

A's & Aces
2018 Summer
in Review



Four A's & Aces Summer Camps: June – July, 2018



3 Literacy & Tennis Camps

105 campers, ages 5-11

(at Dillard University, Joe Brown Park and Atkinson-Stern Tennis Center)

and the



Tournament Training Camp

18 year-round top A's & Aces scholar-athletes, ages 10-16

(at the University of New Orleans)

Three 10 & U Literacy & Tennis Camps: Courts & Classrooms



Dillard



ASTC



JBTPC



And a Tournament Training Camp: Courts & Academic Space at UNO



Why Summer Literacy Matters

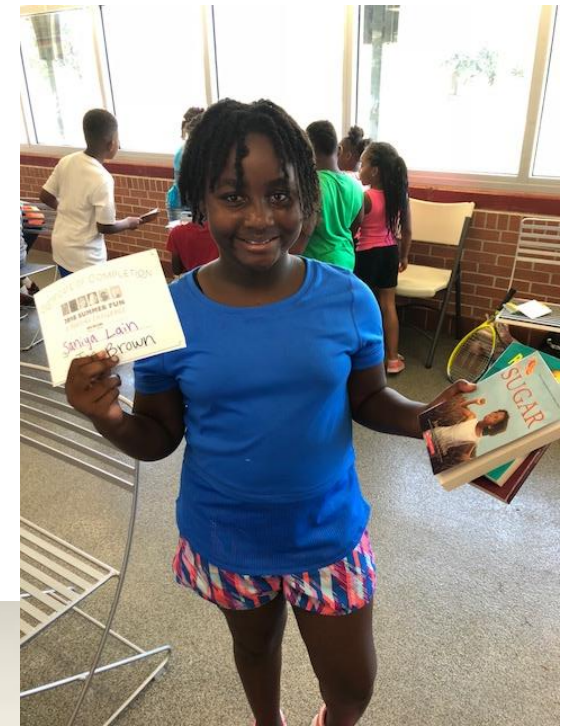
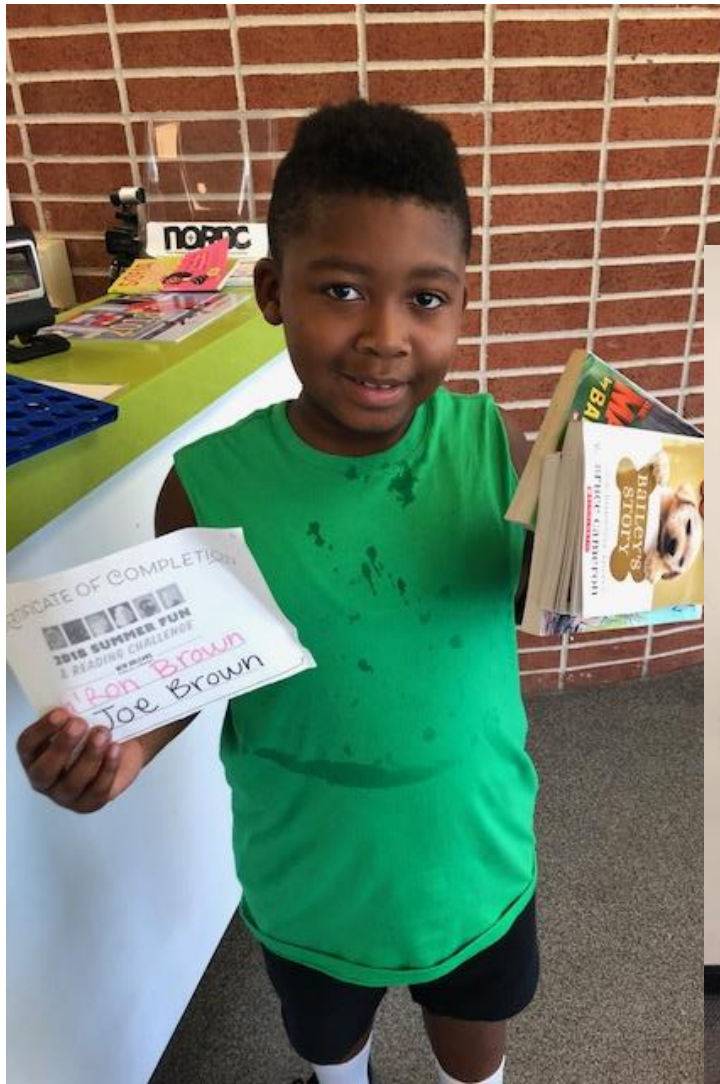
Our literacy classrooms focus on reading and writing projects, and are supplemented with library field trips, book distribution, and other literacy enrichment activities.

