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TeenLife’s **2019 GUIDE TO OVERNIGHT SUMMER PROGRAMS** is a means to expand your world, explore a new interest, meet fascinating people, create something fantastic and, of course, have fun.

These used to be called “enrichment” programs, but, as experts, we know that a summer spent in a structured program, in an internship, traveling, or learning a new skill is so much more than just a classroom add-on. These programs let you experience life away from home. They teach responsibility, leadership and resilience. They might include academics, community service or leadership training, but this isn't an older generation's idea of “summer school.” You’ll find plenty of chances for adventure and friendships. And there's a teen summer program to fit every interest, budget and schedule.

This guide can get you started. It lists more than 50 summer program providers, along with tips on things to think about before you go on an overnight program; our best advice for earning college credit and the best way to really learn a language. And we have the inside scoop from several high school students who have participated in summer programs.

So think about what you want from summer, then take it one step further and sign up for a program. You can check [www.TeenLife.com](http://www.TeenLife.com) for more. Let summer be all that you can imagine!

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Are you trying to decide whether you should spend next summer studying a textbook or rereading the Harry Potter saga? Spending time with the Hogwarts crew might sound like a lot more fun, but taking a college course for credit has some major upsides.

“A college class can be a great option for students who desire a more rigorous academic challenge than what their high school offers,” says Nancy Polin, a college counselor who is the founder and president of Educational Excellence, which offers college planning and tutoring services.

“It’s an opportunity for a student to get their first exposure to what a college class is like and can be used as a stepping stone for a smooth transition and future success as a four-year college student. In some high schools, students can use it to boost their GPA. Probably most important, it can be used to show colleges that you have the ability to be successful at college-level course work,” Polin says.

It’s important to be clear about your reasons for hitting the books over the summer, says Stacy Hernandez, a college counselor who owns The Best U, another admissions consulting service.

“Some students are trying to dive more into an academic subject to deepen their knowledge,” she says. “Others want to get exposure to a field of study to help them decide what they want to study in college or do in their career.”

Gaining some college credits over the summer could help you check off some college graduation requirements or help you skip out of entry-level courses into higher-level classes, says Hernandez, who worked in the admissions departments at Johns Hopkins University and Northeastern University.

**PAY ATTENTION TO TIME LINES**

If you want to make sure you get the credits you’ve earned, Polin says the first step is meeting with your high school’s guidance counselor to get the details about your school’s procedures. “Timelines are important because usually there’s a lot of paperwork,” she says.

You may need to have your guidance counselor sign off on the college paperwork in order for you to enroll in a college class. Be sure to check whether or not your high school will list college courses on your transcript.

**LOOK NEAR AND FAR**

Some students have the desire and resources to travel to a summer program.

“Parents might be eager for their child to gain more independence, so they want them to attend a program where they’re living in the dorms and getting comfortable living on their own,” says Hernandez. “Brown, for example, has a tremendous, diverse range of pre-college classes for high school students.”

A local community college is a lower-cost option that will provide a mix of educational options, and that works just as well for many students, she says.

“It doesn’t have to be a big, elaborate program,” she says.

**CHOOSE WISELY**

When choosing a class, find one that’s challenging but not over your head. “Most college applications »
will ask if you’ve taken a college class for credit, and low grades will stay with you,” says Polin. “The college classroom is very different. Teachers give you a syllabus at the beginning of the course, and it’s your responsibility to track what needs to be done. Be sure you understand the expectations from the start.”

CHECK TRANSFER POLICIES

If you are hoping to attend a particular college after you finish high school, be sure to look at transfer policies on the college's website so you know their criteria for carrying forward your summer credits.

As a rule of thumb, says Hernandez, the more selective the school, the tighter the guidelines about transferring credits. “You submit your credits when you enroll in college, whether it’s college courses or [Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate] credits,” she says. “Each college has its own evaluation process and its own standards of what it will accept and what it won’t.”

Checking on transferability is particularly important for non-academic summer programs, such as leadership conferences or outdoor adventure programs that promote leadership, she says.

From a college’s perspective, not all summer courses are equal.

“Some pre-college programs offer really interesting elective courses instead of standard classes like Calculus and Physics 101,” says Hernandez. “Those electives won't necessarily line up with your college's policies or requirements. It’s a good idea to find the programs that have very standard entry-level type of courses within the core subject realms of math, science, English, social studies and languages.”

IT’S NOT JUST ABOUT CREDIT

In addition to getting some college credits, a pre-college experience can provide potential material for a college application essay or interview. “You can talk about how you challenged yourself by taking these more rigorous college classes,” Hernandez says. “It's going to make you a more interesting applicant.”

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Summer Programs
Brantley Gilliard spent part of his summer at Northwestern University’s Center for Talent Development (CTD) program.

Why did you choose to participate in a summer program?
My mother wanted to find ways for me to pursue my interest in computer science, outside of school, but there were not many suitable options for me to do so around our area. When she found Northwestern’s Center for Talent Development (CTD) summer program, I was reluctant to go because I had never experienced a stay-away summer program. I was 9 years old and not yet ready to leave the house.

