



Date: August 15, 2017  
To: Parents, Principals, Counselors, Teachers, and Churches/Community Organizations  
From: Tameka Tunsil, President  
Subject: 2017-2018 Youth Programs Application  
Northern Virginia Alumnae Chapter  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

The Northern Virginia Alumnae Chapter (NoVAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is now accepting applications for its 2017-2018 Youth Programs [Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy, Delta GEMS, and EMBODI]. Enclosed you will find the link to the application and parental consent forms, individual program descriptions, and an FAQ sheet.

The objective of the NoVAC Youth Programs is to enrich youth through educational, cultural, social, and developmental activities that will encourage personal growth and success for the youth of the Northern Virginia community.

NoVAC Youth Programs are designed for:

- △ Youth who need guidance, support and skills to achieve success
- △ Youth who have an interest and desire to develop leadership skills
- △ Youth who have a desire to or are actively pursuing college and/or career options
- △ Youth who are interested in joining like-minded peers pursuing success

The program year will run from September 2017 through June 2018. Participants and their parents will be required to attend a Program Kick-off/Parent Meeting. Student applications are due by the kick-off. Specific program meeting details will be sent out to parents prior to the start of the program year.

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**Please return completed applications via mail or email to:**

Youth Programs  
Northern Virginia Alumnae Chapter  
P.O. Box 4310  
Arlington, VA 22204-9998  
[youth@dstnovac.org](mailto:youth@dstnovac.org)

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For additional information about the programs and examples of the types of activities that the participants will take part in please see the attached FAQs sheet and visit the NoVAC website at [www.dstnovac.org/youth.htm](http://www.dstnovac.org/youth.htm).

Any questions related to the programs or the application can be addressed to the Youth Programs Chair at [youth@dstnovac.org](mailto:youth@dstnovac.org).

*"None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. We got here because somebody - a parent, a teacher, an Ivy League crony or a few nuns - bent down and helped us pick up our boots.  
~Thurgood Marshall*



## **Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy**

### **The Transformation of Me... Knowing Me, Developing Me, Preparing Me**

The Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy was established under the leadership of the 21<sup>st</sup> National President, Marcia L. Fudge. The Delta Academy program is designed to offer young women exposure to the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). This is accomplished through a curriculum that also incorporates the development of positive attitudes, effective problem solving skills, confidence, and other skills/tools to help build a solid plan for the future. We also show them the many and varied opportunities that are open to them in the STEM career fields. Our primary goal is to prepare young girls for full participation as leaders in the 21st Century.

The program schedule includes workshops, hands-on activities, guest speakers and museum visits. In addition to STEM-related activities, we also try to encourage leadership and active participation in the community. The committee works hard to keep members and parents informed of STEM-related activities and opportunities happening in our community. When possible we will incorporate those events into schedule.

NoVAC's Delta Academy program focuses on adolescent girls between the ages of 11 - 14 and/or grades 6 – 8 in the Northern Virginia area.

The Delta Academy is designed for young women who:

- Demonstrate great academic and personal promise
- Show interest in developing leadership skills
- Show interest in community action and social change
- Show interest in non-traditional STEM careers

During the 2017-2018 program year, **Delta Academy will meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month at Cora Kelly REC Center.** Alternate meeting times/locations may also be scheduled with advance notification.

For additional information about the program, please contact [deltaacademy@dstnovac.org](mailto:deltaacademy@dstnovac.org).



## **Growing and Empowering Myself Successfully (Delta GEMS)**

The Delta GEMS program honors the 12th National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Dr. Jeanne L. Noble. Dr. Noble was a legendary pioneer in the field of education and civil rights issues were a high priority during her two terms in office. Dr Noble believed young women had to be supported emotionally, psychologically, spiritually and financially.

Delta GEMS (Growing and Empowering Myself Successfully) - The goal of GEMS is to develop strong, confident, and goal oriented young women and prepare them to take an active role in their success and society. We do this through mentorship and exposing the girls to educational and cultural experiences that will help them think about, set, and work towards obtaining their goals.

