



Facet Meeting Summary: October 2026

Facet Name: Services to Youth

Meeting Date/Time/Location: Thursday, October 1, 2026, 7p via Zoom

Meeting Attendees: Raven Hill, Chair; Carol Ann Smith, Vice Chair; Chinyere Watson, Scholarship Chair; Melanie Brown, Nikiah Dawson, Vivian Lawyer, Daria Willis

SUMMARY:

National Updates

- **National HBCU Homecoming Challenge Launch:** The Links, Incorporated launched a \$250,000 national fundraising challenge for chapters and members in support of historically Black colleges and universities. In celebration of the Links 80th anniversary, members are encouraged to support the Thurgood Marshall College Fund with an \$80 donation, payable by check, online or text-to-give.
- **Sept. 14 National Programming Webinar Recap**
 - STY priorities: Literacy, STEM education and career pathways, HBCU support
 - *Connect 5* programming framework encourages chapters to think more intentionally about connections among facets — move from working in silos to leveraging collaborations, resources and impact.

Area Updates

- **Sept. 17 Bimonthly Committee Meeting**
 - Reviewed STEM partnerships: NSBE Jr. and Thurgood Marshall College Fund
 - Announced upcoming opportunities to serve as mentors for monthly student engagement sessions (details forthcoming).
- **Upcoming events & activities**
 - Oct. 7 Linked in Civics! | 8p Zoom
 - Oct. 9: International Day of the Girl Summit at the UN
 - Oct. 10 World Mental Health Day
 - Oct. 15: EA STEM Toolkit Release, HBCU Presidents Video — Delaware State University
 - Oct. 24: UN Day with UN-USA
 - Dec. 15: HBCU Presidents Video: Morgan State University
 - Jan. 18: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service
 - Feb. 11: EmpowerHer Webinar: International Day of Women / Girls in Science
 - Feb. 15: HBCU Presidents Video: Virginia State University
 - TBD: Model UN Simulation Day registration deadline
 - ATTACHED | [Eastern Area Program Calendar](#)

Chapter Updates

- The first Linked to Wellness webinar for the 2026-2027 cycle will be held Sunday, October 18, 3p. Promotional materials are forthcoming. The webinars are open to all college students, so we encourage you to spread the word in your personal and family networks. Topic: *The Ballot & The Brain: Protecting Your Peace on the Road to Election Day*
 - REGISTER: tinyurl.com/LinkedtoWellness1026
- We are exploring next steps for our partnership with the Masonville Cove Links WildSTEM Internship Program to identify opportunities for strengthening the connection to our service area and increasing member involvement outside of the summer months. The areas under exploration include reserving an internship slot for a Howard County native, partnering with Robinson Nature Center on programming, promoting the internship to Maryland HBCUs, and allowing chapter members to serve on the selection committee.

Upcoming Meetings

- October 28, November 18, December 9 | 7 p.m.
- ZOOM INFO | [Meeting link](#) | Meeting ID: 854 1750 2828 | Passcode: 613505

Key Dates & Deadlines

- October — HBCU Homecoming Month and Fundraising Campaign
- December — National Month of Service: Early Childhood Literacy

EA 2026-207 Program Calendar

SEPTEMBER	
1	<i>Celebrate Black History Month 2026-2027</i> (Plan a Chapter Activity each month)
23	<i>Linked in Civics</i> Webinar-Links Only (8pm)
26	“Walk for Healthy Living”
30	Virtual Rally, <i>Maximizing Black Voter Turnout in 2026</i> (Collaborative Event to Get Out the Vote featuring Marc H. Morial and Al Sharpton, moderated by Symone Sanders-Townsend)
TBD	Rollout to EA Community: New Maternal Mental Health Program in Partnership with Mother Zion Church
OCTOBER	
1	Breast Cancer Awareness Month - Release of PSA
1	EA HBCU Capital Campaign Begins- Donation Portal Opens
1	<i>Celebrate Black History Month 2026-2027</i> (Plan a Chapter Activity each month)
2-3	EA Leadership Summit (Gaylord National Harbor)
9	International Day of the Girls Summit at the UN (Introduce girls and Chapters to advocacy at the international level)
14	Link Lisa’s Listening Wednesday – Introduction of the EA Book, <i>Unheard No More</i>
15	Release of EA STEM Toolkit
15	HBCU President’s Video – Delaware State University
15	<i>Flex Our Green</i> – Targeted Reminder to Support Black Businesses
19	Domestic Violence Awareness Month – PSA Release
21	<i>Understanding the Service Delivery Model</i> Webinar
24	UN Day with UN-USA (Intro 8 college students to international careers)

25	EA Joint Webinar with London (UK) Chapter in celebration of UK Black History Month
31	NSBE, Jr. Chartering Deadline
Date TBD	EA Links Curated Learning Trip to UN – Partnership with UNA-USA Women & UNA-USA (bringing together policy holders, partners, and missions)
NOVEMBER	
1	<i>Celebrate Black History Month 2026-2027</i> (Plan a Chapter Activity each month)
9	Founders’ Day
15	Deadline for EA Facets to Submit Program Proposals for Area Conference
19	<i>Beyond the Ballot</i> Webinar (part of the series) – a Post Mid-term Elections Discussion
14-16	Donor Sabbath Weekend (educational activities around organ and blood donations)
DECEMBER	
1	<i>Celebrate Black History Month 2026-2027</i> (Plan a Chapter Activity each month) (NTS)
15	<i>Flex Our Green</i> – Targeted Reminder to Support Black Businesses
15	HBCU President’s Video: Morgan State University
16	<i>Are You Ready to File Your Chapter Program Report?</i> Webinar
JANUARY 2027	
1	<i>Celebrate Black History Month 2026-2027</i> (Plan a Chapter Activity each month) (NTS)
5	Call to Conference (Eastern Area Conference)
18	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Day of community service

FEBRUARY	
1	Deadline for Chapters' Submission of Annual Program Reports to National
1-28	<i>Celebrate Black History Month 2026-2027</i> (Plan a Chapter Activity celebrating the end of the 100th Anniversary)
1-28	Heart Health Month, including Red Dress events (February 5-7)
11	<i>EmpowerHer</i> Webinar (recognizing International Day of Women and Girls in Science)
15	HBCU President's Video: Virginia State University
15	<i>Flex Our Green</i> – Targeted Reminder to Support Black Businesses
16	Release of Heart Health PSA
Dates TBD	Registration Deadlines for College Students and Chapter Members' participation in a local or regional Model UN Simulation Day
MARCH	
8-19	Diaspora Dialogue: Amplifying Black Women's Voices at the UN-Host a dialogue between EA Links and African delegations, CSOs (Specific date during this period TBD)
31	Start of EA Conference (March 31-April 3)
31	Start of NSBE, Jr. Annual Conference (March 31-April 4)
APRIL	
1-3	EA Conference continues
15	<i>Flex Our Green</i> – Targeted Reminder to Support Black Businesses
11-17	Black Maternal Health Week – Daily Release of a PSA
19 tentative	<i>Get Ready for the New Program Year</i> Webinar
MAY	
1-31	Mental Health Awareness Month – HHS Weekly PSAs (dates shown)
3	1st PSA Release
10	2nd PSA Release
17	3rd PSA Release
24	4th PSA Release