

Why Consider an Educational Summer Camp?

A summer pre-college educational programs and academic camps can benefit high school students and middle school students academically, socially, as well as personally. The benefits of participating in a summer pre-college program can include providing students with an opportunity to learn about a topic of interest at an in-depth level, preparing for the transition from high school to college, exploring career fields of interest, increasing academic motivation, learning in a new environment, extending education and learning beyond the school year, engaging in discussions with other students, enhancing interpersonal skills, learning from college instructors or other experts, and developing friendships with peers. In addition, many summer educational programs take place on college campuses, which enables high school students to gain experiences in a college environment.

1. What are Some *Potential* Benefits of Summer Educational Programs?

- **Academic**
 - Studying topics of interest at an in-depth level.
 - Exploring potential college majors, fields of study, and careers.
 - Working with experts in a field (i.e. professors, professionals...).
 - Continuing the learning momentum from the academic school year (preventing the "summer learning slide").
 - Learning about topics that extend beyond the school curriculum.
 - Engaging in academic experiences at the college level.
 - Increasing academic motivation and goals.
 - Participating in hands-on and practical academic activities.
 - Learning in a safe and structured atmosphere.
 - Becoming familiar with a new learning environment.
- **Social**
 - Engaging in high level discourse with other motivated students.
 - Meeting students from different schools, regions, states, and countries.
 - Developing friendships with peers who share similar interests.
 - Previewing the college experience (i.e. dorms, cafeteria, campus activities).
 - Discussing areas of interest in an in-depth manner with other participants.
 - Learning in a collaborative and cooperative environment.
 - Enhancing interpersonal skills through activities such as simulations, group projects, cooperative learning.
- **Personal**
 - Enhancing self-confidence through accomplishing goals.
 - Gaining new perspectives and ideas about society.
 - Enhancing intrapersonal skills.
 - Discovering personal characteristics and qualities.
 - Developing an increased sense of self.

2. What are Some Factors to Consider about Summer Programs?

- **Logistical Considerations**
 - The registration deadlines.

- The application and selection process.
- The start and end dates of a program.
- The number of programs to apply to if the selection process is competitive.
- The location of the program.
- The costs to participate and whether financial assistance is available.
- The ratio of adults to students.
- The safety and supervision of students.
- The structure and organization of a program.
- The time commitment to participate in the program.
- **Learning Considerations**
 - The interest level of the student.
 - The opportunities for hands-on and practical learning.
 - The reputation of a program.
 - The specialization of the material covered in the program (*i.e. narrowly focused on one topic or open to a broad range of topics*).
- **Other Considerations**
 - Comments / perspectives from previous participants.
 - The length of time that the program has been in existence.
 - Participant's health care needs and accommodations
 - Accessibility to health services.
 - Facilities and housing.
 - The accessibility of the program coordinator or staff members.
 - Safety and supervision provided by the program

4. Can a student attend a residential summer program as a commuter student?

It depends on the program with regards to whether a student can attend a residential program as a commuter student. Some programs have both commuter and residential options. Other programs may allow a commuter student to participate in a residential program if he/she lives nearby. It is recommended that a student directly contact a program representative to inquire about whether he/she can attend the program as a commuter. There is typically a contact email and phone number for a summer program on the official website. This can be used to contact a program representative to ask about a student attending the program as a commuter.

5. Why is it recommended that students and parents contact a representative of a summer program directly to inquire about specific, detailed, and up-to-date information about the program?

It is highly recommended that students and parents directly contact an official representative of any summer program or camp of interest to find out specific, detailed and up-to-date information. An official representative of a summer program can be asked about a variety of topics relating to the program, including the safety and supervision measures that are utilized. It is also important to speak with an official representative to obtain the most up-to-date information because summer programs and camps are subject to change. In addition, contacting an official representative to ask questions and find out information can help a student determine if the program would be a good fit.