



Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Hinesville Alumnae Chapter
2015-2016 Delta G.E.M.S. Committee
Gwendolyn Starr, Chair
Genese B. Lane, Co-Chair

August 15, 2015

Dear Prospective and Returning Delta G.E.M.S. Parent and/or Guardian,

Greetings! This letter is to invite you to participate in an exciting mentoring program for the 2015-2016 school year. The Women of the Hinesville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., are opening our arms and hearts to welcome young ladies who are interested in joining the **Dr. Jeanne L. Noble Delta G.E.M.S. (Growing & Empowering Myself Successfully)**.

Please allow us this opportunity to make sure that you and your daughter are aware of our sorority's Delta G.E.M.S. program. Delta G.E.M.S., is an expansion and continuation of the highly successful Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy. The program was created to "catch the dreams" of African American adolescent high school girls ages 14-18. The Delta G.E.M.S. endeavors to: instill in participants the need to excel academically; provide tools to enable girls to sharpen and enhance their skills to achieve high levels of academic success; assist girls in proper goal setting and planning for their futures in high school and beyond; and create compassionate, caring and community minded young women by actively involving them in service learning and community service opportunities. The Delta G.E.M.S. framework is designed to provide specific skills that develop a "CAN DO" attitude through interactive lessons and activities that provide opportunities for self-reflection and growth.

This year, the Delta G.E.M.S. committee is excited to provide inspiring program activities that deal with important issues such as: socialization, self-awareness, leadership development through service, advocacy, healthy lifestyle habits, educational preparation, career preparation and much, much more. In addition, we are planning to have our college retreat in the spring of 2016.

Enclosed, please find our 2015 -2016 Delta G.E.M.S. application materials. All applications need to be submitted via P.O. Box as listed on the application. Applications must be received by mail by **Friday, August 28, 2015**. G.E.M.S. who have been accepted will be notified via telephone.

If you have any questions regarding the Delta G.E.M.S., please contact Ms. Gwen Starr at (912) 332-0786, Mrs. Genese Lane at (912) 432-2486, or email gemshac@gmail.com.

Best Regards,

Petula Y. Gomillion
Chapter President

Gwendolyn Starr

Gwendolyn Starr
Delta G.E.M.S. Co-Chair

Genese B. Lane
Delta G.E.M.S. Co-Chair

INTRODUCTION

DR. JEANNE L. NOBLE

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
12th National President



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. The Delta GEMS Program, officially renamed The Dr. Jeanne L. Noble Delta GEMS Institute, continues to spotlight teenage girls between the ages of 14-18 in grades 9 through 12. As National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Dr. Noble's administration focused on campus sorors who were involved on the front lines by sitting in and freedom riding. 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. The sorority supported young women such as Soros Charlene Hunter and Vivian Malone and other young people who took a stand on desegregating southern colleges and universities. The need for solidarity and sisterhood was prevalent at the end of Soror Noble's administration coinciding with the historic MARCH ON WASHINGTON on August 28, 1963.

Soror Noble was an exemplary role model for her sisters, serving by appointment on United States Commissions from President's Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon. In her report to the convention, Soror Noble reminded members that Deltas have a responsibility to lift as we climb and that elitism has no place in the Delta House.

In many ways and on many fronts, Delta's commitment to accelerated activity in the area of public service and program planning and development had been tested in what Soror Noble called the crucible of social action. Dr. Noble stressed the need for women to become increasingly less social and more social action oriented. The success of the Dr. Betty Shaba Delta Academy, one of the sorority's signature programs created in 1996 out of an urgent sense that bold action was needed to save our young females (ages 11-14) from the perils of academic failure, low self-esteem, and crippled futures, gave incite to creating a new program that expanded the sorority's service to young women.

The Delta GEMS Institute is a continuum of services that address the needs of young African American women in grades 9 through 12 with a framework for the participants to discover and understand

DELTA G.E.M.S. Program Information

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a non-profit organization that seeks to provide service and programs to promote human welfare worldwide. Part of its mission is to positively impact the lives of today's youth. To these ends, the Sorority has national initiatives that target youth in elementary, middle, and high school. Among these efforts is the Delta G.E.M.S. (*Developing Effective Leadership Through Achieving, Growing, Empowering Myself Successfully*) Program.

