

MAD DADS Jacksonville Chapter

An African American Male Project

SANKOFA

"RETRIEVE THE PAST, TO LIVE IN THE PRESENT, FOR THE FUTURE." (Akan, Ghana, West Africa)

LIVING SKILLS UNIVERSITY

SANKOFA is a non-traditional rite of passage program initiated by MAD DADS. The mission of SANKOFA is to motivate youth and their families; to ensure positive self-esteem, strengthen the family unit, and re-establish a sense of community. The program is designed to teach youth and parents how to create a more positive, structured, and cohesive environment, both at home and in the community.

The program is culturally dynamic allowing the participants to explore the experience of the African in the American context. Even though SANKOFA is African based, its goals of building strong values and principles will ultimately enable youth from all walks of life to function in this ever-changing world.

SANKOFA'S 12-week curriculum concentrates on the daily problems facing each participant. Sadly, these problems are complex and varied in scope, emanating from societal dysfunction's that cause the transformation and disintegration of the traditional family.

Historically, rites of passage programs have utilized creeds and ceremonies to help participants identify with the purpose and meaning of the program; SANKOFA does the same. Upon completion of the program, youth become a part of a comprehensive after-care component. The after-care component, supported by MAD DADS offers an integrated system of support for youth as they reactivate themselves within their communities.

SANKOFA's curriculum is applicable not only at a community improvement level, but also as an adjunct to treatment offered by therapists, psychiatrists, judges, etc. Youth, ages 15 - 25 are selected for participation in the program via various means. Referrals are accepted from the courts, private and public agencies, schools, churches, and community organizations. In addition, MAD DADS actively recruits appropriate participants and accepts walk-ins.

SANKOFA assists youth, their families, the community, and thereby the nation, by redirecting at-risk, court involved, and socially unengaged youth into a positive direction of community involvement and self-improvement.

The SANKOFA program is designed for:

- African American males 15 - 25 years old
- 12 weeks Class Commitment
- Youth in or out of school
- Young men willing to learn and move toward a positive future
- Youth willing to take a visible leadership role in their community
- Court or community referred youth
- Young men able to complete the application and interview process with MAD DADS

MAD DADS Jacksonville Chapter, Inc.

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Project Application

Student Name _____ AKA _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

My Home Phone _____ My Cell Phone _____ School _____ Grade _____

I live with _____ I work for _____ Wk Ph _____

Date of Birth _____ Married/Single _____ Children _____ Graduated Y or N _____

Why do you want to attend SANKOFA classes?

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Y or N (If yes, what?)

Have you ever been to jail? Y or N (If yes, Why & how long?)

Do you attend a church, Mosque or Synagogue? Y or N (If yes, Where?)

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Classes will be held at MAD DADS Offices, 5732 Normandy Blvd. Jacksonville 32205 - Monday Evenings from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

For additional information call 904 781-0905 Email: jax@maddads.com Website: maddads.com