

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated
AKArama Foundation, Inc.
Target I – Educational Enrichment/ ASCEND
Members Meeting ~ November 3,2016
Chairman – Erica E. Ford

The ASCEND Committee has met the last Sunday of each month (September & October). Here is a summary of what we have done:

- September was our welcome meeting. We introduced parents and students to our program and the committee. There was a presentation on college and financial aid. The students decided on a community service project. They will be making hygiene kits for the homeless and will be collecting supplies from now until December. Members are encouraged to donate travel sized hygiene supplies such as: soap, lotion, mouthwash, toothpaste, toothbrush, socks, wash cloth, etc.
- In early October, we took to the students to a college fair hosted by 100 Black Men at the UIC Pavilion. Students and their families were able to speak to college representative's and gain valuable information. At our most recent meeting, we focused on HBCU's. A few members were on the panel and spoke to the students about their HBCU experience and encouraged an open dialogue where the students could ask questions. We also had a member present on healthcare in our community, globally and ways we can get involved.

In November we will be getting started with one of our SMART Camp projects and will be continuing with them into 2017. We were also planning on having our second cultural activity but it will have to be moved to January due to the holiday. In December we are planning on taking the students to a restaurant where they will be given the opportunity to dress up and fellowship in a fun, festive outing. Restaurant is to be determined.

Our first meeting only consisted of 3 students (all new students) but our meeting in October consisted of 7 (4 returning students from last year and 3 new students). One of our students is a Senior, four students are juniors, and two students are a sophomore. I encourage everyone to invite their children, grandchildren, cousins and friends to attend at least one of our sessions.

As a committee we have applications and informational materials that are available if anyone knows any students that may be interested.

Our next meeting with the students will be Sunday, November 20th at the Center from 2-5pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erica E. Ford, Chairman