How did you decide which program or camp was right for you?
My first year at CTD was not really what you would call a memorable one. I found the class very challenging and my instructor saw I was struggling. The next year, I tried much harder to learn and excel in the class. Outside of class, I also made more friends and started to enjoy the program very much. Ever since then, I have attended CTD’s program every year.

What was a typical day in your summer program?
I woke up at around 6:30 am. Classes started at 8:30 a.m., so my Residential Assistant (RA) group and I arrived at the dining hall at around 7:45 a.m., where we ate quickly before heading off to class.

Classes weren’t always in the same building, so you either had a class right in front of your dorm or on the other side of campus. At 11:45 a.m., my class left for lunch. Then, we continued class until 2:45 p.m.

After that, it was activity time. At around 3 p.m., everybody would return from class, and swarm in the dorm lobby looking for the activities.

Activities were around one hour to 90 minutes. After activities, at around 4:45 p.m., you had a brief time to settle yourself and talk with your roommates or other friends before dinner. Dinner started at 5:30 p.m. From 6 to 8:30 p.m. we had downtime. At 8:30 p.m. we had advisory, and our entire group met with our RA. The RA may ask you thought-provoking questions or simply reflect on the day. After that, we had more downtime until 10:30 p.m. when it was lights out.

What was the most memorable moment of your summer?
Interacting with all the teens and building great friendships are the best parts of CTD. If you start to enjoy the program, going to class feels much more relaxed, and that enjoyment from dorm activities starts to rub off on how you feel about classes. Even though the main reason you are attending CTD is to get experience from completing a course, doing well in classes almost feels like an added bonus. The real experience is the number of friends you make and how much fun you have at the camp.

What advice do you have for teens looking at summer programs?
Do not shy away from camps because you are scared of being away from home. Even if you are a shy person, you will develop many friendships at these camps by interacting with peers.
A n overnight summer program, whether on a college campus or at a camp, can be an awesome experience for teenagers. They get a chance to meet new people and try new things or get better at the things they love to do.

But teenagers, being teenagers, often test the boundaries. That’s especially true because overnight summer programs are often the first place they get a chance to be out of the reach of their parents and to just be themselves.

Before your child goes off to camp or a pre-college program, have a discussion about what you and your child expect from the experience. Summer program experts offer the following suggestions on what to agree on:

1. RULES ARE RULES. FOLLOW THEM.

Programs don’t like to send teenagers home, and the teen who’s sent home isn’t happy about it, either, says Michael Knauf, director at French Woods Festival, a performing arts camp in the western Catskill Mountains of New York.

Programs have strict rules about smoking, vaping, alcohol, drugs and sex. Any of those behaviors could be a deal breaker and end your teen’s summer camp experience on a bad note. Depending on the seriousness of the behavior, the camp could just call to alert you and give your child a warning, or it could be an automatic trip home – at the parents’ expense.

“The thing (to know) about camp is that everybody knows what everybody else is doing,” says Eve Eiffler, owner of Tips on Trips and Camps, a free service that connects kids with camps and other programs. “There is no time that you are left alone. You have to be at activities, and if you don’t show up, staff members have walkie-talkies to keep track of kids. If you do break the rules, chances are you are going to get caught.”

2. ASK FOR HELP.

If there’s an uncomfortable or unusual situation, find a camp counselor or dorm advisor and discuss the issue.

“Go to a staff member if there is anything you need help navigating because they are your surrogate parents over the summer,” Eiffler says. “They are there to help you and watch out for you. So if you are afraid or concerned or wondering about things, those are the people you want to go to first. And if you don’t feel comfortable doing that, find another adult.”

3. RESPECT OTHER PEOPLE.

You will be living in close quarters with people you don’t know at first. Respect their space, their property, their feelings and their bodies. You will be among people who think differently than you do, or do things in a way that is different from what you’re used to. Keep in mind that anyone could become your new best friend or teach you something awesome you don’t know.

4. TAKE A RISK ON SOMETHING NEW.

Summer camps don’t have grades, so you can’t fail. And even pre-college academic programs offer activities and field trips that are just for fun. Eiffler advises teenagers to try new things, even if they are afraid they won’t be good at them. You might find that you are better than you thought and find a new life passion or hobby you love.”
Programs for High School Students 2019

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5. CHOOSE WHO YOU WANT TO BE.

Camp represents a clean slate for teenagers, especially if they feel pegged into a certain category at home, Knauf says. It’s a great time to think about how you want to be perceived by a new group of people. It can be freeing, and you could learn something new about yourself.

“Teenagers’ biggest issues are probably self-acceptance, and I think one of the opportunities that they have when they go away to camp is to give up the learned behaviors and the personas and the reputation they have at home and start from scratch,” Knauf says. “It’s a real opportunity. If you are squished in a box where you come from, you can get out of that box.”

6. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

Without parents there to guide you, you need to take more responsibility for your personal safety and well-being, Eiffler says. That includes basics like remembering to apply sunscreen, but it also includes speaking up if you are sick or injured or feel bullied. Don’t keep these things to yourself.

7. DON’T BE SURPRISED IF YOU ARE HOMESICK.

“This is an expected thing that happens to everybody, and if you start to feel sad or that you miss home or that you can’t take whatever it is, camp staff are all trained to deal with that,” Knauf says.

