

FASHION

Generation Prom



Elizabeth Conley photos / Houston Chronicle

Cy-Fair High School seniors Ashlyn Elliott, left, and Sofia Black flank Westbury High School's prom king, Brian Cruz Ventura. The trio models on-trend prom fashion from Tootsies, Al's Formal Wear and Macy's, respectively, at Hotel ZaZa Memorial City. Florals and pink are among the most popular looks for girls; boys are getting creative in brocade and velvet.

Stylish teens embracing trend of more sophisticated looks than those sported in past seasons



Ready for their close-up: A selfie shows off Ashlyn's Kendra Scott earrings, Sofia's Macy's accessories and Party City props and Brian's own Clubmaster Ray-Bans.



Ashlyn (in a floral gown with train from Tootsies and earcuffs from Macy's) and Sophia (in a strapless tie-dye dress from Macy's and earrings by Colores Collective) team up against Brian.

By Amber Elliott

There's something different about this new crop of young adults.

And it extends beyond the sheer number of teenagers with YouTube channels who will never know the pains of dial-up internet or life before Google Maps. If the poise of

the "Stranger Things" cast or change-making influence of the Parkland, Fla., students is any indication, Generation Z is awfully grown up.

Now, in the thick of prom season, they're dressing like grown-ups, too.

According to Beth Ann Karkaker, Macy's Memorial City operations manager, florals and

white, lilac and pink shades are flying off her store's floor. It's nearly impossible to distinguish between the social dresses and juniors departments — that's a steep departure from the two-piece, high-slit looks of prom seasons past.

Inside the Loop, at Tootsies, young-occasion frocks with elegant trains, cap sleeves and

high necks are stunning for all the right reasons. But there are youthful touches, too — a tasteful cut-out here, nude overlay there.

Even Al's Formal Wear, the go-to for rental suits and tuxedos, offers a sophisticated selection. From brocade fabrics to blue velvet shawl-collar jackets, these styles aren't hip-

ster-inspired, they're Timothée Chalamet and Brooklyn Beckham approved.

Sartorially speaking, go older and wiser on the big night — not because the parental units want you to, but because all the cool kids are doing it.

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