Educators and parents agree that summer reading is beneficial and can make the difference between a child reading at grade level or falling behind over the break.

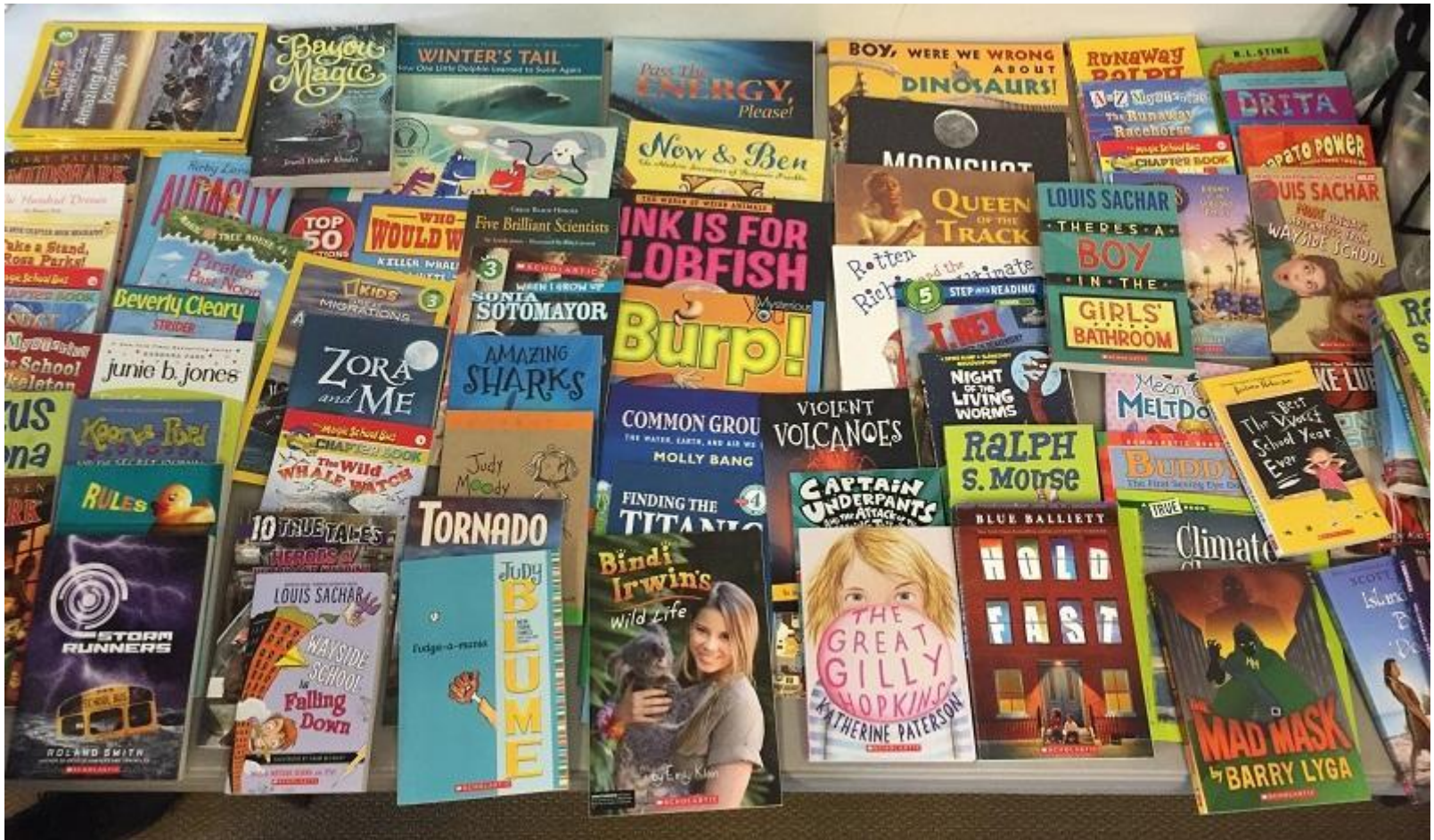
The lack of affordable summer learning programs is troubling in New Orleans, where 81% of our public school students are economically disadvantaged according to [data](#) from the LA Dept. of Ed., and opportunities for summer learning vary greatly. Low-income students are especially at risk of the “summer slide,” or losing valuable progress in academics, due to a lack of education programming during summer vacation. Research shows low-income youth lose up to [three months of reading achievement](#) during this time out of school. Higher-income youth, by contrast, often make small gains in achievement over the summer.



