

**Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated**  
**Saint Louis Alumnae Chapter**  
**Rites of Passage – ARIYA Escort Overview**

**ABOUT RITES OF PASSAGE - ARIYA**

The Rites of Passage/ARIYA Program is based upon the Nguzo Saba, the seven principles of Kwanzaa and is sponsored by the St. Louis Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Its purpose is to provide character development and leadership training for young African-American Women, encourage them to pursue college or vocational training after high school graduation and empower them to take ownership of their futures by providing an opportunity for them to raise funds for their education.



After completing six months of training, the Kwanzishas (young women participants) participate in the Rites of Passage Ceremony. In this ceremony, they are granted permission by their families and the community to transition to the next level of social and educational development.

The ARIYA, a Swahili word meaning celebration, is the program’s culminating activity and public celebration where the Kwanzishas, accompanied by their escorts, are presented to the community.

**PURPOSE AND ROLE OF ESCORTS**

- △ The role of an Escort is vital to the success of the Ariya celebration. In this Afrocentric-based program, the young men represent the warriors and protectors (Askari Hodari) of the young women who are being presented to the community.

**ELIGIBILITY**

- △ Escort participants are encouraged to have good academic standing, community involvement, and extra-curricular activity involvement.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- △ There is a non-refundable application fee of \$25 due at the time of submission. This fee is required of all Escort participants.
- △ Applicants will be contacted for Orientation.

**CONTACT INFO**

Please direct any questions or comments to **[dst.sla.ariya@gmail.com](mailto:dst.sla.ariya@gmail.com)**.

**IMPORTANT**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 1, 2019**

Please complete all sections of the attached application. Applications **must** be emailed to [dst.sla.ariya@gmail.com](mailto:dst.sla.ariya@gmail.com) or mailed to the below address by the date indicated above.

DST-St. Louis Alumnae Chapter  
Attn: Ariya Escort  
P.O. Box 410844  
St. Louis MO. 63141

**Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated**  
**Saint Louis Alumnae Chapter**  
**Rites of Passage - ARIYA Escort Application**

APPLICANT'S INFORMATION						
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME			MIDDLE	
STREET ADDRESS					DOB (MM/DD/YY)	
CITY		STATE	ZIP		EMAIL ADDRESS	
TELEPHONE		SCHOOL NAME AND ADDRESS				CLASS
						<input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell
NAME OF PARENT(S) OR LEGAL GUARDIAN(S)					PARENT/GUARDIAN'S TELEPHONE	
					<input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell	
PARENT OR GUARDIAN'S EMAIL ADDRESS						
					<input type="checkbox"/> Work <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (INCLUDES SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT)					ROLE	
HONORS AND AWARDS						
POST-GRADUATE INSTITUTION (IF KNOWN)				INTENDED MAJOR		
FUTURE ASPIRATIONS (ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEET IF NECESSARY)					ARIYA HISTORY	
					Have you previously participated as an Escort or Usher in the Ariya? If YES, please list the year(s) of participation. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
SIGN						DATE
APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE						

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PARENT OR GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE

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