

KATY Prom Extravaganza 2011

Written by Ashley Withers & Photography by Suzi Issa



Special thanks to The Silver Hanger in Katy for loaning us several prom gowns for this shoot.

Katy seniors including (back row, from left) Kellie Isola of Cinco Ranch High School, Delaney Neighbors of Seven Lakes High School, Colleen Crowley of CRHS, Tori Cooper of Katy High School, (middle row) Morgan Zimmermann of KHS, Brittany Bolin of Morton Ranch High School, Rachel Leiby of CRHS, (front row) Madison Cooper of SLHS, Alyssa Olvera of Mayde Creek High School, and Jackie Ritz of Taylor High School

Prom night in Katy is a beloved senior year tradition. But it is not just about the actual dance; weeks of preparation go into creating that fairytale night you will always remember. *Katy Magazine* gives you the inside scoop on what it takes to create the perfect night.

Inviting Your Date

Finding the perfect date is always one of the hardest parts of the prom process. Should you go the romantic route, stick with a friend, or fly solo? Prom is one of the last chances for seniors to spend time with their classmates and having a good time at the dance is a top priority. This is something to consider when finding a date. "I am definitely asking someone who I am going to have a great time with," says Brandon Coleman, a Seven Lakes High School senior. "How I am going to ask them is still a toss up. I know it will be big and most likely obnoxious."

It has become a Katy tradition for the invitation to be more than just a simple, "Will you go to prom with me?" Seniors are getting more and more creative each year. Popular ways to ask include sending baked goods, making posters, and using car decorations.

Gowns & Tuxes that Wow

Prom always conjures up images of boys in tuxedos and girls in long dresses, and while these are still the trend, there are plenty of ways to make the look fit your style. "I plan on wearing a long, fitted dress," says Monique Moreno, a Morton Ranch High School senior. "I had a quinceanera when I turned 15 and wore the traditional big, poofy dress and have concluded that wearing one in a lifetime is plenty!"

Ryan Sartory, Libby D'Ambroso, and Bright Ashaka of THS



Special Thanks!

Special thanks to all *Katy Magazine's* prom models from local area high schools.

Kayllie Cooper, Colleen Laffin, Rebecca Hammons, Claire Martin, Gina Adibi, and Alex Alff of THS

The shape of the dress is not the only thing to consider. Black and white is always a classic choice, but prom dresses come in all shades of the rainbow. "I am definitely going to wear a long dress, not a 'Cinderella' big one, but a long and simple flowing one, and hopefully in a fun color!" shares Cinco Ranch High School senior, Haley Hammond.

Girls can find dresses in many area department stores and boutiques. The tuxedos senior boys wear are mostly black, but they have the option between a vest and cummerbund, and between a tie or bow tie. These options also come in a range of colors. "I'm going to rent a black tux for prom," says Coleman. "The color of the tie depends on what my date wears, but I'm going to try and avoid the classic powder blue tux." If you're renting a tux, be sure to book yours early to make sure you get the one you want.

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Brittany Bolin, Tori Cooper, Kellie Isola, and Alyssa Olvera

THS seniors, including (back row, from left) Damian Barletta, John Haunschild, Max Guarniere, Garrett Harbert, Wes Kerr, Preston Phillips, (front row) Ryan Sartory, Juan Jimenez, and Bright Ashaka



Photo by Ami Williams

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The Perfect Dinner

The dinner location is an essential part of prom night. Choosing a location that is fun, fancy enough to wear prom attire to, group-friendly, and that serves great food can be a challenge. “We try to pick restaurants that are nice and have event menus that allow each couple to pay a set price for a three- or four-course meal,” says Morgan Griffin, a Katy High School senior. “We also try to find restaurants that other groups would not go.”

In Katy, there are a variety of popular restaurants for the pre-prom dinner, and even more great spots are located in downtown Houston. No matter which restaurant you choose, make sure to make a reservation for the big night. You don’t want to end up all dressed up with nowhere to go.

Arriving in Style

Another thing to consider when planning the perfect prom night is transportation. Most seniors go to prom in a large group and want to ride all together. Limousines are always a classic option and everyone looks good stepping out of one! Party buses have become increasingly more popular as they can fit more people and the dancing can begin before prom actually starts.

Most seniors take into consideration everyone’s preference in their group before deciding on how they will arrive at prom in style. “It depends on the group I go with,” says Cesar Serrano, a Mayde

Creek High School senior. “Not sure if it’s a limo or party bus yet, but we’re for sure arriving in style.”