Book Distributions for Campers' Home Libraries



The New Orleans Public Library stocks the mini-libraries at each of our Literacy & Tennis Camps



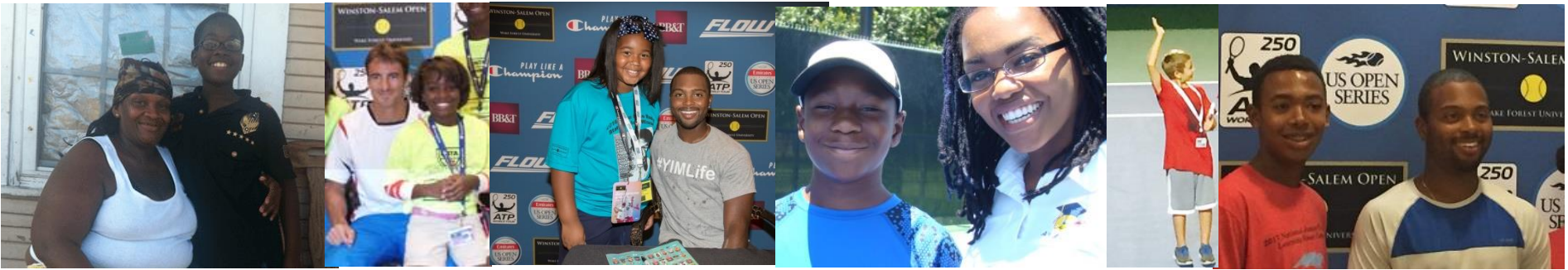
2018 National Junior Tennis & Learning Essay Contest



2018 winner: James Bostick

(a member of the A's & Aces Excellence Team)

Each summer, all campers draft essays addressing a new topic. They receive feedback from teachers, then edit and submit their compositions to the **USTA NJTL National Essay Contest**. For the past **eight years** an A's & Aces student-athlete has written the **"Best Essay in Louisiana"** and the Southern Tennis Association has provided all-expense paid 3-day trips for the winner and a parent to the Winston-Salem Open, a men's pro tournament played at Wake Forest University as part of the **US Open** Series, and held the week prior to the US Open.



2011, Darnell & mom

'12 Lauryn & pro

'13 Saige & pro, Donald Young

Ja'Briel & his 2014 teacher

'16 Finn

2017, Will & Donald Young

Chess



A's & Aces campers were learning chess this summer through our partnership with Strategic Thoughts L3C, a youth development organization teaching chess.

