



"Around the World" *with*



Family Newsletter *June 21, 2026*

Family Reminders!!!

- **DRESS CODE:**

- Youth should wear their **school uniform bottoms** and either a **Big Buddy T-shirt or school uniform shirt** every day.
- On **field trip days**, youth should wear their **Big Buddy Field Trip Shirt** with school bottoms.

- **AFTERNOON PICK UP:**

- Program ends promptly at 4:30 PM.
- Youth who are not riding the bus need to be **picked up no later than 5:00 PM** when program site closes.

Please review the Summer 2026 Parent Handbook [HERE](#) on our Summer Program page (scroll to the bottom of the page).

Week 3 Country Theme

Ghana



A picture of the Ghanaian flag.



A map of Africa showing Ghana's location.

ABOUT GHANA

- Ghanaian culture highly values family, especially respect for elders and honoring ancestors. Ghana was the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to gain independence from colonial rule, in 1957, and having enjoyed political stability since 1981, is considered one of the safest and most stable nations in Africa.
- Ghana's national animal is the Tawny Eagle, a symbol of pride and strength. The country is also known for its colorful [Kente cloth](#) and [Adinkra symbols](#) — traditional patterns that carry deep cultural meaning.
- Ghana has a population of about 34 million — nearly 10 times smaller than the United States, which has over 340 million people. It is located on the west coast of Africa, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean.

Week 3 Activities

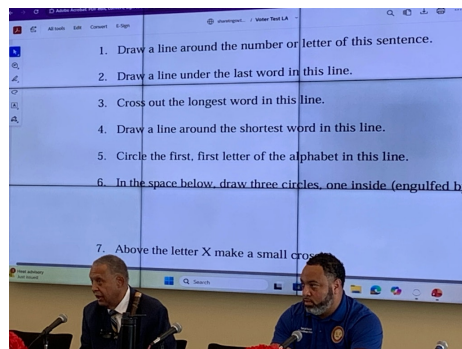
Week 3 was full of hands-on fun as students dove into the culture of Ghana! Both Elementary and Middle School youth crafted their own African drums using cups and balloons, getting a feel for the rhythms and instruments of West Africa. Youth also made colorful beaded bracelets and drew and colored the Ghanaian flag to learn its colors and symbolism. As an extra-special treat, one of Big Buddy's Circle Mentors, Ms. Bridget, who is originally from Ghana, dressed in traditional attire and spent time with the youth sharing stories and insights about her home country!





Juneteenth Spotlight: Southern University Celebration

With no program on Thursday, June 18th in observance of Juneteenth, our Middle School youth attended Southern University's Juneteenth celebration. While there, they took part in a session on voting rights, which included taking a practice "literacy test" used in this country's history to suppress Black voters. Youth also enjoyed a panel discussion featuring Paul A. Race, a professor at Southern University Law Center who holds both a medical degree and a law degree and specializes in health law, constitutional law, and torts.



Week 3's Field Trips

Elementary & Middle School youth both enjoyed a field trip to the Main Library, where they enjoyed a live theater performance. They even got to meet the actors after the show!



Coming Up Next Week (Week 4)...

Next week we're headed to South America to explore the vibrant culture, rainforests, and rhythms of Brazil!

Brazil



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STEPHENS

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