Established in 2006, the Delta G.E.M.S. (formerly known as "Delteens") primarily focuses on teen girls between the ages of 14 and 18 who are in grades 9 through 12. The goals for the Program are:

- To promote positive social interactions
- To develop effective written and oral communication skills
- To encourage self-confidence, self-motivation, and self-discipline
- To foster meaningful public service, including mentoring and networking
- To strive for intellectual enrichment
- To assist with the exploration of various career paths and means for obtaining them (college and/or vocational skills training)
- To support talents in academics, technology, sports, and fine arts
- To maintain moral values and personal pride while experiencing the crossroads of life

The mission of the DELTA G.E.M.S. Committee is to provide young ladies with a firm structural program that will enhance their self-esteem, academic achievement, leadership skills, and cultural awareness. This, in turn, will provide them with the opportunity to develop emotionally, socially, intellectually and be prepared to take an active role in their success as they face the challenges of the world.

For 2014-2015, the goals and objectives of the DELTA G.E.M.S. Committee will be accomplished through a series of workshops and community service activities guided by the theme "**Self-Awareness.**" This principle will be explored using a series of workshops to include:

- Sister to Sister: A Professional Roundtable (Educational Preparedness)
- Giving of *Self* through Service (Social Responsibility Obtained through Community Service)
- Presenting *Yourself* to Others (Socialization)
- Loving Your Inner *Self* (Healthy Lifestyles)

The DELTA G.E.M.S. logo is likened to a gemologist who can see, through the use of certain tools, the hidden treasure in unpolished jewels. DELTA G.E.M.S. uses the polished jewels as a symbol of the facets that shine and glow within our young African-American women.

DELTA G.E.M.S. Participation

Participation Criteria

Enrollment into Delta G.E.M.S. is held once a year. The following criteria will be used to determine eligibility:

- Entering or attending high school in the fall (grades 9-12)
- Submit a completed application
- Submit two (2) letters of recommendation from one of the following:
 - Teacher or Guidance Counselor
 - Employer
 - Minister
 - A Sponsor / Advisor of any affiliation / organization
- Submit an unofficial copy of 4th Quarter Final Report Card with verifiable grade point average
- Submit with Parent Signature the "Agreement to Participate"
- A completed application (including a 250-300 word essay and completed forms)
- A commitment to attend scheduled meetings and activities

Tentative Activities

The following are potential activities to the organization's participation:

- Teen Community Forums/Teen Summits
- Presentations and Seminars
- Volunteer Hostess/Ushers
- Black History Month Observance
- Community Service
- Academic Testing Workshops, Updates, and Study Sessions
- Mother-Daughter Tea, Field Trips and End of Year Banquet/Awards Program

Code of Conduct

Participation in Delta G.E.M.S. requires a strong level of commitment and responsibility. All members are to adhere to a "Code of Conduct," which consists of policies and procedures that governs the organization. The "Code of Conduct" addresses in detail: attendance, participation, academic and disciplinary guidelines, voting, prerequisites for awards and recognition, etc. The "Code of Conduct" will be provided to every member of the program.

Motto

"I believe I can succeed, and because I believe I have!"

Delta G.E.M.S. Application Process: Important Dates and Deadlines

Selection Process

- All interested candidates should complete and submit a Delta G.E.M.S. application via mail by **August 28th**
- A completed application and required forms **MUST** be returned at the time the packet is submitted to be considered for participation.
- If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Gwen Starr at (912) 332-0786, Mrs. Genese Lane at (912) 432-2486, or email gemshac@gmail.com.

If selected for participation:

All **MUST** participate in the Student/Parent Orientation scheduled on **Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at 6PM at: Ameris Bank, 101 West Hendry Street, Hinesville, GA 31310**. Participants, please be prepared to have at least one parent or guardian or family member present to receive information and fill out any additional paperwork.

All meetings will be held on the **first Saturday of each month from 10 am to Noon** at: Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 1370 Shaw Road, Hinesville, GA 31313. **Dates with an asterisk (*) will be held from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at Bennett Union Baptist Church, 401 West Pine Street, Jesup, GA 31598.**

Meeting Dates and Location(s):

Delta G.E.M.S meetings for the 2014-2015 academic year will take place on the following dates:

September 2, 2015**	February 6, 2016
October 3, 2015 *	March 5, 2016
November 7, 2015	April 2, 2016
December 5, 2015	May 7, 2016 * (End of Year Celebration)
January 6, 2016 *	

Attendance is required for successful completion of the program. If you are able to attend a meeting, please contact: Ms. Gwen Starr at (912) 332-0786, Mrs. Genese Lane at (912) 432-2486 or email gemshac@gmail.com at least 24 hours prior to the activity.