STEM Curricula



[STEM NOLA](#) staff discuss underwater air pressure, lung capacity and lung health with our campers. The purpose of STEM NOLA is to expose, inspire and engage the community in the opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

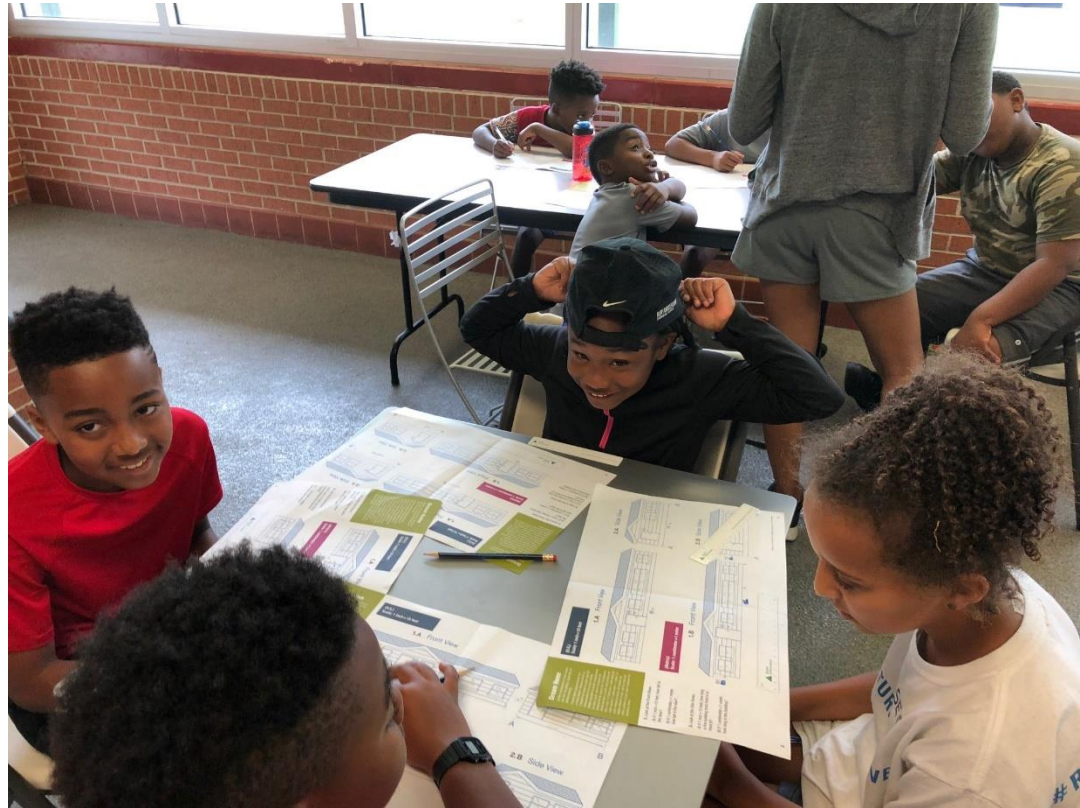
Financial Literacy



IBERIABANK associates taught financial literacy during four (4) June and July sessions with our Tournament Training players at UNO.

