

South Suburban Cultural Enrichment Organization

Renaissance

En Noir

Cotillion/Beautillion



2025 -2026

Belle/Escort Manual



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Welcome to the 2025 -2026 Senior Program

To Our Senior Families:

We would like to extend our heartfelt welcome to you and thank you for your decision to become members of the South Suburban Cultural Enrichment Organization (SSCEO) family.

Our objective is not only to help prepare our students for the Society Ball, but also to assist students with developing the skills needed to transition from high school students to young independent adults. This event is a celebration of that transition.

This manual provides program guidelines and a schedule of activities, events, and rehearsal sessions for the Senior Program participants.

This will be a very exciting year. We have a talented group of students and several new activities. We promise to make the road leading to the Society Ball, Sunday, April 26, 2026 a memorable “Renaissance En Noir” night.

With warmest regards,

SSCEO Board



The Vision of the SSCEO

The purpose of (SSCEO)

South Suburban Cultural Enrichment Organization
is to instill cultural, educational and community service
in high school students living in the Chicago/South Suburban area.

Our vision

is to provide enrichment opportunities for these select students
and to provide scholarships to deserving high school seniors
pursuing higher education.

Scholarship recipients must reside in the
South Suburban geographic area.

Escort/Belle

The Role of the Escort/Belle



Selecting an Escort/Belle should be a family decision and **should be made by the September Activity or September 20, 2025.**

The Cotillion/Beautillion participant's Belle or Escort should be chosen before the first social event. Over the years, experience has taught us that relatives and close family friends make a dependable Belle or Escort. ***The participants cannot be romantically involved. Failure to adhere to this policy will be grounds for immediate dismissal.***

The Belle and Escort play a very important role during the Cotillion/Beautillion and should be selected because he/she has the positive attributes and dedication necessary to begin and end the Cotillion/Beautillion with the participant. It is important that the escort understands that being on time for rehearsals and events is essential.

Once the Cotillion/Beautillion participant has selected a Belle or Escort, the Cotillion/Beautillion participant's parents should contact his/her parents to discuss the Cotillion/Beautillion-related roles and responsibilities.

It is highly recommended the escort/belle attended all activities. Belles and Escorts should be in appropriate standard activity/rehearsal attire as stated on page 7, at all times. **Gym shoes, blue jeans, mini/pencil skirts, and shorts will not be permitted.**

The Belle and Escort have a responsibility to become familiar with all rules, dates, and timelines of the Cotillion/Beautillion calendar. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure all rehearsal dates and times are met by the participant.

The South Suburban Cultural Enrichment Organization Committee may have additional instructions for Belles and Escorts to be discussed during rehearsals.



Selection of Escort/Belle:

- When selecting a Belle/Escort, choose one who is **RELIABLE** and 20 years old or under; choose someone who will enjoy being a part of this event and who is available to attend **ALL** the activities and rehearsals. A Belle/Escort should also be comfortable and eager to attend activities and learn dance routines.
- A **Belle** is the female partner for the Beau who accompanies the Beau to all activities, rehearsals, and the Society Ball. This person is responsible for being on time and appropriately dressed for all activities and rehearsals.
- An **Escort** is the male partner for the Debutante who accompanies the Debutante to all activities, rehearsals, and the Society Ball. This person is responsible for being on time and appropriately dressed for all activities and rehearsals.

*****Please Note: The Escort/Belle MUST NOT be a boyfriend or girlfriend of the Deb/Beau participant. *****

- Parents of the Debutante/Beau should consider paying for the Tuxedo/Dress of the Escort/Belle as an incentive and “thank you” for participating in the Cotillion/Beauillion.
- *All participants are required to take a formal picture for AdBook.*



Senior Program Overview

ACTIVITIES AND REHEARSALS

Dress Code:

All **Debutantes, Belles, Beaus, and Escorts** are required to wear their SSCEO issued T-Shirt or Polo (provided), dress pants, knee length skirts and dress shoes to SSCEO sponsored activities and rehearsals. When dance rehearsal begins, Debutants are allowed to wear leggings under their crinoline but must wear their SSCEO polo or T-shirt.