Limos and party buses are another item you will want to book early. Booking earlier will get you a better deal and will help ensure that your fairytale night goes smoothly.

“Prom is a fun way to end your senior year. What better way to do it than with friends?”

- Brittany Bolin, MRHS

Dancing the Night Away

After all the planning and preparation, it is finally time to enjoy your prom night! “I’m a class officer, and the other class officers and I have been working all year on this giant project to make this our best prom ever,” says Moreno. “It’s going to be awesome to finally see all of our hard work pay off and for our fellow classmates to experience this night with us!”

“Prom is one of the last major events we have in high school,” adds Hammond. “It’s a time where we all look like princes and princesses and we can come together and have the time of our lives. I can’t wait to spend an entire night with my closest friends; a night we will all look back on and remember.”

This senior tradition is a favorite for many. Make the most of your experience and dance the night away! **KM**

ASHLEY WITHERS is currently studying journalism and sociology at Southern Methodist University and is a Seven Lakes High School graduate.



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Prom Advice for Girls

"If you're dressed elegantly, act elegantly. Don't embarrass your date!"

-Monique Moreno, MRHS

"Dress your best, hold your shoulders back for pictures, say thank you to everyone you can, and chew with your mouth closed!"

-Haley Hammond, SLHS

"I would advise girls to get a dress that is easy for a guy to match his tie with, and to be helpful and go with him to pick it out. And definitely be thankful and grateful to your date for paying for dinner and taking you to prom!"

-Morgan Griffin, KHS

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Prom Advice for Guys

"Hold the door for your date, don't be afraid to dance, and don't stuff your face with food!"

-Austin Parker, THS

"Never neglect your date. If you are planning on ditching your date as soon as you get to the dance to hang out with your own friends, you shouldn't bring a date."

-Brandon Coleman, SLHS

"Treat your girl nice, dance, and have fun. Don't ruin her night - she spent a whole lot more preparing for it than you did."

-Cesar Serrano, MCHS

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"It's one of the last nights to spend with all your friends. It will be a bittersweet memory."