As tempting as it might be to call Mom and ask her to come get you, try sticking it out instead. “Just because it is hard isn’t a reason to give up,” Knauf says. “If someone is difficult, remember that learning to deal with difficult people is an important life skill. One of the things that you really learn at summer camp is how to be in a whole new place and adapt to that and do well and thrive.”

“This is the time and place to do that because it’s a sheltered, supportive environment, so it’s OK not to be perfect there,” she says. “Nobody is grading them on how fast they get up on water-skis or how quickly they learn to serve on the tennis court. Take this opportunity to really enjoy yourself and try things you wouldn’t normally do.”
High school juniors and seniors can earn 4 hours of transferrable college credit at the College of William & Mary for an in-depth freshman-level course that teaches early American history on site at historic places, including archaeological excavations, original and reconstructed buildings, and museums in Virginia.
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Why did you choose to participate in a high school summer program?
I’m a part of this program called Summer Search, which is a program that helps students in low-income communities with the chance to travel. Summer Search has partnered with many high schools, community-based organizations, and families in Boston, New York, The Bay Area, Seattle and Philadelphia to provide not only traveling opportunities but mentoring and college support services.

Summer Search grants its members two full scholarships towards a summer experience. For their first summer experience, students are required to complete a wilderness trip. My wilderness trip was in Asheville, N.C., where I completed a 21-day Outward Bound Course. There, I was challenged the most I’ve ever been challenged in my life, physically and mentally and I’ve grown through self-discovery.

For their second summer experience, students have a choice to either go on a service trip or an educational trip, and your mentor finds the best place for you. I chose an educational trip because I felt that it would be beneficial for me because I was going to be entering my senior year. My mentor found Wasatch Academy’s Summer Program, and that’s where I went. At the time, I’ve never heard of Wasatch Academy and I had no idea what to expect.

How did you decide which program was right for you?
There were two programs I could choose from for Summer School at Wasatch Academy: three weeks or six weeks. I chose the six-week long program for two reasons: I wanted to get the most out of my summer experience. I wanted a chance to make good friends, and a chance to challenge myself and see how well I do on my own.

The second reason was that life at home wasn’t ideal. ... So, I also chose the longest program to get away from that.

What was a typical day in your summer program?
We’d eat breakfast in the morning, head to the classes that we’d chosen for ourselves, and then head to the dorm afterward. We had mandatory rec trips every day after school where we’d do things like go to an amusement park, tubing down a river, hike, play at an arcade, roller skate, and other super fun things! We would have dinner on campus afterward, or off campus, if we were too late leaving our rec trips. Every day there was something new and fun to look forward to.

What was the most memorable moment of your summer?
I was awarded the Joseph Robert Loftin Summer School Award for my visionary leadership, hard work and enthusiasm for people. It was a proud moment for me because I’ve never been the one to win awards. Not only did the award make me feel great about myself, it also landed me a scholarship to come here for the school year.
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If you’re a high school student, becoming a doctor is about a dozen years away. That’s a long journey requiring a big commitment of time and money. How can you be sure that medicine is right for you?

Your best bet is to spend a summer getting a close-up look at medicine, either as a volunteer or as a student in a medical program for high school students that provides an in-depth look at the world of medicine. Either way, you won’t be performing surgery, but you will get a much better sense of what a career in health care is all about. And you might discover careers that you never knew existed.

Several colleges and universities offer health care or medical courses, such as forensics or microbiology, in summer pre-college programs aimed at high school students. Brown University offers a three-week course specifically for those considering a career as a physician called “Introduction to Medicine: Do You Want to Be a Doctor?” It’s taught by Dr. Julianne Ip, an associate dean of medicine. Students must be rising juniors or seniors and have completed an upper-level biology course.

“In a condensed way, we give the students a good taste of what medical school is all about,” Ip says. “They study anatomy and physiology, and some of them realize that working with a cadaver is not their cup of tea, whereas other kids love it.”

Students spend a lot of time in group discussion of case studies, she says. “Medicine is a team sport, but some students realize they are very introverted, and this is not their way. That’s great. They need to know that. There are a few specialties in medicine that don’t require a lot of interaction, but they are few and far between.

“We also send them on shadowing expeditions to the hospitals or to doctors’ offices. Some of them love it, and some realize it’s not for them.

“I have the students do a lot of reflection about their values, their strengths and their challenges and how they’re going to move forward through four years of undergrad, four years of medical school and at least three years beyond that. That makes some students pause. You don’t just walk into the emergency room and start treating people.”

Ip has recruited students from her summer course to attend Brown as undergraduates. Some stayed to get their medical degrees.

She’s also known summer students who decided that medicine was not their calling. “I throw them a party,” she jokes. “It’s the best thing to have that clarity at a young age.” Brown also offers a nine-week, online version of the course. »
If you’re looking for hands-on experience, try volunteering at a hospital or other medical facility near home or perhaps overseas. Programs such as Project Abroad offer opportunities for high school volunteers. Your local hospital, however, might be a place to start. Note that some organizations and programs have requirements for recommendations or grades.

Eileen Pelletier, director of volunteer services at Hartford HealthCare, says that almost all of her 90 or so teenage volunteers each summer are interested in health care careers.

