

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – May7-11, 2012
Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

Which of the women below attended the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind (FSDB) and is a two time Women's Motocross Association Champion?

- a) Kitty O'Neil
- b) Tamika Catchings
- c) Jamie-Lee Lewis
- d) Ashley Fiolek

Answer "d" – Ashley Fiolek is a 2X Women's Motocross Association Champion. Born in Michigan but moved to Florida at the age of eight to attend the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind (FSDB). Her parents are hearing and began to learn American Sign Language as soon as they discovered that Ashley was deaf. Ashley's parents Roni and Jim "started going to parties with deaf adults, playing cards, learning sign language and picking things up a piece at a time. Deaf families would take Ashley out on weekends and Jim returned the favor by interpreting for a deaf boy on a hockey team. Roni helped a deaf girl with dance classes. They did the "It takes a village" type of thing." (Vogue, April 2, 2012: www.vogue.com/magazine/article/ashley-fiolek-hear-me-roar/)

Read more about Ashley Fiolek and her remarkable motocross career at her website: www.ashleyfiolek.com.

By the way, all of the women mentioned in the answer choices are deaf and accomplished athletes. Look them up as well.

Deaf Culture Questions of the Week are archived at: <http://www.wsd.wa.gov>