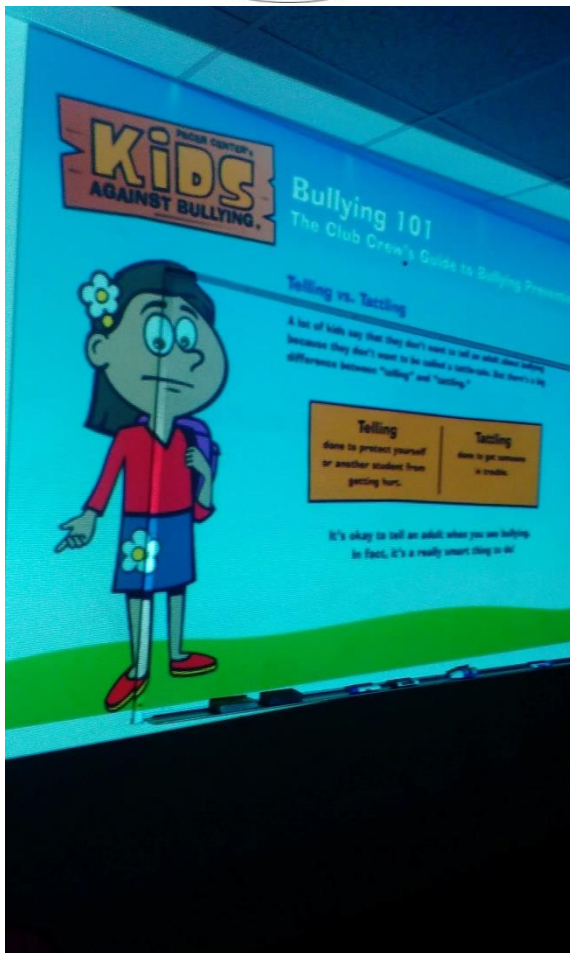
Junior Achievement Curricula

Campers participated in various 'Junior Achievement' lessons, including financial literacy.



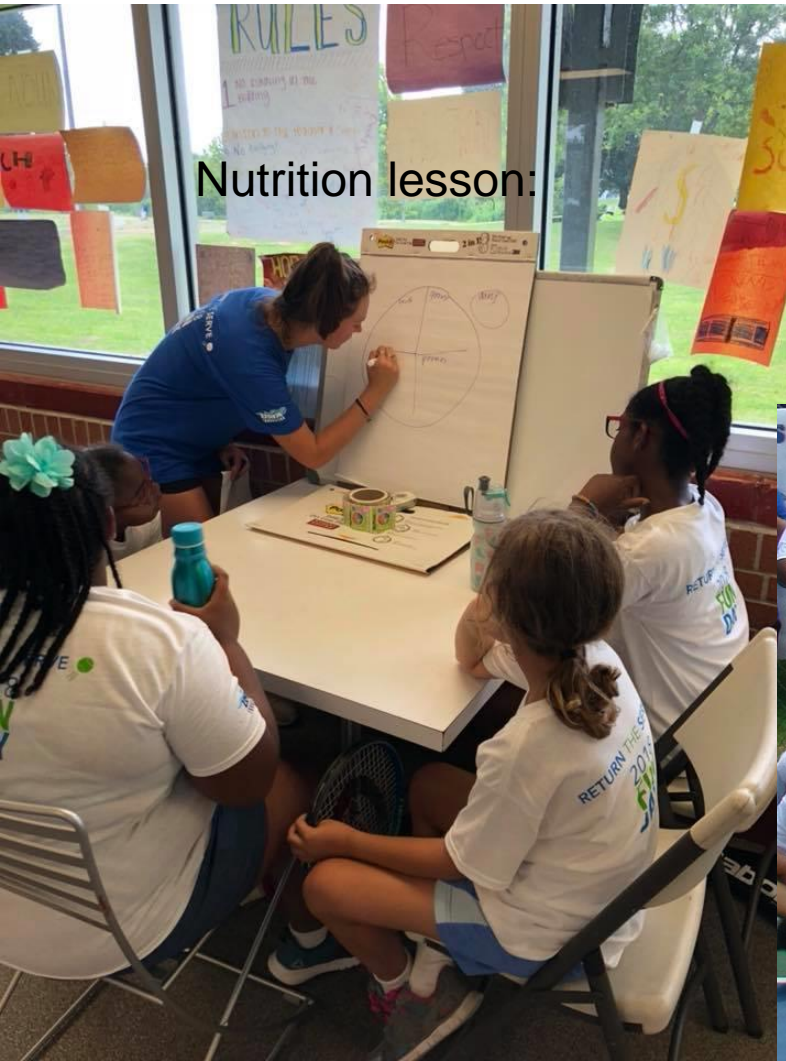


Special guest speaker: NOPD Officer Hodges delivers an anti-bullying seminar



NOPD officer Hodges poses with our Dillard campers on the tennis court

Special Event: Return the Serve by Chase



Field Trips:

to Libraries, to Swim, and for Team Matches
& Campus Tours at Dillard University and UNO