NO gum, jeans, or athletic shoes allowed!

ALL Cell phones must be turned off during all activities and rehearsals.

Scholarships:

All (Senior) Belles and Escorts can submit an SSCEO Scholarship Application (when available) if you meet the following requirements:

Eligibility:

- Be a high school senior, planning to attend a 2 or 4-year college.
- Have a current minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale.
- Not be a Debutante or Beau or the child of a SSCEO board member
- Must reside in the South Suburbs of Illinois

Ads and Tickets:

All Belles and Escorts may sell Ads and Tickets

Ad Book Deadline: Sunday, February 8, 2026

Ticket Deadline: Sunday April 5, 2026

Contributions:

All checks or money orders are made payable to:

South Suburban Cultural Enrichment Organization (SSCEO)

Contributions are deductible to the extent allowable by law.



Senior Program Overview (cont.)

SENIOR PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Approximately twenty-six (26) dates of workshops, Photo Shoots, Community Service, meetings and rehearsals are scheduled over the period of September 2025 thru April 26, 2026.

Please familiarize yourself with the Senior Program Calendar at the end of the manual.

The workshops, community service and rehearsals are provided to develop and enrich the participants as they transition to becoming independent young adults.

Attendance:

All participants should notify the Senior Program Co-Chairs, or Sponsor, if they are unable to attend an activity, workshop or rehearsal.

Do not schedule any activity for activity, workshop or rehearsal date (see Senior Calendar).

Please inform your employer of the Senior Calendar schedule to ensure your attendance at scheduled events.

This will be rehearsal on Super Bowl Sunday (February 8, 2026).

Please be ***ON TIME AND DRESS APPROPRIATELY*** to all rehearsals.

One **mandatory dress rehearsal** prior to the event is scheduled for **Thursday April 23, 2026**.



Cotillion/Beautillion Attire

ESCORT ATTIRE:

Escorts will be required to wear a Formal Tuxedo. *Information on the date to be fitted and the cost will be provided by Senior Chairpersons.*

All tuxedos will be provided by:

Black Tie
544 East 162nd Street
South Holland, Illinois
(708) 596-6330

BELLE ATTIRE:

Belles will be required to wear a full length **Mint Green** gown. *Information on cost and how to purchase will be provided by Senior Chairpersons.*



AD BOOK

Belles and Escorts can also participate in raising funds by purchasing Ads (*for the Ad Book*) and/or Tickets for the Society Ball.

All Ads should be submitted to chairperson as well as emailed. A copy of the camera-ready ad must be submitted along with the Ad Form at the time of payment.

All advertisements must be received by **Sunday, February 8, 2026.**

Ad Types

Business Card (\$25.00)	$\frac{1}{4}$ Page Ad (\$50.00)
$\frac{1}{2}$ Page Ad (\$65.00)	Full Page Ad (\$150.00) B&W
	Full Page Ad (\$200.00) COLOR

TICKETS

Each ticket for the Society Ball is \$75.00. Tickets may be purchased until Sunday, April 5, 2026.

**All checks should be payable to
“South Suburban Cultural Enrichment Organization”**



PARTICIPANT CONSENT WAIVER

The undersigned certifies that he/she is physically able to participate in the South Suburban Cultural Enrichment Organization program, and that he/she will abide by the rules and instructions of the Organization.

List any known medical conditions:

The undersigned consents to hereby release and forever hold harmless South Suburban Cultural Enrichment Organization, **its officers and members, from any and all responsibility or liability for any injuries or damages that may be incurred by the undersigned as a result of his/her participation in the South Suburban Cultural Enrichment Organization program.**

The undersigned has read the above terms and conditions and agrees to be bound by them.

