

The 9/11 Week of Service



September 10-13, 2007
Delta State University & Nailor Elementary

Delta State and Nailor Elementary Collaborate to Commemorate 9/11

To honor and commemorate the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks, Delta State University's Delta Center for Culture and Learning partnered with H.M. Nailor Elementary for a week-long service-learning project. The project, now in its sixth year, brought over 200 Delta State freshmen into 22 Nailor classes. The Delta State students were all enrolled in a course entitled, "Emerging Scholars (GST 100)." To coincide with the Year of Delta Heritage, classroom activities focused on the rich heritage of the Mississippi Delta. Delta State students also worked on school beautification projects.

"The project introduces new Delta State students to the Cleveland community and will hopefully spark a desire in the students to be active members of this community during their time at Delta State," according to John Heggen, the Delta Center's Coordinator for Civic Engagement. "I would like to thank all the teachers, students, and staff at Nailor for allowing us to come into their school and for their assistance during the project. I would also like to thank the GST students and teachers for participating and making the week such a success."

Classroom activities were grade-specific. Younger students read a book with a Delta State student and colored. 1st and 2nd graders worked on the Delta Foodways workbook, which explores and teaches about the Delta's food heritage. Upper grades completed a Delta-themed word search and played a game with the vocabulary introduced by the word search. The Delta State students who worked on school beautification painted playground equipment and trash cans. By the end of the week, over 200 volunteer hours had been logged by Delta State students.

Classroom Activities

Most of the Delta State students visited Nailor classrooms and were able to interact with the Nailor students. Depending on class size, DSU students paired with one or two Nailor students. In the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes, DSU students read a book on colors to the Nailor students. The Nailor students kept the books to add to their personal libraries. The books were provided by the Delta Center for Culture and Learning. After reading, DSU students helped the Nailor students color a picture of SpongeBob. In the 1st and 2nd grade classes, DSU students helped Nailor students work through the Delta Foodways



workbook. The workbook, which was created by the Delta Center for Culture and



Learning, teaches about food heritage in the Mississippi Delta. Students learned about where the foods they eat come from as well as nutrition. Additionally, the workbook is a great introduction to immigration, as Nailor students learned how the diverse types of food came to the Delta. In the 3rd through 6th grade classes, the Nailor students completed a Delta Heritage word search. After finding a word, students would flip the

page over and find its definition in the glossary. The DSU students helped explain the concepts introduced by the word search. After the students had completed the word search, a game was played using the vocabulary in the word search.

School Beautification



During the 9/11 Week of Service, Delta State students also engaged in activities aimed at enhancing the appearance of the school. To accomplish this, some Delta State students painted playground equipment and trash cans at the school.



The result was a more vibrant place for the Nailor students to play. The paint and the brushes were provided by Nailor Elementary.

Survey Results

After completing their service, Delta State students were asked to fill out a brief survey. 214 Delta State freshmen participated, which is 45% of the freshman class. 95% of those students indicated that participation in the 9/11 Week of Service had made them more likely to volunteer in the future. Over 99% stated that they believed that it is important to be involved in the community. One student wrote, “The interaction was great and their



smiles when we left will be memorable. It was so much fun, and I look forward to more opportunities like this!" Another wrote, "This service experience was a joy. We sat and read to the students then we helped them color. The smiles on their little face were something I will remember. I love this!" Finally, one student wrote, "I enjoyed this. Your kids are wonderful and outgoing."

Appendix

- Delta Word Search (2 pages)
- Game to be used with Delta Word Search (1 page)
- Student Survey (1 page)
- Sign-In Sheet (1 page)

Delta Word Search

N C I P X D R K N J L U T B C M
O I X O P C M P O L T A S I I N
I V U Z R U M C T H X W H S O Q
T I S M N F O L T J S T S S Z G
A L R E M A H U O L E I N N A F
R R E T Y V B M C H S H F T P S
G I A P V O Y Z O S O G V T E T
I G Y U J B S T I J S C N U A R
M H A A S L T P T U K H L I I C
T T L O X A P R A T Z B V Q P J
A S G E M I E C V W I V N V V I
E A M A D B T L O N W J A N U G
R Q L E O H W X J E L Y C S R W
G E L R U L D S X J Z U C T H R
S T F R E E D O M S U M M E R E
A L P U O Y A B D N U O M N I F

Word Bank

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blues | <input type="checkbox"/> Hot tamales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cotton | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Johnson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Migration | <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Rights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mound Bayou | <input type="checkbox"/> Freedom Summer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catfish | <input type="checkbox"/> Mississippi Delta |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fannie Lou Hamer | |

Glossary

Blues – a genre of music and uniquely American art form that was originated by black Americans in the Mississippi Delta in the early 20th century and is now known around the world. Typically arranged in a 12 bar structure and melancholy, the Blues has influenced jazz, rock and roll, and hip hop.

Catfish – a type of fish that is raised by Delta farmers. Commercial catfish farming in the Delta began in the 1960's.

Civil Rights – rights given to all citizens by law. The Civil Rights Movement in America was the fight to extend civil rights to all Americans regardless of race.

Cotton – the first staple crop grown in the Delta, cotton was one of the most important commodities in the world until the development of synthetic fibers.

Fannie Lou Hamer – a Civil Rights activist from Ruleville who fought for the rights of black Americans to vote. She is famous for saying that she was “sick and tired of being sick and tired.”

Freedom Summer – a campaign in 1964 to register black Mississippians to vote

Great Migration – primarily from 1910 to 1930, it was largest peace time migration in history. Millions of people left the South and the Mississippi Delta for northern cities like Chicago, Detroit and Cleveland.

hot tamales – a Delta treat made of corn meal and meat wrapped in a corn husk

Mississippi Delta – an area in northwest Mississippi between the Mississippi and Yazoo rivers, the birthplace of the Blues, home of King Cotton, and one of the last American frontiers

Mound Bayou – located a few miles north of Cleveland, the town of Mound Bayou was founded by former slaves in 1887 as an all-black utopian community

Robert Johnson – despite only recording 29 songs, Robert Johnson is one of the most famous Bluesman from the Delta. Legend has it that he traded his soul to the devil for his musical ability.

Alternate between teams for questions 1-6. A correct answer if the team asked the question is worth 100 points. If the team asked misses, the other team may steal. If correct, they score 150 points. After going through questions 1-6, the teams wager for the final question. They will then write down their answer, which you will read. If correct, they score the amount of their wager. If incorrect, their wager is subtracted from their total. High score wins.

1. What type or genre of music originated in the Mississippi Delta? *The Blues*
2. Who was sick and tired of being sick and tired? *Fanny Lou Hamer*
3. What crop was initially grown in the Delta? *Cotton*
4. What was the name of the campaign to register black voters in 1964? *Freedom Summer*
5. Millions of people left the South and the Delta for northern cities during what? *The Great Migration*
6. Also known as the King of the Delta Blues, who allegedly sold his soul to the devil? *Robert Johnson*

Final Question

Agriculture in the Delta is no longer just cotton. What, in addition to rice, soy beans, and corn, are raised by farmers in the Delta? *catfish*