“Depending on the student and what their goals are, our program offers more than just a chance to get some hours to put on your college application,” she says. “It gives them a chance to build relationships with peers at other schools, to meet staff around the hospital who could become mentors and give them career advice as they go through school, and to learn about different areas of medicine and different topics in health care.”

Volunteers who are 14 or 15 years old are usually assigned office roles that have limited patient contact, she says. Those who are 16 or older might be assigned to a nursing unit or a patient visitation program.

Older teens spend time with patients, chatting or tracking down a nurse if assistance is needed.

“Any experience you can get interacting with patients or their family members and visitors – how to approach them, how to make them more comfortable – that’s going to serve you well, no matter what you end up doing in health care later on,” says Pelletier.

At Hartford HealthCare, teen volunteers must have at least a B average in school, have to provide two written recommendations from nonrelatives and have to write two essays. Pelletier says about one of every three qualified applicants is accepted.

For most of the teen volunteers, the experience reaffirms their interest in medicine, she says, “but if they come here and find they don’t like being around people who are sick or injured, then it’s time for them to think about exploring other areas.”
At Center for Talent Development’s Summer Program, dig deep into a subject of interest, build upon your academic strengths, and connect with a community of peers. CTD’s Summer Program offers:

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Courses are available for students in elementary through high school in a variety of subject areas including engineering and design, technology, and leadership and service-learning. Visit the CTD website for admission criteria.
While you're dreaming of all the things you can do this summer, pencil in one more: community service.

Was that a groan? It shouldn't be. Summer, when you don't have homework or as many other commitments, is a great time to volunteer. There are always to squeeze in a few hours to do something for somebody else, whether it's once a week or during time with a high school summer program or camp.

**WHY SHOULD YOU BOTHER?**

There are several reasons: Community service is good for the community, but it's also good for teenagers (even if it's not required by your high school).

Here's why:

- **Volunteering exposes you to new ideas and problems and to ways to solve those problems.** Let's say you volunteer to pick up trash along the highway and notice there are scores of those small liquor bottles called “nips.” That might encourage you to lobby your state legislature to implement a bottle deposit or to ban nips altogether.

- **Volunteering is a way to practice employment skills, even if you're not technically employed.** You will be required to make a commitment, to show up on time, to be respectful and polite with clients or the public and to take responsibilities for your actions. Those are all things employers want to see on your resume.

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• **Volunteering teaches you how to network.** Let’s say you’re working in a community to provide meals to children. You might need to help with publicity about the program on social media, or talk to community members to spread the word, or collaborate with several organizations.

• **Volunteering is a good way to meet mentors and create support other than your parents or teachers, particularly if you live in an area where summer jobs are scarce.** Other volunteers may not only teach you something, but, assuming you’re a responsible volunteer, might help you find an internship, or write recommendation letters for next summer’s job or your college application.

• **Volunteering is a way to show colleges that you can commit to something other than school.** All those hours you spend painting sets for the community theater group will look good on your resume when you apply to art school.

• **Volunteering can change the world.** Really. Volunteering might seem like a small step, but think of the power of all the volunteers around the world who are making a difference in people’s lives, public policy or the environment – one action at a time.

• **Volunteering is fun.** You’ll discover new places and people and have plenty to talk about when someone asks, “How did you spend your summer?”

**WHAT’S YOUR NEXT STEP?**

• **Create a resume.** Even though this isn’t a paying job, organizations will want to know about you, what you can do and how to get in touch with you. And, a resume will come in handy as a reminder when you’re filling out volunteer applications.

• **Do your homework.** Go online or actually call local organizations that interest you to see what kind of volunteers they need and how to apply. This could be anything from a shelter to a summer camp to a clinic. Note: Some organizations – hospitals and animal shelters, for example – may have age restrictions. If this summer isn’t a fit, next summer might be.

• **Look at summer programs that offer opportunities to volunteer, either close to home or abroad.**
Don’t be put off by cost; many offer scholarships or financial aid. You might find yourself coaching soccer in Ghana.

- **Head to the library.** Libraries have bulletin boards where community organizations post call-outs for volunteers or special events. It’s a good place to get a list of local nonprofits that might need help, or to research summer programs. And, the library itself may need volunteers.

- **Think about your skills.** Are you a whiz on social media? Do you speak a language other than English? Can you write a press release or tweak a database? Could you tutor someone in the intricacies of physics or French? Do you like to build stuff? Consider what you have to offer an organization and then sell them on how great you’ll be.

- **Be practical.** If getting to a volunteer job requires two buses or $10 in gas, your enthusiasm is going to lag. Don’t volunteer to be the early morning dog walker if you hit the snooze alarm six times every morning. Set yourself up for success. You want to able to follow through on your commitment. It’s another reason to consider a summer program where the practicalities will be taken care of and you’ll be part of a group spurring each other on.

- **Test the water.** Not sure what you want to do? Look for special events that might need volunteers – road races, fundraisers, concerts, political rallies. Even if it’s a one-off, you might discover a cause you care about and learn how to get more involved.

- **Be proactive.** If you pass the local senior center every day and notice it sponsors bingo on Thursdays, offer to help. Or if you’re tired of the boring emails from the community center, offer to help make the weekly update more appealing to teens.