Signature of Participant:

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

(Parent or Guardian must sign if under 18 years of age)

Signature of Parent/Guardian:

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____



Belle/Escort Consent & Authorization Form

(Please Print)

Belle/Escort Name: _____

Debutante/Beau _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

High School: _____ Year: _____

Email Address: _____

Cell: _____ T-shirt size: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

As the parent/legal guardian of _____, I do hereby authorize her/his participation in the South Suburban Cultural Enrichment Organization Cotillion/Beautillion

I acknowledge that failure to adhere to the code as established for participants may result in expulsion from the Cotillion/Beautillion

I also give permission for my child's likeness to be photographed for promotional materials, such as Facebook, website, YouTube, etc.

I acknowledge and understand that I am required to take a formal picture for the Ad Book

Print Name: _____
(Parent name if under 18 years of age)

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____
(Parent signature if under 18 years of age)

In case of emergency, please notify:

Name/Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ **(Cell)** _____



BELLE/ESCORT CONTRACT

Each Belle/Escort was selected because you possess leadership characteristics; have demonstrated academic success; and have exhibited impeccable character in your respective schools and communities. Once selected, those qualities must remain intact. Therefore, any behavior that is viewed contradictory to the actions of a Belle/Escort will be brought up for review by the Board and may result in dismissal from the program. Each Belle/Escort acknowledges and represents that he/she has read the aforementioned criteria for selection and that he/she meets the criteria and will continue to do so.

Each Belle/Escort also agrees to submit to the criteria listed below:

Must be respectful of all adults

Must be respectful of other Belles/Escort (Debutante and Beaus)

Must be on time for all activities and rehearsals

Must dress in appropriate attire for rehearsals:

Belle: *Knee length dress/skirt (No Miniskirts or mini pencil skirts)
2" heel minimum (type of shoe to be worn night of the event)*

Escort: *Dress pants, collared shirt and hard sole dress shoes*

Must not chew gum

Must keep all cell phones turned off

Must adhere to rules and expectations of the South Suburban Cultural Enrichment Organization

Must attend all activities and rehearsals

Must take picture for Ad Book

Must attend dress mandatory rehearsal, Thursday, April 23, 2026

Must attend Society Ball Sunday, April 26, 2026.

I, agree to uphold all of the requirements associated with being a Belle/Escort of the South Suburban Cultural Enrichment Organization.

(Participant Signature required)

(Date)

(Parent Signature, if participant is under 18 years old)

(Date)



2025-2026

*****CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE*****

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	19
10	11	12	13 Informational Tea 6:30pm	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Senior Kickback
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 1st ad book pmt due
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 2nd ad book pmt due
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Financial Workshop
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
							<u>December 7, 2025</u>
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Nutcracker play at Governor's State
							3pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
							NutCracker
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31				



January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Parent Meeting	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Rehearsal All Seniors Bio workshop	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Rehearsal All Seniors	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Rehearsal All Seniors	26	27	28	29	30	31

[Rehearsal Time](#)
3:30pm – 6:00pm
Dinner Time
6:00pm – 6:30pm

[Location](#)
TBA

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Rehearsal All Seniors	2	3	4	5	6	7 Photo Shoot
8 Rehearsal All Seniors Final ad book pmt due	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Rehearsal All Seniors	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Rehearsal All Seniors	23	24	25	26	27	28



March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
							<u>Rehearsal Time</u>
							Mothers: 3:00p – 3:45p Fathers: 3:50p – 4:35p Seniors: 4:45p – 6:30p Dinner: 6:30p – 7:00pm
1 Rehearsal Seniors & Parents	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8 Rehearsal Seniors & Parents	9	10	11	12	13	14	<u>Location</u> TBA
15 Rehearsal Seniors & Parents Last day to purchase Bowling tickets	16	17	18	19	20 Raffle tickets & money due	21	Bowling Fundraiser
22 Rehearsal Seniors & Parents	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29 Rehearsal Seniors & Parents	30	31					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
APRIL	2026						
5 Easter Sunday – no rehearsal	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12 Rehearsal Seniors & Parents	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19 Rehearsal Seniors & Parents	20	21	22	23 Mandatory rehearsal 4:30pm – 8pm	24	25	
26 COTILLION BEAUTILLION	27	28	29	30			