



Dress Code

The Junior Cotillion of Belton desires that all members feel at ease and confident in their attire while dancing. All dances are dress-up occasions where careful grooming and dress is required. A dress code is enforced in order to provide a safe and comfortable environment for all members by limiting distractions and avoiding clothing mishaps.

The Junior Cotillion of Belton requires the members and cotillion parent volunteers to follow the **BISD Middle School Dress Code policy** with these exceptions:

When theme appropriate, *BOYS* and *GIRLS* may wear:

- Hats, caps, bandanas, and headbands, sunglasses, hair color/streaking

GIRLS

- Halter-tops with straps or spaghetti straps may be worn, IF covered with a sweater, shrug or light jacket. Please understand that a shawl/wrap doesn't count because it can easily fall off while dancing. Sleeveless tops and dresses are allowed as long as undergarments are completely covered and necklines are appropriate, not plunging.
- **NO STRAPLESS** dresses or tops at all (even when a sweater is worn).
- Midriffs may NOT be exposed.
- Hemlines of shorts and skirts, when seated, must be mid-thigh or longer.
- No floor length dresses are allowed for any dances.

BOYS

- Athletic shoes may be worn when appropriate, but are discouraged, especially for the Semi-Formal dance.
- All pants shall be worn at the waist with NO sagging.

8th GRADE

- Dress code adjustments for the Semi-Formal Dinner and Dance will be announced with the invitation.

These guidelines are designed to be modest for children but not to make shopping difficult for you. Please follow them so that we don't have to ask your child to leave the dance until appropriately dressed. Contact your grade level chairmen if you have any questions.

RSVP Policy

All Members (not the parent) are expected to RSVP (*please respond) by phone by the date listed on the invitation, **whether or not they will be attending the dance**. If a member fails to RSVP or is a no-show (did not attend the dance and failed to notify the chairman in advance), their **membership in the Junior Cotillion of Belton will be forfeited**.

The RSVP Policy serves two purposes: Responding to an invitation is an important skill and courtesy the Junior Cotillion of Belton desires to instill in its Members. The by-laws of the Junior Cotillion of Belton under the Wildflower Guild stipulate that we have even numbers of boys and girls at each dance. It is important that our Dance Chairmen and Parent Volunteers have time to plan properly to ensure equal numbers at each dance.

Dance Etiquette

Dance etiquette is a set of guidelines that help us navigate the social dimensions of dancing.

BOYS will "ask for a dance." When asking for a dance, it is easiest to stay with traditional phrases: "May I have this dance?"..."Would you like to dance?"..."Care to dance?" Make eye contact when asking for a dance. When your partner says yes, smile, offer your arm, and escort her onto the dance floor and into dance position.

GIRLS will "accept the dance." When a guy asks you to dance, your response should be "Yes"..."Thank You"... or "I'd love to!" It is never acceptable to say "No" at the Junior Cotillion dances. You should not roll your eyes, make goofy faces, or give a big sigh either. Smile and make eye contact with your partner. Try to project a warm and positive image while dancing, even if don't know your partner.

The dance coordinator and BJC parents on the dance floor will help facilitate all parts of the dance. Everybody is here to learn and we will all make mistakes...even the adults! You might dance with some kids that are having a more difficult time learning the dance than you. If so, help them and be positive. The dance coordinator will guide you through the dances telling you what steps to take. Color Group parents will be on the dance floor helping you with dance steps and correcting inappropriate behavior.

After the song ... When a song comes to an end, the BOY gives his arm to the GIRL and takes her back to her color group. Always say thank you to your partner. When thanked, don't reply, "You are welcome." The proper response to "Thank you." is "Thank you." If you enjoyed the dance, let your partner know. Compliment your partner on her/his dancing. Be generous, even if he/she is not the greatest of dancers.

Behavior Expectations

Membership in the Junior Cotillion of Belton is a privilege; thus, members are expected to maintain respectable social conduct at BJC functions as well as at school and in the community.

Minor Infractions include: rolling of eyes, making ugly faces, not taking hand when offered, not following directions or dance etiquette, running around at break, damaging decorations, changing partners once on the dance floor, etc. Major Infractions include: Verbally putting someone down, making fun of others, inappropriate touching, telling someone "no" on a girl/boy choice, playing a trick on someone, demolishing decorations, continuation of a minor infraction after numerous corrections by volunteers, etc.

Habitual misconduct can result in review by the BJC Board Members and eventually into termination of membership.

Members are not permitted to use cameras during the dance. Parents and members may take pictures before and after the dance. A photographer will take pictures during the dance and provide access for members online. Videos are not allowed.

Behavior Expectations at School and in the Community: If a Junior Cotillion of Belton member receives ISS or OSS for a serious offense at school, then his/her name will be brought to the attention of the BJC Board. The BJC Board will consider the circumstances and determine whether membership privileges should be maintained, suspended, or terminated. The member and parents will be notified of the decision. BJC members who are assigned to district AEP/JJAEP will have memberships automatically terminated.