

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
A public-service sorority
Tucson Alumnae Chapter

All Photographs by Soror Dena Munch

Photo #1 Cutline: **Soror Taneya Walker, left, supervises Delta Academy girls during ice-cream-making activity.**

Photo #2 Cutline: **Delta Academy girls participate in basketball drills during the health and wellness workshop at McKale Center.**

Photo #3 Cutline: **UA Women's Basketball Coach Niya Butts offers one-on-one instruction during Delta Academy Tucson's health and wellness workshop at McKale Center.**

Photo #4 Cutline: **Members of Tucson Alumnae Chapter, from left, Pamela Busch, Constance Richardson, Christine Brown, Charlotte Ned, Veonica Greene, Levette McEaddy and Rosanne Neal.**

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Delta Academy Tucson completes first session

**By Chyrl Hill Lander
Tucson Alumnae Chapter**

The recently completed Fall Session of Delta Academy Tucson featured an ice-cream-making workshop and a field trip to McKale Center on The University of Arizona campus.

Delta Academy is a nationally recognized leadership program sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta that encourages minority girls between the ages of 11 and 14 years to pursue opportunities within the fields of math, science, technology and engineering. The sorority's Tucson Alumnae Chapter offers Delta Academy programs in Tucson and Sierra Vista.

Between 15 and 45 girls participated in the Tucson academy based at the Jim and Vicki Click Boys and Girls Club. The five-week session focused on math, health and fitness, science, and technology. The session concluded with the girls completing a community service project. Additionally, language and public-speaking skills were addressed at each workshop.

“We were so happy to be able to partner with the Boys and Girls Club to offer one of our sorority’s signature programs,” said Soror Pamela Busch, chair of Delta Academy Tucson. “We were warmly received by Anayeli Hernandez, the center’s youth development specialist, who thanked us for providing such a wonderful experience for the girls.”

Fifteen girls participated in the science workshop, the first of the Fall Session. “The science activities were messy, but girls and Deltas had a great time. The biggest hit was the ice-cream-making table. At the conclusion of the workshop, the girls reviewed the scientific principles that were demonstrated at each table,” said Soror Busch.

Forty-five girls from six Boys and Girls Clubs participated in a special workshop on health and wellness at McKale Center on The University of Arizona campus. Led by Coach Niya Butts of the UA Women’s Basketball Team, girls were taught basketball techniques by UA players. After the drills the girls were treated to a tour of the locker room. As a final highlight, the girls and Deltas visited the Jim Click Hall of Champions in McKale, where the UA’s athletic trophies, awards and memorabilia are displayed. Delta Academy girls were given an opportunity to ask questions of the team members during the workshop. “It was a great opportunity for the girls to visit a college campus,” said Soror Busch. As a closing gesture, Coach Butts, Soror and a member of Tucson Alumnae, gave each girl an official basketball to take home.

Math was featured at the workshop that followed the outing to McKale Center. “Several of the girls who attended the session at McKale came with their basketballs!! Sophia Barajas wore a UA ribbon in her hair and she thanked us for allowing her to attend the session at McKale,” said Soror Busch. During the workshop, 18 girls rotated through four math centers, which proved challenging for both girls and Deltas.

The technology workshop was divided into two 45-minute presentations; one emphasizing the role of an engineer, the other highlighting computer games. Through "Feet of Engineering," the girls were challenged to design a shoe prototype. They followed a traditional engineering approach of design, build, test, and communicate. In the computer lab the girls practiced typing competitively. They also completed an online scavenger hunt. Twenty girls participated.

Delta Academy girls made gifts for the homeless during their final session at the Boys and Girls Club. “We provided all the tools to make washcloth gift bags and the toiletries to fill each bag, such as soap, toothpaste and a toothbrush,” said Soror Busch. The director of the Women’s Shelter was pleased with the bags because they contained every item necessary for an emergency, said Soror Busch.

A five-week Winter Session of Delta Academy Tucson begins the week of Jan. 7, 2013. The Spring Session begins in April. Both sessions will follow the same format as the Fall Session but they will convene in Tucson churches.

Delta Academy is offered without charge and parent participation is encouraged. For more information on upcoming sessions, call Soror Busch at (520) 884-7066.

Soror Lorraine Hill Richardson is president of Tucson Alumnae Chapter. Serving on the Delta Academy Tucson Committee with Soror Busch are Sorors Taneya Walker, Christine Brown, Constance Richardson, Niya Butts, E.C. Hill, Dena Munch, Robin Elaiho, Charlotte Ned and Dedra Clark.

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