Norman Mayer (near Dillard)



Latter Branch (near ASTC)



Read Branch (near JBPTC)



Swimming for NORDC campers: ASTC (at Lyons Center Pool) and Joe Brown campers (Joe Brown Park Pool)

Field trip to UNO

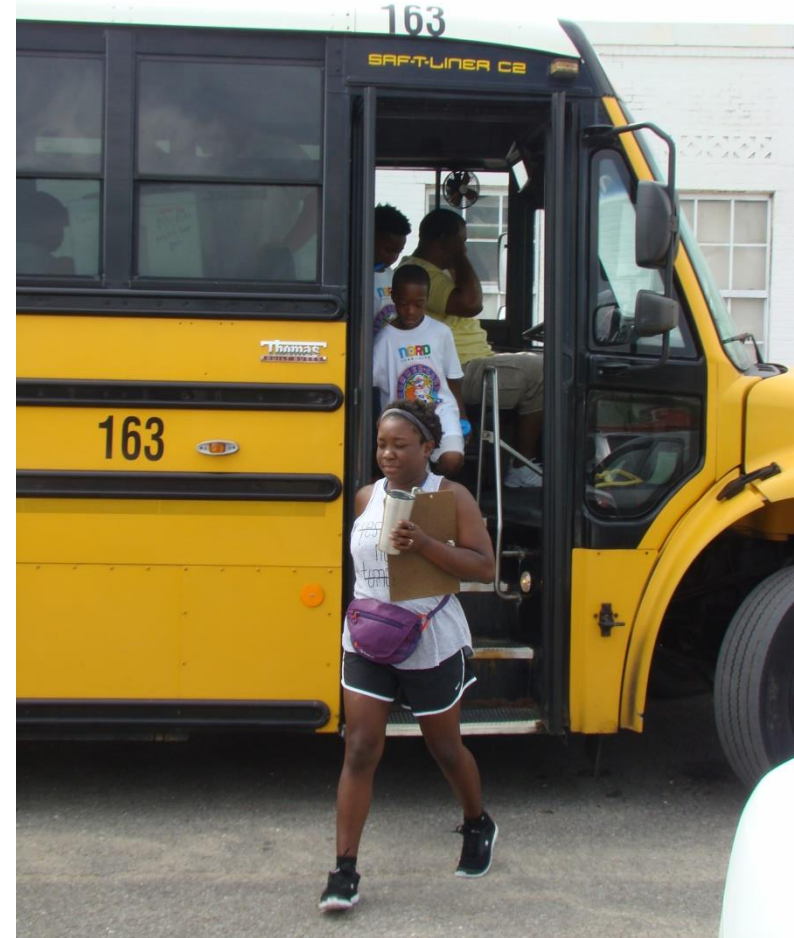


About 80 campers from our Dillard University, Atkinson-Stern Tennis Center and Joe Brown Tennis Center Summer Literacy & Tennis Camps visited UNO this summer. They toured the UNO campus and competed in the ***A's & Aces 10&U Camp Teams Tournament***. Matches were assisted by our Tournament Training players and coaches.

Field trips to Dillard University



DILLARD
UNIVERSITY



Joe Brown campers arriving on Dillard's campus....



A's & Aces Boys Attended the July 2018 Regional NJTL Tennis & Leadership Camp

The 2018 Regional NJTL Tennis & Leadership Camp was held in Birmingham, AL (July 19-22, 2018) at **Samford University**. Eight Southern section NJTL chapters with 3 student-athletes spent 4 days at Samford University. The experience included tennis (drills and shootouts), team-building activities, a guided field trip to Sloss Furnace (the only blast furnace in the U.S. to be designated a National Historic Landmark), Community Service Leadership Exercises, a Civil Rights Museum/16th Street Baptist Church Guided Tour, and a UAB field trip that included swimming and other activities.



