**Military Ball Info and FAQ’s**

**Date of Event**:​ Friday, March the 29th, 2024

**Time**:​ 5:00­-11:00 (State law does allow drivers out past 11 pm for a school event)

**Location**:​ The Aqua Turf Club, 556 Mulberry Street, Plantsville, CT

**Transportation**: There will be a coach bus to and from the ball. Parents are encouraged to carpool with their cadets and others. Most cadets get a ride to and from the ball by parents, but many take the bus for the ride home. Cadets can take the bus one way.

**Cadets must sign up for the bus by Friday, the 22nd of March.**

**Cost Savings**

* Bogey’s Formalwear and Tuxedo Rental offers tuxedos and suits at a discounted rate for non-ROTC cadets and those attending the ball. (<http://www.bogeystux.com/>)
* Hair and nail salons often offer discounts for this event, just mention the BHS Ball

**Reservations & Ticket Price:**

**Make Payments through MYSchoolBucks online**

* Tickets are **$95 for each person**. Payment is required for each attendee whether they be a Cadet, Student, guest, or parent/family member.
* All payments made online via MySchoolBucks will incur a service fee of $5.

**Senior Cadets** are encouraged to bring extended family members. Other cadets may bring extended family members on a case-by-case basis, with a preference toward veterans and permission of the NJROTC instructors.

**Parents of cadets** are invited to attend. The seating is split with cadets on one side of the hall and parents on the other side.

Most upperclassmen parents (of seniors) attend. Approximately 25% of freshmen and sophomore parents attend. Parents of cadets with a part in the ball are encouraged to attend.

**The cadets will be ​supervised by the NJROTC instructors​ at the ball, not their parents**.

If there are any **behavioral concerns** they are to be personally brought up to the NJROTC instructors. Cadets and Students will be sent home if they misbehave.

All cadets will be given a formal class on **how to RSVP**. The RSVP will be e-mailed home to the invitees. The most important thing is to clearly indicate your information on the RSVP and complete it before the deadline on March 15th.

Cadets must complete their own RSVP online. It is a graded assignment.

Parents should complete their own RSVP online **separately from their cadet**.

All Guests must pay by **​March 15th**  in order to guarantee reserved seating. There are no walk-ins and unfortunately, late reservations may not be accommodated.

If a student (non-cadet) would like to attend the ball, they are required to be in good standing and are **required to have the parent's letter signed and completed**. The letter is available from the ROTC Office. (Letter is not required for cadets, but is required for all students who are not cadets).

**Other Info for the Ball:** Tips and advice for guys and girls can be found at this link: <http://www.bhsnjrotc.com/military-ball>

**Dress Attire and Arrival:**

**Male Cadets are required to wear Service Dress Blue** which will be issued to all cadets starting in late February. If for some reason we do not have your cadet’s size, they are asked to wear dark suits **only.**

**NJROTC is not required to issue SDB uniforms to all cadets. They are normally reserved for Cadet Officers and Chiefs only. This limits our supplies, and we may not have enough white collared shirts to provide one for every cadet**. Cadets will be fitted out by February 23rd. If they do not get a shirt issued, we ask parents to please purchase a shirt. This shirt must be a classic Oxford pinpoint collared shirt **without buttons on the collar tabs**. The Stafford shirts at JC Penney have an elastic collar button and are more comfortable. Female cadets should try to find the blouse with the cloth flap covering the buttons….if they can find it.

Male cadets will be issued a regulation black tie and the Female cadets a black necktab.

Remind your Cadet to try on their Service Dress Blue jacket and make sure that each part of the uniform fits properly.

**Covers (Hats)** are not required except for the honor guard and color guard.

* **Almost all** Female Cadets wear ball gowns but some may elect to attend in the female SDB. Females are reminded to dress with class and elegance.
* Military guests are requested to wear dinner (mess) dress uniforms.
* Civilian men are requested to wear either formal black-tie attire or a dark suit.
* Civilian women are requested to wear either a full-length formal gown or an appropriate evening dress.
* Male Cadets are **not permitted to wear boutonnieres** on their uniforms.
* Female Cadets and all guests not in uniform are allowed to wear boutonnieres or corsages. The flowers at the ball are done by Rita’s Floral Touch (203) 748-­8900.
* Cadets that have a moving part are to report to the Aqua Turf no later than 4:30 PM.
* Other cadets and their guests are to report in by 5:30 to proceed through the receiving line.
* Adult guests should arrive no later than 5:30 PM. The receiving line opens at 5:15 and closes at 6:00 and guests should be seated by 6:25 PM. The formal ceremony begins at 6:30 and the formal dinner is served at 7:15.