**WHAT COULD HAPPEN NEXT?**

The short answer: anything. Who knows where community service or volunteering could lead! You might discover a new interest, or discover that something you thought you loved, isn’t such a good fit. You will certainly make new friends and meet people who might be different than you but who will have something to teach you about life. And you will have fun!

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By ALEX ZAPPAVIGNA
Acadia Institute of Oceanography

Alex Zappavigna spent part of his summer at Acadia Institute of Oceanography in Seal Harbor, Maine.

Why did you choose to participate in a summer program?
I have been going to summer camps since I was young. My parents often encouraged me to do them to both get out of my comfort zone and get out of the house. As a relatively antisocial kid, hanging out with the few friends I had at home was not an option. As I grew older, it became less of a “get out of the house” thing and more of a gaining more life experience and having fun deal.

How did you decide which program was right for you?
We found the Acadia Institute of Oceanography simply by searching for camps relating to the things I love most: marine life and oceanography. After looking at some other camps, I settled on this one because of the location and the experiences I would get that no one else had.

What was a typical day in your summer program?
A typical day is alway jam-packed. Breakfast at 8, although for early-risers morning labs were offered starting at 7:15. Once we finished eating, it was off to the races to our morning activity. This usually entailed meeting in the lecture hall to learn about what we were going to see, and then loading into the vans to our next destination. This could be to right down the road to Seal Harbor or as far as the top of Mount Cadillac, or sometimes around the building for really interesting labs. Lunch is usually eaten in the field: nothing better than having a BLT on Sand Beach, or a PB and J next to life-filled tidepools. In the late afternoon, we arrive back at the building in time for snacks, outside time, and intense ping pong tournaments before the pre-meal seminars. Often times, this will be a lecture, but occasionally there are hikes and other activities. There’s a bit of free time before lights-out.

What was the most memorable moment of your summer?
Walking down to just about sea level at low tides, there was a large yet hidden cave in the side of this rockface. And it was gorgeous – extremely high salinity tide pools that shimmered, contained possibly hundreds of anemones and a peculiar blue tinged algae, along with other harder to find invertebrates (seastars, sea urchins, etc). It really showed all the wonderful things around me that are waiting to be explored.

What advice do you have for teens looking at summer programs?
Look into everything, and don’t be afraid to reach out to camps if you have any questions. After realizing what some camps actually offered, I ended up not going because I knew I wouldn’t enjoy what was happening. Other camps also weren’t very accessible, so asking about some accommodations in advance before applying was a lifesaver. Be sure to pick a camp where you know you’ll enjoy what you’re doing, and one that pushes you out of your comfort zone to try new things in that area.
Toss everything you need into a bag for a summer day at the beach or pool: a towel; some sunblock; and a nice, thick book about American history.

Wait, what was that last one? Heavy-duty reading material might not make the top of a high school student’s list for a chill-out day under the sun, but it should. Research shows the importance of keeping the brain engaged during a long vacation – and of course, it might help with college admissions.

“There’s 30 years of research on the idea of summer learning loss, tracking it over time. It’s been consistently documented,” says David DeMatthews, an assistant professor at the University of Maryland College of Education.
professor in the Educational Leadership and Foundations Department at the University of Texas at El Paso’s College of Education.

“If they’re not reading or engaging with adults, students can lose anywhere from a month to three months worth of knowledge.”

Summer learning loss hits some students more than others. “The children who are seen as typically at high risk are from homes where poverty is an issue or English is the second language and children who have a learning disability,” says Ellen L. Nuffer, professor and education department chair at Keene State College in New Hampshire.

But the learning dip problem is not limited to those at high risk.

“It doesn’t matter if they’re 6 or 18. Summer learning loss is an issue,” says Nuffer. “People have summer learning loss when they have an extended vacation from school. It’s not an issue when children attend year-round schools without long breaks.”

What can be done about this summer brain drain?

“The first thing the teachers can do is help build a relationship with the parent. It’s a triad: the teacher, the student and the parent,” says Shelley B. Harris, an associate professor of education at Texas A&M University, San Antonio. “At the end of the year, teachers can provide a cumulative report on the student’s strengths and weaknesses, so parents know exactly what their child needs to work on.”

One answer is an academically flavored high school summer program, whether it’s language immersion or computer coding or dance camp – something that keeps the synapses firing but stimulates the brain and imagination in a way that’s different from sitting in a classroom. Educators have other solutions as well.

“Make sure children have access to books and other reading materials,” says DeMatthews. “Give them »
age-appropriate material that matches their interests, because books are great, but if the student isn't interested, it will have low impact. You want a book that will pique their interest in something they might want to study on their own.”

Libraries, museums, schools and community colleges are good first stops to find local summer programs that will keep young brains from idling, Harris says. It’s also possible, she says, for parents to provide opportunities for learning that are fun and that create meaningful memories.

“Make everyday activities into authentic learning activities,” she says. “If you go on vacation, have them keep a journal. If they’re doing yard work, have them measure growth of plants in the yard. If they’re cooking, they’re learning a lifelong skill but also focusing on math and sciences – heat, temperature, time.”

In addition to daily reading, Harris says workbooks or study groups focused on college test prep should be part of a high school student’s summer plans.

