

## To All Gentlemen Attending the Military Ball

A letter by Cadet Kirsten Battochio, BHS Class of 2008 and updated every year by the cadets of Lady Leadership to help cadets prepare for the annual military ball. Last updated by Kendall Famularo and Ariana LeCates, Class of 2023.

Here are the basics:

1. Make sure that you have a slick haircut and a sleek, smooth shave. **No stubbles!**
2. **Be yourself.** If you're relaxed and completely real, we'll *both* be more comfortable.
3. Even though confidence is key, *please* don't be full of yourself and over the top cocky. A self-absorbed date is never desired!

Before the ball:

4. **DON'T FORGET THE CORSAGE!!!** (Get the right color or we'll both end up looking like fools who didn't communicate.) The corsage should coordinate with her dress and your tie. Can't go wrong with white (especially if her dress is a surprise)!!
5. Brush your stanky teeth and have breath mints!!!! (NO GUM)
6. **PLEASE PLEASE** use deodorant and smell good. Thanks.
7. If you would like, **bring her flowers**, it will make her week!

During the ball:

1. **Be a Gentleman!** Pull her chair out, hold the door, open the car door and put her coat on for her!
2. **ALWAYS** remember the purpose of etiquette is to make others around you feel comfortable. Your date, especially, should feel comfortable.
3. Talk. About anything. (Well, maybe not anything.) Awkward silence is the **WORST**.
4. Slow down. Close your mouth when you eat. Breathe between bites. Wipe your mouth. Remember your manners.

5. Never just get yourself a drink. You should either automatically get her one or at least offer.
6. DON'T TOUCH HER HAIR!!! Chances are she spent a lot of money and/or a lot of time on it, so for everyone's sake, leave it alone!
7. Please excuse yourself when you're leaving the table. Don't be totally blunt on where you're going and what you're going to take care of...it's no one's business but yours!!
8. When your girl gets up from the table you should stand up out of respect.
9. **Don't take off your shoes!!!!** We can do that. You can't. If you do- it's gross.
10. Eye contact, fellas. Keep your eyes on hers. (**EYES UP**)
11. If she's not into it, take no for an answer and if you're not into it, it's okay to say no as well!
12. PUT YOUR PHONE AWAY!!!!!! Try to enjoy the night and be offline for once.

### On the dance floor:

1. **DANCE!!!** It's wayyyy more awkward if you just stand there.
2. If a slow song plays, take the chance to ask your date to dance. To make things less awkward you can sing during slow songs and even quietly talk with her.
3. **DO NOT** take off your jacket or tie on the dance floor, no matter how sweaty you are.

### How to close off the night:

1. If you are dropping her off at home, **walk her to her door**.
2. Remember that **NO means NO!**
3. Tell her how much fun you had!!! If you want a second date this is your time to shoot your shot ;)

Love, Lady Leadership!!