

DELTA BETA CHAPTER XINOS AND KUDOS LEAD AT REGIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE



Delta Beta Xinos 2019-2020

Starting at the bottom, going left to right, 1st Row: Audrianna Fowler, Maya Crawford, Kaylen Owens, Taliyah Williams; 2nd Row: Taniyah Her-ring, Trinity Davis, Kennedy Carter; 3rd Row: Jayda Adams, Erica Shepard, Hannah Austin, Jaylin Scott; 4th Row: Simone Sears, Nyana Bonner, Gasheaya Youman (President), Moriah Leonard, Moniscia Blaylark; Not Pictured: Marnique Nellie.



Delta Beta Kudos 2019-2020

Left to Right - Squatting: Jonathan Porter, Jamal Hardin, Jamir Scott (President) Standing: Juanel Sippio, Sam Hill, Barrington Miles, Artist Tyson, Rico Fresch II

AUSTIN, TX - The Xinos and Kudos of the Delta Beta Chapter (Austin, Texas) of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. (NSPDK, Inc.) demonstrated leadership and focus during their recent regional youth conference. The Xinos (girls) and Kudos (boys) are in grades 9th thru 12th. NSPDK, Inc. is a professional non-profit organization of active and retired female educators committed to the pursuit of excellence in education as they mentor, tutor and support the youth of the United States of America. NSPDK, Inc. encourages the development and potential of our youth while providing a welcoming, respectful, and inclusive environment for our Xinos and Kudos.

Hosted by the Delta Epsilon Chapter Xinos and Kudos of Dallas, Texas, the 47th Xinos and 37th Kudos Southwest Regional Conference was held February 28 – March 1, 2020 at the Omni Mandalay Hotel at Las Colinas in Irving, Texas. Approximately 300 students from four states, under the guidance and supervision of member sponsors and HUB parent chaperones, participated in general sessions, development workshops, and competitions in academic excellence, informative speaking, music, art, dance, volleyball, basketball and presentation of activity books.

National President Dr. Etta F. Carter states, "The theme for this conference: **"20/20 Vision:**

The Future in Focus" is one that encourages youth to march into this new decade with clear vision. They are encouraged to remember not to be deceived by the glitz and glamour of untruths. Additionally, they are encouraged to practice using their God-given talents and resources to discern situations, not being hasty in decision-making, but taking time to FOCUS on making the best decisions."

Southwest Regional Director Anita O'Neal (Gamma Tau Chapter, San Antonio, Texas) states, "This year we are trying to instill in the mind of all of our youth to enhance their leadership skills as they develop through life. Value each session that you attend and always remember at least one key fact from each session. The Southwest Region will emerge, enhance and embrace youth, education and service."

Delta Beta Chapter (Austin, Texas) Xinos earned the following recognitions: Kennedy Carter—*Academic Excellence*; Moniscia Blaylark and Kaylen Owens—*Volleyball—1st Place*; Xinos Activity Book—*2nd Place*; Xinos Step Show—*2nd Place*; *Most Xinos in Attendance*; and *Best Dressed Xinos (new category)*.

Delta Beta Chapter Kudos earned the following recognitions: Sam Hill and Juanel Sippio—*Academic Excellence*; Artist Tyson—*Informative Speaking—2nd Place*; Jonathan Porter—*Music—3rd Place*; Jamal Hardin—*Basketball—2nd Place*;

and Barrington Miles—*Basketball—3rd Place*.

Special recognition goes to *Regional Ambassadors* Simone Sears, Jamir Scott, Erica Shepard and Moriah Leonard; *Regional Choir* participants Sam Hill, Moriah Leonard and Erica Shepard; *Black History Bowl* participants Jaylin Scott, Jamir Scott, Juanel Sippio and Artist Tyson; and the **newly elected Regional Officers**—Erica Shepard—Xinos Vice President; Moriah Leonard—Xinos Chaplain; and Artist Tyson—Kudos President.