And family game nights are a great way to combat the summer slide, says Courtney Koestler, a professor at Ohio University’s Patton College of Education. “Games have long been a way to integrate reading and mathematics in fun, teen-friendly ways,” she says. She also recommends summer camps for high school students geared toward specific interests, including computer camps, foreign language camps and camps focused on the arts.

And, research also shows that physical fitness and good nutrition are important parts of a solid summer.

“One of the most important things is to keep them active,” Harris says. “Don’t let them sleep in, eat junk food and play video games all summer. They need to have a schedule, even for breakfast and lunch. During the school year, they’re in a routine. Students thrive on structure.”
Sometimes, video games can be good for high school students.

Playing games on a computer, tablet or smartphone can strengthen a range of cognitive skills such as spatial navigation, reasoning, memory, problem-solving and perception, according to several studies reviewed by the American Psychological Association in 2013.

And, gaming might be an excuse for your high school student to get interested in a STEM program. Game development requires a knowledge of science, technology, engineering and math, as well as fine-art skills such as graphic design and 3D animation. And, game design and development is a great way for students to learn cross-over skills, such as team-building.

Gaming can even help save the world. In 2017, Games for Change sponsored a special prize for games submitted to the National STEM Video Game Challenge for games designed “to help players learn, improve their communities, and contribute to making the world a better place.” The video game challenge is an annual event sponsored by the Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop, E-Line Media and the Entertainment Software Association.

How can a high school student make the leap from game player to game creator? One way is through a game design summer camp or STEM summer program for high school students. Some of these programs concentrate on the technicalities of coding and production; others are focused on the creative side, such as 3D animation. Some offer scholarships or financial aid. All are taught on college campuses and give students a chance to experience what it’s like to live in a dorm, although several do have day options. Some are pre-college programs hosted by the schools themselves; others are held on campus but organized by outside organizations.

They range from one-week camps for beginning game developers to six-week courses that might be eligible for college credit.

So don’t dismiss your high school student’s game playing as worthless. With a little boost, there might be a way to turn what appears to be a time-waster into something worthwhile. The economic impact of the video game industry on the United States’ GDP was $11 billion in 2016, and salaries average over $90,000, according to Forbes magazine.

See if you and your high school student can come to a meeting of the minds on video games. Where to start? You can find gaming summer programs at www.TeenLife.com, or check out these:

**Emagination Computer Camps** hosts two-week »
sessions for high school students ages 15 to 18 in Boston and Atlanta. Participants work as a team to build a 3D animation game and also connect with guest speakers and get to tour a local video animation studio.

**iD Game Design and Development Academy** is a two-week program for students ages 13-18. Courses are held on college campuses throughout the country and are led by industry professionals. Courses include 3D modeling and printing as well as game coding, design and development.

**Game Experience: Video Game Development** is offered in Los Angeles and Seattle for high school students in grades 10 through 12. Participants learn what it's like to create a game from start to finish and tour gaming companies and meet with people in the industry.

**Alexa Cafe**, an all-girls STEM camp run by iD Tech, offers game coding courses at camps on campuses throughout the United States. Girls ages 10 to 15 can learn 3D art creation with Autodesk Maya 3D modeling and animation software.

**Syracuse University Summer College** offers high school summer courses, including animation and game design. Students who sign up for more than one session get a tuition discount. So, students might be able to follow game design with a coding course, creative writing, photography or even fashion design.

**Worcester Polytechnic Institute** has a summer gaming camp for students going into grades 9 and 10. Participants create a game using a 3D video game engine, including graphics, sound and animation, and work in teams to understand the computer science and art design.

**Centenary College** has one-week coding and game design courses for students entering grades 8 through 12. Day students are welcome, although the majority of participants spend the week living in dorms on the New Jersey campus.
You’ve been told your whole life that the choices you make each summer can affect college admissions. So for students who’ve enjoyed STEM classes in high school, it probably feels natural to look for an internship in a doctor’s office or a research lab.

But choosing a non-STEM high school summer program can help STEM majors acquire some pretty amazing skills, which ultimately will help them in their chosen fields.

Here are some benefits that come with choosing to spend your summer pursuing something outside the STEM field.

1. **YOU CAN LEARN ABOUT BEDSIDE MANNER.**

   There is no replacement for human interaction. Think about the last time you were sick or perhaps preparing for surgery. Was the provider you interacted with cold and clinical, or warm and compassionate? It’s well documented that humans need support networks to survive and when you’re sick or facing recovery from surgery, the last thing you want is to feel alone. A good medical provider takes a moment to listen and to make patients feel heard. By participating in a summer program that asks you to work with children, or perhaps interact with the recipients of community relief, you can learn to put yourself in someone else’s shoes.

2. **YOU CAN LEARN HOW TO COLLABORATE.**

   I teach a lesson to ninth-grade students about group dynamics and at the beginning of our time together, I take a poll: What are your biggest pet peeves when it comes to group projects? Inevitably, the two biggest offenses are being too aggressive and not pulling your own weight.

   Being able to work well in a group and utilize members’ strengths and weaknesses is an amazing skill but often one that comes only with lots of experience and exposure. Since many STEM careers require group work, it is essential to acquire these skills. Gone are the days of working alone in a lab.