If selected to become a member of the Delta G.E.M.S. sponsored by Hinesville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., I understand and agree to the following guidelines and expectations:

1. Participation in the Student/Parent Orientation and monthly sessions is mandatory.
2. Involvement and participation in all Delta G.E.M.S. activities are governed under the auspices of Hinesville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Delta G.E.M.S. Code of Conduct, Officers, and Committee Chairpersons.
3. Participation is strictly voluntary and requires a strong level of commitment.
4. Business casual attire is required for all workshops (unless otherwise instructed).
5. Members in good standing may continue participation until high school graduation.
6. Attendance at all regularly scheduled meetings and other planned activities are expected.
7. Cell phone usage is prohibited during workshops and/or field trips unless for emergencies.
8. All prescribed medications must have a prescription label visible from the pharmacy.
9. Appropriate behavior becoming a lady should be exemplified at all times.

SECTION 1: APPLICANT INFORMATION

Participant Information

Name: _____
Last First Middle Name or Initial

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____
As of 8/1/2014 Month Day Year

Address: _____
Street Number (Include Apartment Number)

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

T-Shirt Size (select one): XS [] S [] M [] L [] XL [] XXL []

Church Affiliation: _____

High School _____ Grade (2013-2014) _____ GPA _____

Are you a participant in the free/reduced lunch program? YES _____ NO _____

This will be my 1st [] 2nd [] 3rd [] 4th [] year participating in the Delta G.E.M.S. program.

How did you hear about the program? _____

Parent or Guardian Information

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) E- mail: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____ Cell Number: (____) _____

Personal Information

Is your mother a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.? Y N

Have you participated in any other Delta G.E.M.S. program? Y N

Have you participated with Delta Academy? Y N

Have you participated in any Delta Sigma Theta sponsored activities? Y N

Please place a check by each topic that may be of interest to you:

- College Attendance Fashion Tips Personal Hygiene Beauty Tips
- Healthy Relationships Technology Career Development Art/Music/Dance
- Financial Awareness Home Economics Sports/Outdoor Activities Peer Pressure/Bullying
- Diseases Affecting Youth Substance Abuse Prevention African-American Culture/History Other (educational or social)

Please specify: _____

What are your favorite and least favorite subjects? Explain why.

Describe your strengths and areas for development.

What are your current and future goals in high school and beyond?

Do you have any extracurricular or after-school activities? Hobbies and/or interests? If so, describe.

What would you hope to gain from being a part of the Delta G.E.M.S. program?

Describe one community service project Delta GEMS can participate in, please explain why you would like to do this community service project and how you and the other GEMS could start this project. (Think of something missing in YOUR community).

Provide a brief overview of any special awards received for academics, philanthropic, athletic and/or achievements.

Is there anything that would prevent you from fully participating in Delta G.E.M.S. Activities?

Are you currently employed? Y N If so, where? _____

How many hours do you work per week? _____ If no, do you plan to work? Y N

NEW APPLICANT ESSAY

Compose an essay-length response to the following question:

What are key qualities and characteristics that describe a young woman that is on her way to success? How will your participation in a program such as the Delta G.E.M.S. enable you to exhibit these qualities and characteristics?

Your response should be typed in 250 to 300 words in length and can be on a separate sheet of paper.

**Hinesville Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated
School Official Recommendation Form**

The applicant below has applied to participate in the Hinesville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Delta GEMS Program. The selection committee is seeking an appraisal of the applicant’s qualifications. The student’s demonstrated academic ability, scholarship, leadership, character, and other pertinent facts are welcomed evidence.

Specifically, you are asked to:

- (1) Indicate how long you have known the applicant and in what capacity
- (2) Assess the applicant’s character
- (3) Highlight the applicant’s involvement in school related activities, indicating leadership positions where applicable
- (4) Provide examples of applicant’s demonstration of strong academic ability/potential
- (5) Provide and other pertinent information that may assist with the selection committee’s final decision

Each letter of recommendation should be placed in a sealed envelope, signed across the seal and returned to the applicant to be included as part of the application package. This appraisal is confidential and will not be seen by the applicant. A separate sheet containing these instructions is included.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature/date: _____

I, _____, request that you complete this recommendation form, a requirement for my application for the Delta GEMS Program. I understand that by signing this form, I waive my right to access this information. However, I am not required to sign this waiver in order to be considered for the Delta GEMS Program.

Applicant Signature/Date: _____

**Hinesville Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated
Personal Recommendation Form**

The applicant below has applied to participate in the Hinesville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Delta GEMS Program. The selection committee is seeking an appraisal of the applicant’s qualifications. The student’s demonstrated academic ability, scholarship, leadership, character, and other pertinent facts are welcomed evidence.

