

Local Opportunities

Not interested in going away from home this summer? There are plenty of constructive, valuable ways to spend your time!

Community Service – find an organization that you believe in and volunteer there – consistently and regularly. Develop relationships with the people there, your knowledge of the issues, and your leadership and people skills. Search for an organization at HandsOn Suncoast with the United Way:

<http://www.volunteersuncoast.org/>

Work – Gainful employment is always a positive experience that will teach you much about how to work with people, responsibility, and commitment. It looks good on your resume and puts money in the bank!

Take a Class or Lessons – Pursue a passion more deeply, explore an interest, develop knowledge and skills. Classes are available locally in everything from SAT prep, to math, to cooking, to painting, to sailing. Find one that interests you!

University of South Florida is a wonderful, rich resource for pre-college summer programs for high school students. They have many different programs.

<http://www.usf.edu/innovative-education/programs/pre-college/>

Arrange an internship or job shadowing experience in a field of interest. Use your connections to see if you can explore a career for a couple of days, a week or two, or a month! This will help you to know if you want to look into that career more or not. It will also help you understand what you need to learn to prepare for that career.

Visit College Campuses – Wherever you and your family might travel, make a point to visit and tour some colleges along your way. You will see different types of colleges and get an idea of what you like and do not like.

READ! READ! READ! Nothing improves your vocabulary and English skills better than reading!

Need help getting started? Come see me and let me know what you are interested in finding!

Deborah Pitcairn
Director of College Counseling
(813) 948-7600 x.328
dspitcairn@academyatthelakes.org



Organizations & websites to explore

Why should I think about enrolling in one of these summer programs?

Summer programs away from home have many benefits. They give students a new perspective and a chance to develop self-reliance and confidence in different situations. Students meet people from all the around the country, or even from around the world, and are stimulated by new teachers, new information and new experiences, opening exciting, new horizons for them. These summer programs are often the kind of eye-opening, life-changing experiences that motivate and excite students about a certain path or career and ones that they write about in college application essays.

Spending time in a college setting provides a glimpse into the future for students. It is always a plus to visit a college campus to learn what it is like. Students can see what they may like in a college campus or what they do not like. Earning credit on their transcripts is an added bonus!

Below are some organizations and web sites to explore to find a program that is right for your student. *Naviance* also has a searchable database of Enrichment Programs.

Please feel free to call the office to discuss ideas and ask for help in applying for these programs. And, if approved ahead of time, make sure to bring back any completion certificates or transcripts with grades for your school file!

Programs to Explore

AFS and SPI – These study abroad organizations place students in homes abroad for 4-8 weeks. They often combine service or language study with the homestay experience.

<http://www.afsusa.org/study-abroad/>
<http://www.spiabroad.com>

OxBridge Academic Programs – This organization sponsors academic summer programs abroad in England, France and Spain for 8th-12th grades.
(www.oxbridgeprograms.com)

Rustic Pathways – International Service Programs for Key Club Members.
www.rusticpathways.com/keyclub

Envision Programs– 7-10 day conferences that give students an opportunity to explore career fields and inspire students by giving them confidence and leadership skills.

Forums available in several topics, including law, medicine, politics, diplomacy, business, theater, sports, engineering and more. Students must be nominated through the school. Please notify Mrs. Pitcairn if you are interested.

<http://www.envisionexperience.com/>

People To People Leadership Ambassador Programs – 7-10 day conferences on many topics, similar to **Envision** programs, but may have different topics and locations available, such as film. See Mrs. Pitcairn if interested.

<http://www.peopletopeople.com/our-programs/leadership-ambassadors>

Junior State of America Summer School – A 3-4 week course during the summer at one of the nation's top universities: Georgetown, Princeton, Stanford, or Yale. Students can earn credit in American Government, US Foreign Policy, Comparative Government and more. Debate and public-speaking are emphasized. (www.jsa.org)

Summer Scholars Programs – Many universities have summer programs for high school students. Students live on campus for the 4-6 week programs and may earn college or high school credit. Search online for Summer Scholars Programs at a university of your choice.

SuperCamp – Learn strategies to build study skills, improve grades, and embrace leadership. Senior Forum focuses on academic, life and career skills.

<http://www.supercamp.com/high-school/>

Outward Bound – outdoor experiential education and adventure.

<http://www.outwardbound.org/>

FastWeb - This website is a rich resource for summer programs for high school students.

Explore this web site for ideas.

<http://www.fastweb.com/college-search/articles/787-summer-programs-for-high-school-students>

Or Google: high school summer programs