

Attire & Event Guidelines: Festive Semi-Formal "Red, White, and Swing"

Celebrate America's 250th at our 1940s WWII USO Club swing dance! Wear 1940s style, theme colors, or your favorite semi-formal attire. Outfits should allow free movement for high-energy dancing; awards will be given for best themed looks!

Ladies' Guidelines

- **Style & Length:** Semi-formal dress, or skirt/top combo. Hemlines **must** reach the knee, and any skirt slit must not go higher than 3 inches above the knee. Swing skirts are preferred over fitted styles. 4-inch inseam shorts beneath your dress or skirt are **highly recommended** for comfort and modesty.
- **Fit & Coverage:** Opaque fabrics with a high back (natural waist or higher). The front **must** provide continuous coverage from the neckline to the hemline, with a modest neckline no lower than the imaginary line from armpit to armpit.
- **Shoes:** Choose flats, low heels, saddle shoes, or tennis shoes. Heels are welcome, but you may want to bring a second pair of flats for dancing.
- **Inspirational ideas:** 1940s polka dots, gingham, gloves, or a tea-length gown.

Gentlemen's Guidelines

- **Tops & Pants:** Collared, long-sleeved shirt and tie **must** be paired with a jacket, vest, sweater, or suspenders. Wear classic dress slacks. Slacks and jacket need not match.
- **Shoes:** Dress shoes, clean boots, or **clean (pristine, not old)** tennis shoes.
- **Inspirational ideas:** Zoot suit, vintage military wear, fedoras, bomber jackets, or mixed jackets/trousers. No jeans, t-shirts, or sandals. High-quality, well-crafted period costumes are welcome, but please avoid low-quality, cheap costumes (such as theatrical outfits with battery-operated lights).

Community Agreements

- **Entry:** Keep wristbands on. Unchaperoned departure prevents re-entry.
- **Attire Expectations:** Guests are required to choose their attire in accordance with their gender assigned at birth (Ladies in dresses/skirts, men in pants).
- **Dress Code:** Our seamstress can help with quick fixes. Modifications must stay in place. Unresolved dress code violations deny entry without a refund.
- **Conduct:** Keep dancing respectful with space between partners. Show kindness, follow chaperone requests, and avoid PDA, bullying, alcohol, smoking, or vaping.
- **Safety:** For behavioral issues, parents will be contacted for a ride home.

Questions? Email front, back, and side photos of your outfit for quick pre-approval!

Because we want everyone to have a clear idea of what to look for, here is a breakdown of some visual examples and ideas for inspiration and clarity:

Visual Ideas and Examples for Ladies

- **Modest Semi-Formal Knee or Tea Length gown:** Look for a dress in red, white, or blue (or your favorite color) with a skirt that gracefully touches or covers the knee. Sequins sound fun!
- **The Classic 1940s polka dot or shirtwaist dress:** A highly recommended style featuring short sleeves, a defined waist, and a flared, knee-length skirt that allows for plenty of movement. Perfect for the USO Club!
- **A "Swing" Skirt and Top Set:** A high-waisted, flowy circle or swing skirt paired with a secure, modest blouse. This look is perfect for twirling and ensures complete comfort on the dance floor.



Visual Ideas and Examples for Gentlemen

- **The Classic Suspenders & Tie Combo:** High-waisted dress slacks paired with a tucked-in, collared dress shirt, a vintage-style necktie, and classic button-on suspenders.
- **The Dapper Vest & Trousers Look:** A buttoned suit vest worn over a collared dress shirt and tie, paired with coordinating (but not necessarily matching) dress slacks and leather oxford or wingtip shoes.
- **The "Clark Kent" Suit or Sport Coat Look:** A double-breasted or single-breasted sport jacket worn over a dress shirt and tie with clean trousers—representing a classic, tailored 1940s aesthetic.