Specifically, you are asked to:

- (1) Indicated how long you have known the applicant and in what capacity
- (2) Assess the applicant’s character
- (3) Highlight the applicant’s involvement in school related activities, indicating leadership positions where applicable
- (4) Provide examples of applicant’s demonstration of strong academic ability/potential
- (5) Provide and other pertinent information that may assist with the selection committee’s final decision

Each letter of recommendation should be placed in a sealed envelope, signed across the seal and returned to the applicant to be included as part of the application package. This appraisal is confidential and will not be seen by the applicant. A separate sheet containing these instructions is included.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature/date: _____

I, _____, request that you complete this recommendation form, a requirement for my application for the Delta GEMS Program. I understand that by signing this form, I waive my right to access this information. However, I am not required to sign this waiver in order to be considered for the Delta GEMS Program.

Applicant Signature/Date: _____

WAIVER AND RELEASE

I, _____, Parent/Guardian, on behalf of _____ (Delta G.E.M.S. Participant) do hereby release, waive, discharge, covenant not to sue and agree to hold harmless Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated ("Delta"), its officers, National; Executive Board, employees, members, local chapters, representatives, agents, affiliates, and assigns (collectively "Releasees"), from any and all claims, demands, and actions of any and every kind directly or indirectly arising out of, or relating in any respect to participate in the Delta G.E.M.S. program.

My waiver and release of all claims, demands, actions and liability shall include without limitation, any injury, illness, death, property damage or loss to the my daughter which may be caused by any act, or failure to act, by the Releasees, unless such injury, illness, death, property damage or loss is a direct result of the willful misconduct of any Releasee.

I understand that, without limitation of the foregoing, neither Delta, nor the Program, shall be liable and each is hereby released from all claims that may arise from loss or damage to my Delta G.E.M.S. participant's personal property.

Parent/Guardian's SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's PRINTED Name: _____

STUDENT/PARENT AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE

We have read and agree with all the information provided for the DELTA G.E.M.S. Program sponsored by the Hinesville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. If (our/my) child is selected for participation into the DELTA G.E.M.S. Program, please accept (our/my) signature(s) as (our/my) consent to have her participate. You may count on (us/me) for support and assistance whenever appropriate.

Student SIGNATURE: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Student PRINTED Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's SIGNATURE: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Parent/Guardian's PRINTED Name: _____

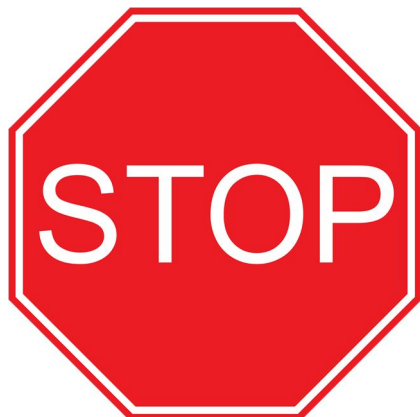
PARENT/GUARDIAN STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I, Parent/Guardian, under penalty of perjury, do hereby affirm to the Hinesville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated that I authorize the participation of my daughter (the student whose name is listed above) permission to participate in the Delta G.E.M.S. program. I have the legal authority to provide my consent and authorization for such participation.

My child's participation in the Delta G.E.M.S. program is completely voluntary. Delta G.E.M.S. is committed to providing the best possible climate for maximum development and achievement of goals for all student participants. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Hinesville Alumnae Chapter and its related entities will make every effort to protect the welfare of the Delta G.E.M.S. participants; however, the program committee members are not responsible for ensuring the physical, mental, social and medical health of program participants. As a parent/guardian, I am responsible for the welfare of my child. The Delta G.E.M.S. committee may suspend a student's participation if their behavior does not reflect the spirit of the program.

Parent/Guardian's SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's PRINTED Name: _____



Is your application complete? Please make sure you have all parts of your application packet listed below included before mailing:

- Application (Pages 6 – 8)
- New Applicant Essay (Page 9)
- Two Letters of Recommendation (Pages 10 - 11)
- Waiver & Release (Page 12)
- Participation Permission (Page 13)
- Unofficial Report Card

Please mail your completed application to the Education Committee at the address listed below:

**Education Committee
c/o Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated
Hinesville Alumnae Chapter
Attn: Delta G.E.M.S.
P. O. Box 1981
Hinesville, GA 31310**

Please feel free to contact the Hinesville Alumnae Delta GEMS Chair for more information.