**Music and Dancing:**

We are excited to have the talented DJ Kirk Michaels this year. All types of music will be played and requests will be gladly taken. Ballroom dancing and mixed music will be played to create a “wedding reception” type atmosphere. Dancing will be both formal and social. **No lewd, trashy, or overly provocative dancing is acceptable at this formal event.**

Ballroom dancing lessons will be available free of charge for all cadets and students attending the ball. Watch the schedule on the calendar at [www.bhsnjrotc.com](http://www.bhsnjrotc.com)

Informal dancing will commence at 8:45: formalities/dinner will take place before that.

**Photographer:**

A photographer will take candid pictures during the ball from 5 PM – 9:30 PM. Pictures can be ordered online.

**Videographer:**

Also returning will be Tom Hickman Films to videotape the ball. The booster club pays the fee to have the ball uploaded to YouTube for all to see for free.

**The Meal:​ (minor changes may occur)**

The fabulous meal is a seated formal dinner affair. The reception will include:

* Non-Alcohol Bar service x 2 ­
* Coffee/Tea/Decaf
* Cheese, crackers, spiced meats, fruit & vegetable appetizers
* Freshly baked rolls and butter
* Tossed salad with house dressing
* Entre’s choices: (entrees include side vegetables)
  + ­New York Strip Sirloin
  + Pan-Seared Salmon­
  + Chicken Française ­
  + Eggplant Parmigiana (Vegetarian) ­
  + Chickpea Coconut Curry (Vegan)

* For the Toasts - you will be served a glass of (Ginger Ale with a few blueberries that make the glasses appear to be “Navy Blue and Gold”) ­ ­ ­ ­ ­
* Dessert, Coffee/Tea/Decaf

This year there will be a dessert bar that is available for all guests to help themselves.

**Dietary Restrictions:**

Guests with food allergies or dietary restrictions should clearly indicate such on their RSVP and /or otherwise inform the NJROTC staff. In the past, we have easily accommodated those needs when given advanced notice. However, all guests should be cordial and remind their wait staff of their needs.

**Seating is Pre-Assigned**

The room is large and **seating for all is assigned**, but all seats provide an excellent view of the formalities. Seats along the dance floor are reserved for parents of upperclassmen and VIP’s. Seating is assigned by a computer program based on the year group of the cadets, and their parents are seated accordingly. Last-minute **changing of seats or tables is​ not allowed** ​unless arranged by the Booster Club Ball Committee Chairperson. If you wish to be seated with friends, please indicate this by putting their names on your return RSVP cards. Every effort will be made to honor seating requests but it ​cannot be guaranteed​. You will receive your table number upon Check ­In. If you do not request a specific seating assignment you will have the opportunity to meet new people.

**Etiquette:**

Behavior is expected to be honorable by all guests attending the ball. The event is very formal. Proper attire, conduct, and table manners are expected. (<http://www.bhsnjrotc.com/military-ball>)

**Detailed Information** on etiquette, protocol, and ballroom dancing is available on the NJROTC Google Classroom. All Students attending the ball are highly encouraged to read the Ball Tips for guys and girls on our website.

**Students and their guests** who attend this function are expected to abide by all school rules and policies that govern student behavior. These rules and policies may be found in the student/parent handbook. ​Use of alcohol or any other behavior ­altering substance before, during, or in any way associated with this function is strictly prohibited.​ Failure to abide by this agreement will result in suspension, possible police referral, and/or possible expulsion.

**Signatures on the Ball form** indicate the students’ and parents’ understanding of this agreement and constitute a promise to abide by all school rules and regulations. All student attendees, including guests, must have the form filled out and submitted to attend the ball.

**What to Expect Upon Arrival:**

Guests are expected to arrive between 5:00 - 5:30 PM. A formal Receiving Line will be in place from 5:15 pm to 6:00 pm. **All BHS Students must enter through the receiving line.**

**All students and guests attending the ball must arrive by 5:30 p.m.**

All students in attendance are expected to stay at the ball until 11:00 p.m.

Students may only leave the ball early for emergency purposes and must have administrative approval. A parent/guardian will be called before the student leaves. **Once a student or guest leaves the ball there is no re-admittance**. Since this is a school event this is a non-­alcohol event. No alcohol is to be consumed prior to the ball and none will be available at the Aqua Turf Club. Come to have fun and expect to leave with great memories!

**Address for The Aqua Turf Club:**

556 Mulberry Street Plantsville, CT 06479­1898 #(860) 621­9335

Look for the Aqua Turf attendant at the first set of doors. Coatroom available (tip included with admission price).