A's & Aces 10 & Under Team at the USTA Excellence Teams Cup College Park, Maryland, July 26-29, 2018



The **A's & Aces 10 & Under Excellence Team** ("Team McNulty") traveled to College Park, MD on July 26-29 to compete and learn with 11 other USTA National Junior Tennis & Learning teams selected from across the country. Competitions featured matches, a Relay Race, and academic activities (essay contest, spelling bees and a monuments quiz). In tennis A's & Aces defeated Chicago and Dallas, while losing closely to two NYC teams (#4 Harlem & #5 Bronx) and #3 Boston. The A's & Aces Team placed 2nd in Sportsmanship while Teah was recognized for the top Essay submission. Our team finished 8th overall, with all A's & Aces attendees representing the organization well!

Activities for coaches and parents included Coaching Education and Parent Sessions presented by USTA coaches and other experts (including *Navigating the Junior Tennis Pathway*, *Compete like a Champion Parent*), sightseeing/monument tour, and attending a Professional Team Tennis match (Philadelphia Freedoms at Washington Kastles).

This is the third consecutive year that A's & Aces has participated in this USTA Foundation sponsored event. The other 2018 teams are from: Las Vegas, NV, Laurel, MD, Minneapolis, MN, Atlanta, GA, College Park, MD, Dorchester, MA, and Philadelphia, PA.

Two A's & Aces-NORD USTA-Sanctioned Summer Tournaments



Goal: to provide many of our younger campers with competitive opportunities and to have fun.

Results: both events were dominated by our players, earning ranking points and gaining valuable experience. About 50 players competed in each tournament, in divisions 8's-12's.



A's & Aces Workforce Development Program



<- **Jakoby** started in 2009 as a 3rd grader

Now he is a Counselor-In-Training. ->



< - **Chris** began participating in A's & Aces in 2008 as a 1st grader. In 2015, he was named the USTA Foundation NJTL's Student-Athlete of the Year (the NSAC award) and he earned our 2015 "Camper of the Year" award. In 2016, he was one of 11 named to the *New Orleans Advocate's* All Metro High School team.

Chris, a rising junior at Ben Franklin High School, served as our 2018 Counselor-In-Training.

Our Summer Staff: Certified Classroom Teachers and College Mentors



Mrs. Simmons, a certified teacher, leads classroom curricula at our Dillard camp site



Eight (8) AmeriCorps members (Tulane WaveCorps Program) serve with A's & Aces each summer and provide mentors and role models for our children, while assisting our lead staff.

Summer Tennis Staff

at ASTC



10 & Under Camps
at Joe Brown



at Dillard



Tournament Training Camp
at UNO



William Schumacher



Allen Miller
(AmeriCorps)



Head Coach AJ Varnado



Sade Atkinson, TU's #1 player

**We are very grateful to ALL partners
for making the 2018 summer full of
learning and enrichment!**





PROUDLY SUPPORTS NJTL NETWORK

Arthur Ashe co-founded the National Junior Tennis League (NJTL) in 1969 with Charlie Pasarell and Sheridan Snyder. During its 40th anniversary in 2009, it was renamed National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL) to more accurately portray the importance we place on education.

Their vision was to use tennis as a way to gain and hold the attention of young people in hopes they could teach them about matters more important than sport.

For Ashe and the founders, lives could be changed and spirits reclaimed through tennis, just as our chapter leaders have done for more than 45 years, and continue to do today.

A's & Aces

was selected, from among over 600 NJTL organizations nationwide, as

National Junior Tennis & Learning *"Chapter of the Year"*

by the United States Tennis Association

in **2012-13**

and received the honor again from
Tennis Industry

in **2017**

