

Seton Guidance Corner

February 29, 2024

Spring College Visits

Students and families are encouraged to explore colleges and set up visits in the spring. These visits can play a crucial role in the decision-making process, allowing prospective students to get a feel for the campus atmosphere, academic environment, and overall college experience. Tips include:

1. **Research and Plan Ahead:** Before embarking on your campus visits, conduct thorough research on the universities you plan to explore. Familiarize yourself with the campus layout, academic programs, and any specific departments or facilities you're interested in. Create an itinerary that includes campus tours, information sessions, and meetings with faculty members or admissions officers.
2. **Schedule Official Campus Tours:** Many universities offer official campus tours led by knowledgeable guides. Schedule these tours in advance through the university's admissions office. Official tours provide valuable insights into campus life, facilities, and the overall vibe of the institution.
3. **Attend Information Sessions:** Most colleges offer information sessions where admissions representatives provide detailed overviews of the institution, including admission requirements, academic programs, and financial aid options. Attending these sessions can answer many of your questions and provide valuable information for decision-making.
4. **Explore Campus Facilities:** Take the time to explore campus facilities such as libraries, dormitories, classrooms, and recreational areas. Pay attention to the condition and accessibility of these spaces, as they will contribute significantly to your overall college experience.
5. **Meet with Faculty Members:** If possible, schedule meetings with professors or department heads in your field of interest. This can provide insights into the academic environment, research opportunities, and the faculty-student relationship at the university.
6. **Connect with Current Students:** Talk to current students to gain firsthand perspectives on campus life. You can often find student ambassadors during tours or through scheduled meet-and-greet events. Ask them about their experiences, favorite aspects of the university, and any advice they may have for incoming students.
7. **Explore Surrounding Areas:** Consider exploring the surrounding community and city/town. The environment outside the campus also plays a role in your overall college experience. Evaluate factors such as safety, available amenities, and recreational opportunities.
8. **Take Notes and Photos:** Bring a notebook to jot down your thoughts and observations during each visit. Capture photos of important places and facilities. These notes and images will be valuable when reflecting on your options later.
9. **Reflect and Debrief:** After each campus visit, take some time to reflect as a family. Discuss your impressions, compare notes, and consider the pros and cons of each university. This debriefing process will help you make informed decisions as you move forward in the college selection process.

Remember that each university is unique, and finding the right fit involves considering various factors that contribute to a fulfilling college experience. (<https://www.linkforcounselors.com/making-the-most-of-spring-break-a-guide-to-campus-visits-for-families/>)

Additional College Visit Tips

Expressing interest in a prospective school can make a difference. Some colleges track interest so if you sign up for a tour and information session, schedule an interview, and even consider following up with a thank you note, colleges may have a record of you on file even before you apply. Lastly, if visiting a secular college, be sure to visit their Catholic Campus Ministry. Click [here](#) for a CCM listing at Virginia state schools.

Thomas Aquinas College – 2024 High School Great Books Summer Program

TAC's summer program introduces rising high school seniors to a selection of the primary written sources of Western Civilization (the "Great Books") and to the questions, ideas, and discoveries these works inspire even today. In addition, members of the College's faculty meet with students in small seminars designed to lead them to a deeper understanding of these formative texts. Both of TAC's campuses (California and New England) offer the program. For dates, cost, additional details, and to register, visit <https://www.thomasaquinas.edu/admissions/summerprogram>. Contact Jean Carlos Guerreiro, TAC Admissions Counselor, at JGuerreiro@thomasaquinas.edu with any questions.

CLT, SAT, and ACT Registration Deadlines Coming Up

CLT Test Date – March 16 (Remotely Proctored)

Registration Deadline – March 6

Click [here](#) to register.

[Signup](#) for CLT's free practice test.

Digital SAT Test Date – May 4

Registration Deadline – April 19

Click [here](#) to register.

[Signup](#) for free SAT practice test.

ACT Test Date – April 13

Registration Deadline – March 8

Click [here](#) to register.

[Signup](#) for free ACT test prep.

*** Click [here](#) for a voucher to receive \$5 off a new registration for any April, June, or July 2024 ACT test date. Voucher must be redeemed by March 24, 2024.*

Scholarship Opportunities

Vance International, Inc. Scholarship Fund

For students seeking a career in law enforcement or private security including studies in the administration of justice

Amount: \$500-\$2,000

Deadline: March 14, 2024

<https://www.cfnova.org/scholarship/vance-international-inc-scholarship-fund>

Claes Nobel Future Female Leader Scholarship

Amount: \$1,000

Deadline: March 15, 2024

<https://app.goingmerry.com/scholarships/claes-nobel-future-female-leader-scholarship/14911>

AFA Teens for Alzheimer's Awareness Essay Contest

Amount: \$5,000

Deadline: April 1, 2024

<https://alzfdn.org/young-leaders-of-afa/alzheimers-awareness-scholarship/>

American Foreign Service Association National High School Essay Contest

Amount: \$2,500

Deadline: April 1, 2024

<http://www.afsa.org/essay-contest>

**Please note, opportunities in the Guidance Corner are not endorsements of the programs. They are shared as options for students and parents to carefully consider.*