



## PROGRAM GENERAL INFORMATION

### Who is Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity?

Alpha Phi Alpha, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African-Americans, has served the community through various programs based on the principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity. The DeKalb-based Chapter of Alpha (Nu Mu Lambda) has been involved in youth programs and provision of scholarships since 1980.

### What is Young Men of Excellence?

Young Men of Excellence (YME) is the chapter's mentoring program under the organization's national initiative of *Go to High School, Go to College*. The mission is to develop positive attitudes and essential life skills that expand the interests of African-American young men ages 10-17 in college and other professional pursuits through team mentoring, field trips and community involvement.

### YME Core Values

**U**nderstanding  
**P**urpose  
**W**isdom  
**A**ssertiveness  
**R**esponsibility  
**D**iligence

### Is this like Big Brothers Big Sisters?

YME uses a **team mentoring** model with volunteers (typically members of Alpha) are assigned a group of mentees. This is not a one-on-one mentoring program similar to Big Brothers Big Sisters.

### Mentoring Sessions

YME is composed of:

- One-hour mentoring sessions on the first and third Thursdays of each month at the student's school
- 2.5 hours of enrichment mentoring for one Saturday each month (Sep-May) at Big Miller Grove Missionary Baptist Church
- 1 community service projects (3 per year) or field trip activity (5 per year) each month
- 1 induction ceremony (December)

Field trips and community service may be combined with enrichment mentoring sessions. The frequency of the events and schedule are subject to change to accommodate the schedule of the school or Alpha.

### **How often do students have to participate?**

Students are expected to participate in 90% of all events. Parents are expected to participate in 2 of 3 parent workshops per year. **Low participation may result in expulsion of your child into the program.**

Field trips and community service projects require formal written permission for each event. Students cannot participate in events without parent permission.

A calendar is available of the event dates, times and locations.

### **Application Process**

The YME application process occurs within the first 30 days of the school year. Parents are encouraged to attend the information session to complete the application onsite, meet Alpha members and tell the potential students our expectations. Input from school personnel weighs heavily in the selection process. Selected students are given an official acceptance letter to participate in YME. There is no application fee.

Once we have started, new students cannot be added to the program.

### **YME is not a program for the bad kids.**

YME is composed of students who do well academically and other students who need some more encouragement in their overall performance. This is not a program for “bad kids” with poor grades and behavior. We want a good mixture of different types of students who will learn from us as well as each other.

### **Returning YME Students**

If a student participated in YME in the previous year, he is eligible to participate the following school year. This also includes YME students who transitioned from elementary school to a participating YME middle school. If he was a YME participant at Panola Way ES but is now at a non-participating middle school, he may continue YME as long as he is able to participate fully in the program.

### **The Induction Ceremony for New YME Students**

Until a child completes the initial induction ceremony, he officially will be a Young Man in Training.

### **About the Mentors**

- Members of Alpha who have consistent contact with YME mentees undergo the background protocols requested by the principal of each school.
- Alpha members who are current or former employees of the DeKalb County School System are active in the mentoring, development and oversight of the program.

- Resumes of mentors are available upon request. Parents may contact us as well.
- Mentors are not allowed to have any contact with YME outside official YME or Alpha events. This includes in person, by phone or by electronic media (i.e. Facebook, email, message boards, etc.).
- Mentors do not provide transportation in their personal vehicles.
- Any mentor out of compliance will be removed from the program. YME personnel will inform the schools, parents and advisory board of the incident.

### **Advisory Board**

The advisory board is a group of individuals, suggested by the YME planning committee and approved by the Nu Mu Lambda Chapter (NML) of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. for the purpose of offering advice and support on a wide range of issues relevant to the YME. These issues are likely to include areas such as partnerships, public relations, financing, technology, administration and more. Principals of participating schools have an automatic membership of the board. The principal may designate other school personnel to represent the school.

### **Is this a free program?**

In general, yes it is. There is no fee for your student to join. We actively try to fundraise and get donations to meet the needs of the students. However, there may be occasions or trips that require minimal money for children to purchase lunches and/or a part of their events tickets.

### **Transportation**

Alpha does not provide transportation in the personal vehicles of its members. Contracted or in-kind vans or buses will be provided to students for some field trips. Some events will require parents to provide transportation. Some travel may require the use of MARTA.

### **Pictures**

We love taking pictures! Parents must sign photo release agreement as part of the application. Photos can be seen at [www.facebook.com/dekalbalphas](http://www.facebook.com/dekalbalphas).

### **Questions?**

Contact YME Director Reynaldo Green at 404-936-1919 or [ymedekalb@gmail.com](mailto:ymedekalb@gmail.com). You may also contact your school's Prevention Intervention Specialist for more information.

### **Our Partners**

Panola Way Elementary School  
 Miller Grove Middle School  
 Big Miller Grove Missionary Baptist Church  
 Charles H. Wesley Education Foundation  
 Mu Alpha Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. — Emory University  
 Zeta Mu Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. — Georgia State University \*  
 More to come!

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