

SEE Program Description & Learning Objectives

The Delta Research & Education Foundation (DREF) is proposing to implement a five-year **Science and Everyday Experiences (SEE) Initiative**. The objective of this Initiative is to develop and implement a Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's informal science education initiative to help parents and caregivers of African American elementary and middle (K-8) school age children to develop effective ways to support children's informal science and mathematics learning experiences.

Partners in this community-based science effort will include the **American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)**, **Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR) Programs; Radio One, Inc**, a conglomerate of 51 radio stations in urban and African American markets; and **The Afro-American Newspaper Company of Baltimore and its affiliated newspapers** (circulation 6.5 million).

Components of the SEE Initiative include:

Leadership and professional development activities to both prepare and mobilize the members of the 800+ Chapters to serve as life-long informal science education learners and organizers for family and community and science events or as parent educators.

Communications and promotional activities will include a 30-minute science radio talk show airing on Radio One, Inc. stations; inquiry-based science activities in kids and family sections of the Afro-American Newspaper of Baltimore and affiliated African American newspapers; and a web site, www.deltasee.org.

Print materials will include brochures, science-inquiry activity cards for families, and manuals for trainers.

Evaluation will examine changes in Sorority member's attitudes and perceptions towards science and science education; knowledge gained about educational strategies; changes in programs offered by Delta chapters; and effectiveness of the radio and print materials. Data will be kept on events and promotions.

Look for information about SEE @ <http://www.deltasee.org>.

Objectives for the SEE Leadership Development Workshop

The objectives for SEE Leadership Development Workshops are to prepare members to serve as advocates and organizers for informal science education activities and events for children and families. Learning objectives for the workshops include:

- Gain a better understanding of informal science education and science inquiry and how both support in-school science.
- Understand how science is connected to everyday experiences.
- Developing, conducting and evaluating informal science education community activities and events with children and families, as part of on-going events and programs.
- Encouraging family-based informal science education practices, including keeping a family informal science journal.

After the training workshops, Chapter members will be ready to organize and set up the following types of SEE informal science community events:

- SEE Sundays at churches, which include setting up informal science activity tables at church-based functions or programs.
- SEE activity tables at community fairs, Black Family Reunions, city-wide festivals, shopping malls, grocery stores, hair salons, and barber shops.
- SEE science carnivals or engineering design competitions at colleges and universities or community and church sites.
- SEE days at libraries or for scouts, preschools, after-school programs, PTAs or school assemblies.
- SEE days in African-American museums.
- SEE field trips to science museums, zoos, planetariums, and botanical gardens.
- SEE special events with public radio or television shows.

What Does SEE Expect Children and Families to Learn & Do

Through the **Science and Everyday Experiences (SEE) Initiative**, we expect children and families to:

- Gain a better understanding of informal science education and science inquiry and how both support in-school science learning.
- Understand how science is connected to everyday experiences.

Children and their families can learn more about science by:

- Visiting science museums, zoos, botanical gardens, planetariums, and other science centers.
- Watching children or adult science television shows.
- Listening to science radio shows.
- Exploring science topics using resources in the local library, including books, the Internet, and other resources.
- Doing family science experiments and projects.
- Reading science newspaper articles.

Parents and guardians can foster informal science learning by:

- Keeping a family informal science journal of experiments and other activities, including pictures.
- Enrolling kids in science camps, workshops, or other programs.
- Conducting informal science activities at family events, including family reunions and birthday parties.
- Buying science toys and books.
- Encouraging children to participate in science competitions, including science fairs and essay competitions.
- Encouraging children to earn science scout badges.