   One benefit to working as part of a group in the summer is that there are no grades attached. You need to make the members of the team fit together »
because you have a shared goal, not a shared grade. If you’re a STEM-focused high school student, selecting a humanities or social science summer program allows you to work in groups with students who have different ways of thinking, increasing your own ability to be open-minded and flexible.

3. **YOU CAN LEARN TO WRITE.**
Communication is so important in every field, but when you’re conducting cutting-edge research or designing a new piece of technology or software, you need to be able to share that milestone with others.

STEM majors must be able to get their points across in a formal research paper, in an email, in a presentation or in a casual conversation. Taking a creative writing course or public-speaking class can allow STEM students to think outside the box when it comes to communication, and learn how to illustrate and illuminate in new ways.

4. **YOU CAN LEARN HOW TO FACE FAILURE.**
Scientists, designers, engineers, researchers – they’re all problem-solvers. Adding some experience as, say, a debater, a camp counselor, a traveler or even a retail clerk can help you learn to solve different kinds of problems.

When I’m talking with students about college and brainstorming ideas for college essays, I often ask them to tell me about a time they failed and learned from that experience. Just losing a competition doesn’t count; I ask them to go deeper. We learn from real failure: a time when we planned and worked hard and things just didn’t go our way.

Without these rock-bottom experiences, we fail to learn how to navigate the obstacles in our lives. Take teaching, for example. Teaching younger kids to do something you love is a popular summer job or volunteer activity for high school students. What happens when those kids misbehave or the experiment or art project doesn’t work? Being able to think on your feet quickly and to manage those disappointments will make you a better college student, and you’ll know what to do next time.
Ekaterina Kate Gladkaia came from Russia to spend a summer at Idyllwild Arts Academy in Southern California.

What made you decide to come to Idyllwild Arts Academy?
I found Idyllwild Arts from an international school fair in my own country, Russia, and it immediately drew my attention because of the incredible program where you would work as hard as a college student. This is a very big advantage of Idyllwild Arts: It’s one of the best summer programs in the U.S.

What did you discover or study at Idyllwild?
My personal experience is connected with a Film & Digital Media course that lasted for four weeks and introduced me to the general idea of what film production looks like. We started from the basic rules of cinematography and screenwriting, where we wrote our own scripts and learned how to use equipment on set. The second week was dedicated to pre-production: casting, rehearsals, set design, making a shot-list, etc.

We learned a lot about crew positions on set and what each person should do, which was very fun. I was lucky to be a director of one of the films and on the other I took the position of art assistant and script supervisor. Decisions whether to put you in one position or another were made by faculty members who tried to teach you the things you were most interested in.

The third week was non-stop filming, which I enjoyed a lot. We made three films and spent two days filming each. Students in other arts departments joked about the Film & Digital Media department that they would see us only at breakfast because we were constantly working. The fourth week was a post-production time for editing our main films, but we also had time to work on some smaller projects just for fun.

What will you carry with you from your time at camp?
All the kids of the film department were close to each other. We spent days working together, which made us a little family for a whole month. You have to constantly communicate with fellow filmmakers. Now I can proudly be called an “aspiring filmmaker” because I’ve fallen in love with filmmaking.

You can not imagine how amazing the faculty members were. (And the summer film program used many of the same faculty as the film program of Idyllwild Arts Academy, the boarding high school where I’m a student now. At the academy, the faculty members are still amazing, so I feel so lucky!) Those people will become your friends and the best people to introduce you to this difficult work. I enjoyed the classes and when I had a tough time understanding the material, they always kindly helped me as much as I needed.
erano, été, taumafanafana – no matter how you say “summer,” if you’re a high school student, it’s a great time to sharpen your foreign-language skills.

Opportunities include immersion programs in the United States or abroad, homestays and apps.

No matter what form of training you choose, there are multiple reasons to do it.

When you learn another language, there are cognitive benefits in terms of added flexibility in your thinking, says Marty Abbott, executive director of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL).

But the most important benefit, she says, is being able to connect with other people.

“Young people have that motivation because, especially through the Internet, they are connecting with and learning from people around the world. You can use Google Translate if you want to, but it makes mistakes, and it’s no substitute for learning about the culture of the people in another country.”

Learning a foreign language is part of responsible global citizenship, says Christine Schulze, executive director of Concordia Language Villages, a summer immersion program based in Bemidji, Minn. Concordia offers residential programs in 15 languages, including Arabic, Chinese, Norwegian and Russian, along with French and Spanish.

“Being interested in a language, and thereby a culture, builds bridges of understanding,” Schulze says. “It might be around the world or in your own neighborhood. Our communities have become much more multicultural.”

For college-bound students, language pairs with many types of majors, she says.

“We have a very global economy. The world has decidedly shrunk. Whatever career field a young person may be
interested in pursuing, language is either going to be a differentiator or a complement to what they might want to pursue in life. From science to technology to business, it offers an additional skill and talent that they can hold out to an employer.”

**LEARN IT BEST THROUGH IMMERSION**

So, what’s the best way to beef up your language skills?

Immersion is the way to go, says Abbott.

