



FUTAMAF
Open the power
within



Registration Form

Name _____

Age _____

Parent: _____

Address: _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____

(work) _____

E-mail: _____

Register today to reserve your place.

Full Application due: March 18, 2008

Payments

Full Application and \$500 deposit due March 18, 2008.

Total Program Cost: \$2795

Includes: airfare, food, accommodations, visas, and ground transportation.

Final payment must be made by May 1st, 2008.

Make checks payable to: The African Cultural Exchange— Futampaf Manhood Ceremony. Full application and more information available at:

www.theafricanculturalexchange.org

The Travel

Visas

A visa is required to enter The Gambia with a US Passport. You will need a valid passport and 2 passport photos. The visa fee is included in the participation fee.

Immunizations

An electronic travel medical briefing will be provided via email. Take this briefing to your physician to obtain your international yellow book along with the necessary immunizations documented for entry into each country.

Clothing

The temperature in the Gambia and Senegal will range in the mid 80's therefore light clothing is recommended. Sunscreen lotion, light cotton pants, long and short sleeve shirts will also aid in comfort during really hot spells. Slippers are great for the shower (indoors and outdoors). An effective mosquito repellent is necessary. A packing list will be provided.

Meals

Three meals a day will be provided. When the group stays in the village (The Gambia) the meals will be prepared by the women of the village. It is imperative that we know the dietary requirements well before departure.

The Itinerary

Sun July 6	Day 1	Departure from US
Mon July 7	Day 2	Arrival in Dakar, Senegal
Tue July 8	Day 3	Travel to Banjul, The Gambia
Wed July 9	Day 4	Orientation to Africa
Thu July 10	Day 5	Departure for Penyem- Ceremony Day 1 Assignment to Families/ Naming Ceremony
Fri July 11	Day 6	Bush Day 2
Sat July 12	Day 7	Bush Day 3
Sun July 13	Day 8	Bush Day 4
Mon July 14	Day 9	Bush Day 5 Free Day with Families in Penyem
Tue July 15	Day 10	Departure for Banjul
Wed July 16	Day 11	Visit Kunta Kinte's Village
Thu July 17	Day 12	Departure for Dakar
Fri July 18	Day 13	Goree Island, ISAN
Sat July 19	Day 14	Free Day, Market
Sun July 20	Day 15	Departure for NYC
Sun July 20	Day 15	Arrive NYC



Presents
"FUTAMPAF"
AFRICAN MANHOOD
rites of passage ceremony
The Gambia, West Africa
For males 12 to 18 years old



July 6th - 20th, 2008

Help your son experience
the growth to manhood-
African Style

-Respect for Elders
-Love of the Family
-Success Principles

- Give him a chance
- Open the power within

Contact : Portia Scott or Reginald Hughes, MD
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E-mail :

info@theafricanculturalexchange.org

Futampaf **What is it?**

What is the Futampaf? Futampaf is a Jola term literally meaning “**transforming boys into men,**” which traditionally occurs during a special rite of passage ceremony for adolescent boys. Much like the Judaic tradition of bar mitzvah which Futampaf predates, boys learn to take responsibility for themselves, their actions, and most importantly their families. The purpose of the ceremony also includes learning the importance of respecting elders and women, honesty, arresting negative behavior, learning how to share, and success principles among other ideas.

Program Highlights:

- Designed for boys between 12-18 years old.
- Parents are invited and encouraged to participate
- Located in PenYem village, of The Gambia, West Africa
- Takes place from Sun., July 6 to Sun., July 20, 2008
- Takes place with the Jola people, a highly family-oriented culture
- Boys become a part of an African Family
- Post-participation Mentoring

About The African Cultural Exchange and The Gambia

A US-based nonprofit organization founded in 1989, The ACE conducts crosscultural, educational, development and healthcare projects in Africa. The organization supports projects in Senegal, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gabon, Zambia and Kenya.