Heartfelt gratitude and appreciation is extended to the Xinos Sponsor, *Dorcas Seals*; Kudos Sponsor, *Brenda Kay Fowler*; Delta Beta members and HUB parents for their untiring support of our youth throughout the school year, and for preparing our youth for their regional conference. Special "thank you" to member *Bobbie Bolen* for serving as Xinos Sponsor at the Youth Conference in the absence of Dorcas Seals who had a family emergency during this time.

Delta Beta Chapter **Xinos and Kudos**—you are our future global scholars and leaders destined for greatness!! As you move forward in this new decade, may your vision be God-inspired, laser-focused, and may you carry out a legacy of excellence in your future endeavors.

For information about membership into NSPDK, Inc. and its affiliate groups, please contact Delta Beta Chapter President Estelle Brooks at (512) 940-6741 or email esbrooks55@aol.com.

Parents' Guide to Getting Kids Through This Extended Spring Break

DEFENDER NEWS NETWORK - As districts around the state and across the country continue to grapple with how to proceed in this unprecedented challenge to public health and education, the Houston Independent School District supports the nation's need to flatten the curve of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As such, HISD will extend its districtwide closure through Friday, April 10. All schools and offices are scheduled to reopen on Monday, April 13.

District administration will re-evaluate on Monday, April 6, to determine whether a longer closure beyond April 10 will be necessary. The district also will provide more information about online learning and alternative education later this week.

With schools and universities across Texas extending breaks or making students take online classes after the

break, kids will be at home longer than parents expected.

Below are some tips from experts and from people who homeschool their kids or work remotely on a regular basis to help parents get through this time of social distancing.

What are some activities we can do during and after the break?

Here are 10 simple and fun activities you can do with items found around the house, recommended by mom blogger Laura M. from Houston Moms Blog:

Painters tape roadway. Kill an easy hour or two by grabbing some painters tape and creating a roadway. You can cart out boxes to act as attached garages, construction site playsets for the roads to wind around, and occasionally even a toy farmhouse for the trucks to visit on their routes. Don't have any painters tape? No problem. A similar effect can



be achieved with string or strips of construction paper. Just get inventive and have some fun!

Nature scavenger hunts. Feeling cooped up? Head outside and get your kids involved in a scavenger hunt through nature. Compile a list of items for them to look for like an acorn, a large green leaf, a yellow flower or a funny shaped twig and have your kids take turns checking them off. Don't feel like coming up with a list on your own? Ask them to look for one item in every

color of the rainbow. This not only adds an extra challenge but helps little ones work on their color recognition as well. And don't forget to bring a basket to collect all their treasures in!

Bowling with blocks. Find your toddlers and preschoolers are getting a little wound up and on the verge of destroying your house? Have them channel that energy into destroying block towers instead. Step 1 – round up all their building blocks and help them construct a

few towers of varying heights and shapes. Step 2 – give them a ball and let them go crazy trying to knock them over. Guaranteed shrieks of joy and hilarity. Added bonus, they can pass a good chunk of time rebuilding the towers in different configurations. Don't worry if you don't have any wooden blocks laying around. Simply use plastic cups, Tupperware or empty snack containers instead.

A-B-C search. One fun game that both keeps kids occupied and

counts as an educational activity for those moms missing the benefits of preschool, is an alphabet search around the house. Go through each letter of the alphabet one by one and have the kids try to find an object corresponding with that letter.

Obstacle course. When my kids start trying to wrestle with one another and nearly take out my favorite planters, I know it's time to do a high energy activity to get out their excess energy. That's when I go around the house collecting empty laundry baskets, hula hoops, couch cushions, pool noodles, play tunnels, chairs and anything else that looks interesting to create an obstacle course. Challenge your kids to jump from one item to the other, crawl under tables, and follow the course from one room to another. It gets the wiggles out and makes for a fun afternoon of family frivolity.