

6

SESSION 6: BUILDING YOUR DREAM TEAM AND TAKING IT ON THE ROAD

ACTIVITY #2: USING YOUR TIME BEYOND THE CLASSROOM TO PREPARE FOR COLLEGE OPENING DISCUSSION:

Students should understand that experiences beyond the classroom can help them prepare for college admission and success. Colleges care about how students elect to use their unscheduled time. In particular, summer is an important time that can be used to enhance maturity, motivation and academic readiness.

Activity/Handout:

With a Little Help From My Friends (third question)

Summer Programs—You mean what I do in the summer can help me with college options?

Instructions:

1. Following up on question #3 from the handout students completed in Activity #2, ask each to share the experience that has enhanced their likelihood of a successful college experience and how this has helped them to prepare for college. Use the chalkboard or flip chart to list these activities.
2. Ask students to group these activities by kind, for example:
 - extracurricular activity
 - sports
 - church
 - employment
 - academic enrichment
3. Distribute the handout on Summer Programs. Explain that, in addition to what has already been listed, a summer program may be an exceptionally good experience in terms of college preparation. Point students particularly to the websites they may use to explore summer programs. (If computers are available, some time may be devoted to exploring the sites listed.)



SUMMER PROGRAMS:

You mean what I do in the summer can help me with college options?

What comes to mind when you think of summer? Summer job? Fun in the sun? Travel? How about college preparation? And did you know that colleges will take note of HOW you have used your summers as an indication of your educational preparation?

Working at a summer job can certainly help you save money for college and provide adult mentors, but think about investing some time at a summer program on a college campus. Many are free or low-cost, with scholarship options. The right choice can help you learn what it's like to be in college, where your career interests can lead you, and how to connect with more people who can help you in the college process.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR FINDING THE RIGHT SUMMER PROGRAM FOR YOU:

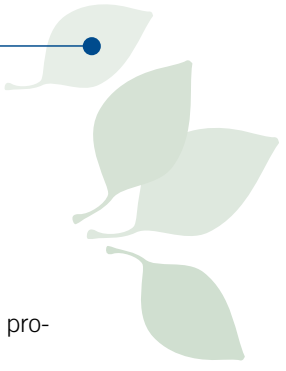
Find a program that fits your academic area of interest or just narrow down the list of things that seem of interest.

- Many colleges and universities host summer programs for high school students. Finding a program on a college campus will expose you to the college experience and help orient you for college life.
- Ask your local college or university about the programs they offer. Or, if you know what college you might want to attend after high school, look there.
- Many programs are associated with some type of cost, so be mindful of that. If cost is a concern, ask the program if they have financial aid or fee waivers. And also be aware that there are free summer programs out there.
- Registration deadlines are extremely important. Some programs accept every student who applies, and some are very selective. The best way to ensure your selection is to apply early. Make sure all necessary documentation is in your application so that it can be processed and so that you can be considered for the program of your choice.

While these programs are important for your development and your future, remember that this is still your summer vacation. In other words, communicate with your family as to the best times for you to participate in these programs.

In the end, you should pick the summer enrichment program that is the best fit for you academically and socially. Choose something in which you have a serious interest, and ask as many questions as you can about the program you choose so that you know exactly what to expect.

Visit www.petersons.com to find a great variety of summer programs, from camps to internships.



Below is a list of sample summer opportunities from college/career exploration to specific academic preparation, to finding out what it's like to be a college student while still in high school:

www.leadprogram.org—a partnership of top business schools and corporations that provides summer programs for high school juniors

www.blackexcel.org/summer-progs.htm—a comprehensive list of options for minority students

http://jackierobinson.org—provides educational and leadership development programs, as well as scholarships, mentors, and internships

www.abetterchance.org—a resource for identifying, recruiting and developing leaders among young people in underserved populations

www.jbhe.com—*The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* evaluates many programs and campuses seeking diversity

www.carleton.edu/summer/CLAE—a week long, all expense paid program for juniors to introduce them to college life and the value of a liberal arts education

http://courses.ncssm.edu/bennett/RECAP—a three-week research experience for students interested in chemistry, astronomy, or physics

www.spelman.edu/academics/summerprograms—a five-week non-residential program for students interested in the sciences