The Gambia, is a nation of about 1.5 million people situated on the West Coast of Africa and is the ancestral home of Kunta Kinte of Roots fame. The center of the slave trade during the 17th and 18th centuries, this very peaceful former British colony, with its beautiful beaches now boasts tourism as its main industry.



The sacred baobab tree.

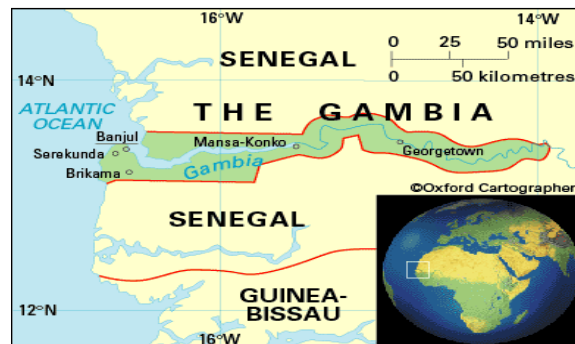
Dear Parents,

We are happy to invite your son, (and you if you can), to join us on a unique and life altering experience. During the month of July 2008, your son will experience the splendor, power and culture of Africa through The Futampaf.

The purpose of the Futampaf manhood ceremony is to transform your child into a successful young man who takes responsibility for his actions. He will develop a positive self-image, respect for his manhood and respect for his culture.

The statistics are dire for African American males. Most black men in the U.S. do not graduate from high school. Unfortunately, there are more black men in prisons in the U.S. than there are black men imprisoned in the rest of the world combined (“America has lost a generation of Black boys”, Jackson, 2007). As a response to this staggering situation, we propose your participation The Futampaf Manhood Rites of Passage Ceremony.

Despite the perceived difficulties that the continent of Africa is experiencing, the family institution in most of Africa is solid. Boys and girls are taught life success principles in sustaining the family structure and keeping it strong. We believe these ideas are applicable to building a strong family structure in the U.S. and we have witnessed the transforming power of this program. We invite you and your child to participate in this life-changing experience. We guarantee you will witness a significant growth and maturation in your son!



The Program

Leaders

Dr. Reginald Hughes, MD, President and founder of The A.C.E., has broad experience in Africa.

Goree Island - Slave Castle, Seneg-

As a former teacher and leader with Operation Crossroads Africa, Dr. Hughes has extensive familiarity with youth leadership and cultural exchange programs in Africa in Senegal, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Ghana, Kenya, and Cote d'Ivoire to name a few. He is the father of 4 and is currently Family Medicine Attending Physician at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center Queens, New York. He is dedicated to improving the lives of African and American youth.

Ms. Portia Scott (a.k.a. Ama), Futampaf Project Leader has been traveling and working in Africa for the last 23 years as a volunteer, educator, and family member. She was a participant and group leader with “Operation Crossroads Africa” that led her to Senegal and Ghana. She has lived in the Gambia for three years where her son was born and has project experience in Morocco, the Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Guinea-Conakry, Guinea-Bissau, and Sierra Leone. She is currently Executive Vice President and Educational Director for The A.C.E. and is also a science and reading teacher at High Horizons Magnet School in Bridgeport, CT.

Mr. Alieu Nyassi, Born and raised in Penyem Village, in The Gambia, Alieu went through the Rites of Passage Ceremony 22 years ago and has coordinated numerous rites of passage ceremonies for young men and women from the U.S. He has extensive world and Africa travel experience including group leadership experience with Operation Crossroads Africa. He is the father of two and is currently a Human Resources Specialist for Cincinnati Children's Hospital. He is Executive Vice President and Director of Developmental Programs for The ACE. He is dedicated to development in Africa.

Mr. Modou “Atate” Jarju, is the youth leader of PenYem village and the local Program Director of Futampaf. He has many years of experience with the Futampaf manhood rites of passage ceremony and provides compelling leadership.

Mr. Waly Thiam, The A.C.E. Program Director for Senegal, will organize and coordinate the Senegalese and travel portions of the program and is an expert in African history and culture.