

Hoover Belle

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Hoover Belle organization?

The Hoover Belles serve the city of Hoover by being hosts at charitable, school, community and civic events.

The history of the hoop skirt.

As early as the 15th century in Spain, women wore “farthingales” under skirts to show their high social standing. Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries in France and England, women wore “panniers” that created the illusion of wider hips and allowed them to display elaborate fabrics and embroideries. The classic Victorian Era hoop skirt is an extension of these. Women’s clothing in high society before the hoop skirt was very impractical; their voluminous dresses were made from several layers of thick, heavy fabric. Suffragettes and other women’s rights advocates fought for a way that women could increase their mobility and freedom while still being on-trend. The hoop skirt allowed women to not be weighed down by heavy fabric. They were mass-produced, which allowed for affordability, and soon hoop skirts were seen across several economic classes including the working class. In the antebellum south this became an equality effort, and newly-freed women began to wear hoop skirts as a way to show their recently gained freedom. The hoop skirt became a symbol of liberation for both black and white women in America across several classes.

Why should I apply?

Being a Hoover Belle creates opportunities to meet new friends, develop relationships, become involved in community activities, and refine communication skills. It’s just fun!

What are the requirements to apply?

Applicants must live within the city of Hoover and maintain a 2.5 grade point average.

How are Belles selected?

Belles are selected based on an interview with the Belle Board, resumes, letters from references, and academics. Belles are selected during their sophomore year to serve a two-year term during their junior and senior years of high school.

If chosen, what is the time commitment?

During their 2-year term, Belles are expected to volunteer for a minimum of 40 service hours. There are a number of activities each year from which to choose. Belles can manage their own schedule and time commitment for each year.

What do Belles wear to events?

The Belle uniform is either the Belle gown or official Belle shirts and white skirt or white pants. The activity or request by the organization determines what is worn.

What is the financial commitment?

An application fee of \$25 is due with the application. The Hoover Belle fee of \$325 is due at Belle orientation. The cost of the Belle gown varies. It can be made or purchased from Belles who choose to sell their dress after their term. Additional Belle merchandise is optional.

Where can I get an application?

Applications are posted October 15, 2021 on the City of Hoover website. <http://www.hooveral.org/804/Hoover-Belles>

How do I apply?

The application along with letters of reference are submitted by November 18, 2021 at 4:00 pm to the Hoover Chamber of Commerce office (3000 Galleria Cir #375, Hoover, AL 35244). The interview and selection are in January of the sophomore year in high school.

I’ve been selected for an interview, now what?

Prepare by choosing appropriate interview attire. Practice interviewing with friends or family members. Remember to be yourself. SMILE!

For more information, visit the website <http://www.hooveral.org/804/Hoover-Belles> or talk with a current Belle.