



A+ Test Prep and Tutoring Newsletter

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Making the Most of College Tours



College tours are an important part of the college application process. This month we provide some suggestions to help you and your teenager take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

*** Start by having your teen do "virtual" tours of the colleges she is interested in.** Checking out the website is a great starting point and will help your daughter rule a college in or out. Some websites even have student blogs that offer a unique insider's view. Various criteria should be considered including how competitive the school is, location (urban, suburban, or rural), proximity to home, religious affiliation, single-sex institution, and the size of the school.

*** Once your teen has narrowed down the list of prospective schools,** find out each one's policy regarding information sessions and campus tours and at what times and days of the week they are offered. Many schools require advance registration either by email or by phone. Let your son or daughter make the appointments - this helps them take ownership of the process. If a school conducts interviews, have him or her schedule that also. (Be sure to dress appropriately for an interview.)

* **Organize the itinerary.** Limit yourself to visiting not more than two colleges on the same day - more than that can be overwhelming. Allow time to visit the surrounding area since that too will be a part of your child's college experience.

* **Leave much younger siblings behind if at all possible.** Make other arrangements for your younger children who may grow fidgety during information sessions and may not be able to keep up with the often brisk pace of campus tours.

* **Brainstorm with your son or daughter about questions** they may want to ask the admissions personnel or the campus tour guides. Encourage your teen to take notes during the information session.

* **Parents, try to take a back seat.** Let your son introduce himself to the college admissions rep and ask questions after the information session. If your son is having an interview with the admissions office, let him be the one to check in with the receptionist.

* **Be curious. Explore the campus after the tour is over.** Check out the student union or have coffee at a campus café. Walk over to the playing fields or stadium. Stop by the academic department that interests you. Strike up a conversation with a student (even if it is just to ask directions) so that you can open the door to asking him about his major, whether he lives on or off-campus, the social life on campus, athletics, the neighboring community, etc.

* **Last, but not least, have fun!** These road trips present a unique opportunity to bond with your teen as she considers her options and faces important decisions about her future.

Planning Ahead for Summer

Featured Student



Bryce Kleeman

A student who took the SAT once said, "Taking the SAT is like going to the doctor. It scares the willies out of you, but once you get there it's really not that bad, and in the end it's all for the best." The profound fear stated in this quote accurately describes the way I felt about the SAT before I started my tutoring program with A+ Test Prep. I thought the SAT was a malevolent monster that was purposely designed so students performed poorly. A+ Test Prep helped me eradicate those fears, and shortly



Now is the best time to lay the groundwork for your summer plans, whether it be landing a job, finding an internship, visiting colleges, or preparing for a standardized test.

Don't wait until school is out to begin looking for a summer job - start now. First, consider what type of business or organization would interest you and would dovetail well with your strengths and interests. If you are interested in animals, consider applying to a veterinarian's office or the local SPCA. If you enjoy working with children, apply to a camp or town recreation program.

Also consider location and transportation-how will you get to your job? Can you walk or drive there yourself, or must you rely on getting a ride or public transportation? For retail establishments such as clothing stores or restaurants, you may want to save some steps and call first to see if they are

afterwards I was feeling more confident and comfortable about taking the test.

This phenomenal program, one that I would recommend to all, not only helped boost my confidence, but it also improved the skills I needed for the test. In addition, it provided me with informative test-taking techniques and strategies. As a result of taking the program my essay writing abilities improved significantly, my critical reading score improved, and my newly increased understanding of certain algebra concepts, such as functions, contributed to a higher math score. The flashcards helped me improve and expand my vocabulary and reminded me of important mathematical theorems and concepts.

Mrs. Mettus, my very knowledgeable and friendly tutor, showed me many strategies that helped increase my score. I learned in some cases it is better to look for the wrong answers, the bait answers, and eliminate them right off the bat. This strategy proved very useful during the critical reading section when I had to read the long and short passages. Another strategy was to test all the answers before trying to come up with your own during the math section. By plugging them in, you can come up with the correct answer much faster and also eliminate any incorrect answers in the process. Mrs. Mettus was an excellent tutor also because she was very helpful, patient, and enlightening. Thanks to A+ Test Prep, I no longer feel frightened about the SAT and can gladly say the test is not the monster I once thought it to be!

By Bryce Kleeman, 11th grade
Neshaminy High School

accepting applications for summer employment. Then, when you go in person to fill out an application, dress appropriately and ask to speak to the manager. Be sure to specify what your summer availability is and be prepared to supply the name and telephone number of a reference.>

A summer internship or volunteer position is a great way to learn about a profession that interests you. Internships can be paid or unpaid, but it is really the "hands-on" experience that you are seeking. Many internships are geared toward college students, so finding one for a high schooler may be challenging. Begin by checking out the website of the organization you are interested in to see if there are any paid or unpaid positions available.

Networking is another excellent tool - talk to your parents, teachers, guidance counselor, neighbors, and family friends about your situation. It is likely that someone you know will know someone in that field who could steer you in the right direction. By showing initiative and contacting that person either by phone or email, you have already demonstrated your maturity. Briefly describe yourself, your background, your objective, and your availability. If a formal internship does not exist, perhaps a volunteer position could be created for you anyway. It doesn't hurt to ask!

The summer is also a relaxing time to visit colleges (see "Making the Most of College Tours" above). Although most colleges are not as bustling with activity in the summer as they are during the rest of the year, these visits can be very enjoyable and informative.

Finally, summer is a great time to prepare for any standardized tests you may be taking in the fall. Many seniors take the SAT or ACT in the fall, and may take an SAT Subject Test or two, depending on the requirements of the colleges to which they are applying. Juniors take the PSAT in the fall. Register for any tests well in advance so you get your first choice of testing location and avoid late registration fees (visit www.collegeboard.com or www.act.org for information about testing dates and registration deadlines).

You may also want to be tutored in an academic area that is weak for you so that you are more prepared in the fall for the next level of math or French, for example.

A+ Test Prep and Tutoring offers individualized, one-on-one test prep programs for PSAT, SAT, ACT, SAT Subject Tests, and in most academic areas. For more information, call us at 1-877-730-7200.



A+ Test Prep and Tutoring provides in-home One-to-One Test Prep tutoring throughout the Delaware Valley.

We also provide in-school Test Prep courses through our School Partners program. For more information please contact me at 215.886.9188.

Daniel Ascher
President

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