable age sought a husband of suitable and similar social standing.

After the Industrial Revolution, as the middle class began to make large sums of money, the aristocrats were anxious to make alliances with wealthy entrepreneurs. The middle-class daughters could be presented if they could find a sponsor from among the aristocracy.

The idea of the presentation of young women to society started in this country in 1748, when 59 colonial Philadelphia families held "Dancing Assemblies," the forerunner to the Debutante Ball.



The Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. has sponsored debutante programs in Boston for almost 40 years. The first program was offered in 1973. This Program is currently identified as the Precious Pearls Debutante Program.

Similar to its existing youth development programs, which provide education and positive growth and mentoring, the 2021-2022 Debutante Program, sponsored in collaboration with the Boston Pearl Foundation, Inc., targets young women of color enrolled in grades 10-12. In an era where images of women in various media and entertainment mediums are disturbingly negative, the Precious Pearls Debutante Program gives young women of color within the greater Boston area a positive self-image, role models and personal development activities that promote high moral and ethical standards.

The six-month program culminates with a formal Debutante Ball that allows the community to acknowledge and celebrate the efforts of the Debutantes who have continued to mature into cultured, confident, principled and civic-minded ladies – Precious Pearls.

# What to expect as a Debutante...

- Program overview
- Fundraising
- Time commitment





## *The Debutante Experience*



## Debutante Qualifications & Responsibilities

- She must be currently enrolled in the 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade of a high school (or home schooled) with a minimum cumulative G.P.A of 2.5 or higher.
- She must pay the non-refundable commitment fee and meet the minimum fundraising commitment and other financial obligations as required.
- She, along with her escort, must attend rehearsals and arrive on time.
- She, along with her escort, must adhere to the rules and regulations set by the Boston Pearl Foundation, Inc. and Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
- She must be in good standing in her school and community.
- She must not be a mother.
- She must not now be or become pregnant during the Debutante Program season.
- She must complete an application and biographical sketch.
- She must submit a parental permission form signed by her parent(s) or guardian(s).
- She must participate in Cotillion activities.
- She must be amenable to acquiring characteristics and qualities that would lend themselves to desirable social behavior.





## Escort Qualifications & Responsibilities

- Escort must be 15-19 years of age and currently enrolled in 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade of a high school (or home schooler) with a minimum cumulative G.P.A of 2.5 or higher.
- Escort must pay the non-refundable participation fee.
- Escort must have demonstrated leadership potential (i.e. academic, athletic, religious, etc.) and participation in extra-curricular activities.
- Escort must not be a father.
- Escort must complete an application and biographical sketch.
- Escort must participate in Cotillion activities and be timely.
- Escort must be amenable to acquiring characteristics and qualities that would lead themselves to desirable social behavior.



# Important Information:

\*<https://www.bostonpearlfoundation.org/events>

If you'd like to download the application, click here

**Deadline: 11:59 pm on Friday,  
October 15, 2021**

\*Please feel free to email us with any questions at [bostonpearlfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:bostonpearlfoundation@gmail.com).

**We look forward to seeing you as a 2022  
Precious Pearls Debutante!**







# Questions And Answers