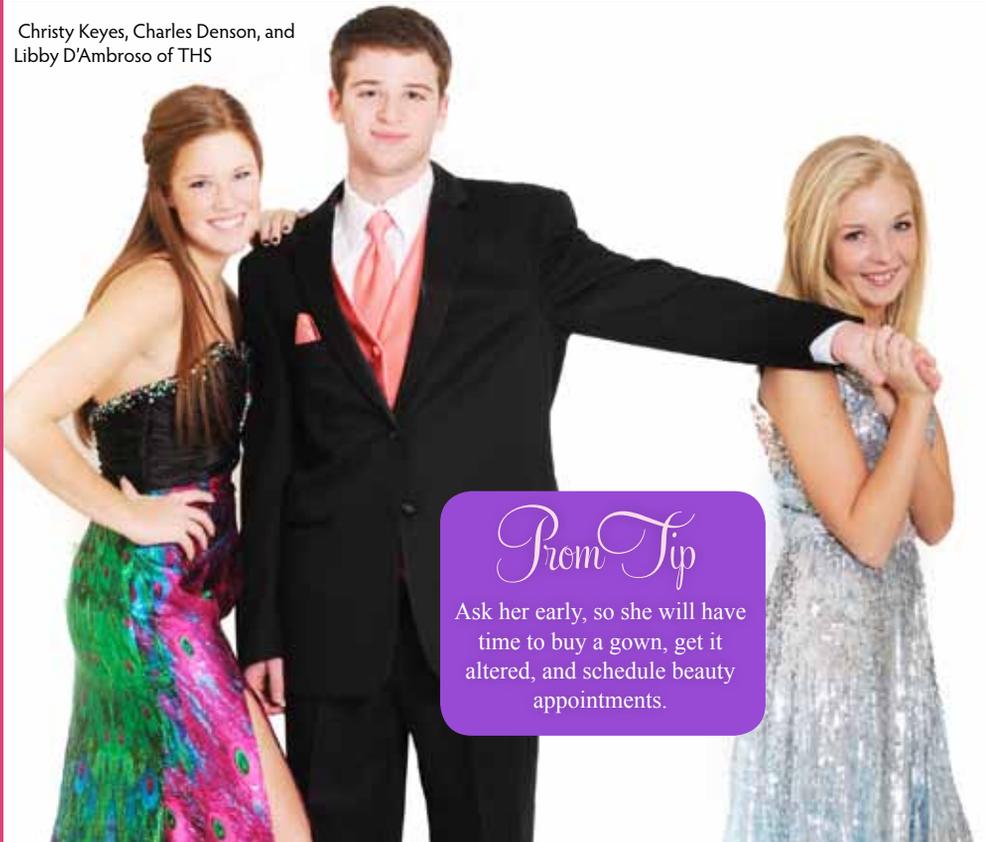
– Colleen Crowley, CRHS

Colleen Crowley and Morgan Zimmermann

Kelsey Barajas, Caitlin Wilkinson, and Julia Andrews of THS



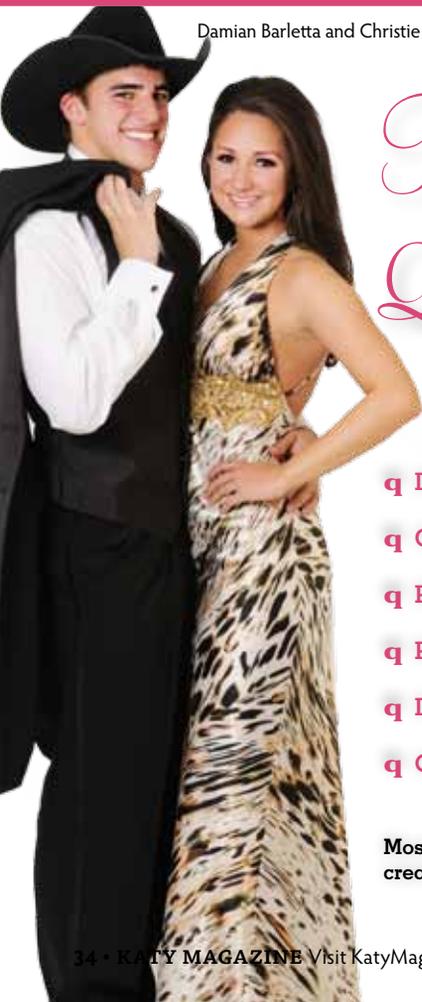
Christy Keyes, Charles Denson, and Libby D'Ambroso of THS



Prom Tip

Ask her early, so she will have time to buy a gown, get it altered, and schedule beauty appointments.

Damian Barletta and Christie Rodriguez of THS



Popping the Question

Ways to ask your date to prom

- q Decorate her car**
- q Create a scavenger hunt**
- q Post a big sign**
- q Personalize a giant cookie**
- q Deliver a personalized pizza**
- q Get an accomplice to help**

Most importantly, do something creative and put effort into it!

Ross Miller, Juan Jimenez, and George Williamson of THS



Prom Tip

Girls and guys will usually coordinate their ties and gowns.



Prom Costs

GIRLS \$500-\$1,000

Dress, alterations, shoes, accessories, hair, makeup, nails, boutonniere, and after party.

BOYS \$400-\$800

Tux rental or suit, prom bids, dinner, corsage, transportation, and after party.



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Hot PROM TRENDS

GOWNS

- Mermaid gowns
- Shorter gowns
- Form fitting gowns
- One shoulder gowns
- Vibrant colors
- Sequins & glitter

HAIR & MAKEUP

- Updos with braids
- Curls
- Vivid makeup
- Smokey eyes
- Nude or light lips
- Trendy pony tails
- Soft side buns

GETTING THERE

- Party buses
- Limos
- Hummer limos
- Large groups

Tori Cooper, Alyssa Olvera, and Colleen Crowley



Katy Proms

Cinco Ranch High School - May 14
at the Westin Galleria

Katy High School - May 14
at the JW Marriott Houston

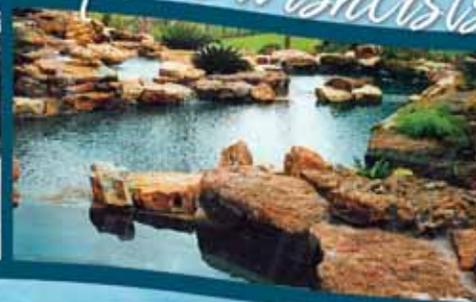
Mayde Creek High School - May 14
at the Omni Houston Hotel at Westside

Morton Ranch High School - May 7
at the Omni Houston Hotel at Westside

Taylor High School - May 14
at the Houston Club

Seven Lakes High School - May 21
at the Hilton Houston Post Oak

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