NoVAC's GEMS program focuses on adolescent girls between the ages of 14 -18 and/or grades 9 – 12 in the Northern Virginia area.

The goal of Delta GEMS is to serve as a catalyst for participants to enhance their abilities in order to achieve academic excellence.

The program focuses on:

- Promoting high levels of academic success
- Assisting young women in proper goal setting
- Developing compassionate, caring, community-minded young women
- Emphasizing decision-making and planning for the high school years and beyond

During the 2017-2018 program year, **Delta GEMS will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at Sherwood Hall Library.** Alternate meeting times/locations may also be scheduled with advance notification.

For additional information about the program, please contact [deltagems@dstnovac.org](mailto:deltagems@dstnovac.org).



## **Empowering Males to Build Opportunities For Developing Independence (EMBODI)**

EMBODI was established under the leadership of the 24<sup>th</sup> National President, Cynthia M. A. Butler-McIntyre and is designed to address the educational, social and emotional obstacles that hinder the development of our youth. Program activities and events will focus on the mind, body and soul of a young man, to include cultural/academic enrichment, boosting self-confidence, and identifying the challenges that stifle our youth.

The objective of the EMBODI program is to serve as a motivational and empowerment tool that targets young African American males. Our goal is to cultivate a personal vision for their lives, promote awareness of college and career opportunities, to provide tools and resources to enable success and independence. The EMBODI Program works collaboratively with positive, African-American-oriented male organizations and community volunteers.

NoVAC's EMBODI program focuses on males between the ages of 14 – 18 and/or grades 9 – 12 in the Northern Virginia area.

EMBODI is designed for:

- Young men who need guidance, support and skills to achieve success.
- Young men who have an interest and desire to develop leadership skills.
- Young men who have a desire to or is actively pursuing college and/or career options.
- Young men who are interested in obtaining the tools necessary for building opportunities for developing independence.

During the 2017-2018 program year, **EMBODI will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month** at a location to be determined. For additional information about the program, please contact [EMBODI@dstnovac.org](mailto:EMBODI@dstnovac.org).

## **NoVAC Youth Programs Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q. How can my child join one of the NoVAC youth programs?**

A. Your child must submit the online application and the parent/guardian must complete and sign the required consent forms.

**Q. What are the eligibility requirements?**

A. Please see the individual Youth Program descriptions for specific eligibility requirements.

**Q. Where and what times are sessions held?**

A. Please see the individual Youth Program descriptions for specific meeting times. You will be notified in advance if there is a change in the meeting time or place.

**Q. How long will the programs run?**

A. The 2017-2018 program year is scheduled to begin in September 2017 and will run through June 2018.

**Q. What does he/she need to bring?**

A. Any required materials will be distributed during sessions. We ask that you make sure that your child is properly attired for the scheduled activities. You may also be asked to bring items that were issued during a previous session.

**Q. What will happen if my child cannot attend a session?**

A. For accountability and safety, we appreciate and prefer direct notification to the program chairs at least 48 hours in advance if your child cannot attend an upcoming workshop.

*Note: We ask that you consider any extracurricular activities that your child participates in prior to applying. If there is an activity that regularly conflicts with our monthly sessions your child may not receive the full benefit of the program.*

**Q. Are there any expenses?**

A. There is no fee required for participation. At your discretion, you may provide your child with funds to purchase souvenirs and/or snacks during special outings.

**Q. Can parents and/or guardians attend workshops?**

A. Attending workshops is at the discretion of the parent. Participants tend to become more reserved and hesitant to express personal feelings and sentiments with their parent/guardian present, however we do not prevent parents from attending any workshop or session.

**Q. How do I know what my child is learning and if the program is beneficial to them?**

A. We encourage you to have open dialogue with your child about her participation in the program. You will also receive a description of the scheduled activities prior to each session.

**Q. How can I find out more information about NoVAC Youth Programs?**

A. You can visit our webpage at <http://www.dstnovac.org/youth.htm> or email the Youth Programs Chair at [youth@dstnovac.org](mailto:youth@dstnovac.org).