“It’s about putting yourself out there – maybe putting yourself in an uncomfortable situation to become comfortable,” Abbott says. “You have to feel a little about awkward about using the language to really improve and really connect with people.”

And, immersion merges language learning with cultural learning, says Schulze. “That brings it alive in ways that are very deep and meaningful, in terms of art and history.”

Immersion programs put great emphasis on spoken-language skills, something that may not be a major focus of classroom instruction. It’s about living the language, Schulze says.

“When you travel, you need the basics of how to order in a restaurant, use an ATM and purchase something, and go to a museum. That’s what makes learning a language fun – when you can use it in realistic contexts.”

Immersion programs are available at all levels, from beginners to fluent speakers. One benchmark is that a four-week immersion program is the equivalent of one full year of high school language instruction, says Schulze.”

No matter what form of training you choose, there are multiple reasons to do it.
A typical student in Concordia’s two-week program is a teen who’s taken some high school courses but wants to get better at speaking a language. “You can get comfortable with the language, have a little more courage and confidence about using it and learn a little about the culture.”

Concordia’s one-week programs typically draw students who are not yet in high school and want a first-time experience being away from home or learning a language.

**CONSIDER A HOMESTAY**

Homestays, often combined with travel, are another immersion option.

“There are homestay programs all over the world, including many that aren’t that far away in Mexico, Costa Rica, even in French-speaking Canada,” says Abbott.

“It’s still possible to travel to many countries and use only English, because there are so many people around the world who are motivated to learn English. But it’s important to go to that uncomfortable place where you are forced to interact using the language, and a homestay is great for that.”

You might not even need to leave home to get an immersive language experience, she says. There are people who speak various languages in every community.

“We often talk about the journey that people are on toward becoming globally competent. That means being comfortable interacting around the world, but it can begin in your local community.”

As for language apps, Abbott says many of them are geared to gaming theory, so they provide plenty of motivation. But apps tend to focus on building vocabulary and learning about grammar, she says. “It really takes interacting with a human being to develop that communicative ability.”

By the way, in case you don’t recognize all of them, the words for “summer” at the start of the article are in Spanish, French and Samoan.

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“Walking away from this experience, I feel more confident in myself, in my knowledge, and in my future.”

-Savina, 2018 alumni
Austin Crawley spent part of his summer at the Engineering Summer Academy at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Why did you choose to participate in a summer program?**
The summer before my senior year, I wanted to experience a summer program at a university that provided strong academic classes, lab participation, team-building activities, and programs to help me explore careers in the field of engineering. I needed to experience life away from home at a university where I’m learning first-hand how to be productive on campus while making my own decisions. I was also looking for an opportunity to meet new people throughout the program and build relationships with a diverse group of students that have the same passions.

**How did you decide which program was right for you?**
During the fall of my junior year, I took a campus tour of the University of Pennsylvania and heard about their Engineering Summer Academy at Penn program (ESAP). This program offers an intensive three-week overnight experience with hands-on lab and research experience while earning college credit. Of the six courses offered, I decided on Bio-technology. This course teaches some of the fundamentals of molecular biology and students have the opportunity to work on molecular cloning experiments in the lab. My passion in engineering and biology has been driven by my interest in renewable energy and the affects on the environment.

**What was a typical day in your summer program or at camp?**
My daily activities included lecture classes in the morning, lab work in the afternoon, and homework assignments or working on my research project in the evening. Some days, we went on field trips. On the weekends, we had planned trips and team-building activities, like soccer, an ice cream social, local restaurants, and amusement park. I really enjoyed the interaction with the Penn professors and the engineering graduate students who helped with our research project. I have to admit the work was intense but working in the labs felt great.

**What was the most memorable moment of your summer?**
The most memorable moments were the interaction with the Penn professors, engineering graduate students and working in the labs. We got an amazing opportunity to talk to and interview a local pathologist in the area and took a more hands on approach to learning what breast cancer is and how breast cancer spreads. I also really enjoyed the field trip to a start-up tech company.

**What advice do you have for teens looking at summer programs?**
Try to experience an overnight college experience before your senior year. You will learn a lot about yourself, gain independence, and will make the transition to leaving for college easier for you and your family.
By JASMINE BERGER
VISIONS Service Adventures

What made you pick a summer program through Visions?
VISIONS combined my favorite things – travel, learning and community service. What I love about VISIONS is that the main focus of the trip is volunteering. Although there is still plenty of time to relax and explore, serving the community is the top priority.

What was a typical day like during this program?
The weekday was structured around different worksites and projects. Every day we would choose between the different volunteering opportunities: soup kitchens, restocking food pantries, building handicap ramps for elders, repainting buildings. The schedule was very flexible and there were even more opportunities to find new work and take initiative in the community.

For example, one of our worksites was a food truck that served free meals to kids. The first day, we showed up ready to play sports and serve food to children. The only issue was that only 10 kids showed up and none of them wanted to play. Working with the director of the food truck, we created a canvassing campaign to promote the food truck service.

The VISIONS counselors were extremely accommodating and let us lead the way. We created the flyer, visited the community college to print them, and set out on a canvassing route around different neighborhoods. Our canvassing efforts were successful and the next day about 40 kids showed up.

After work, we would head back to the ranch we lived on. Sometimes we would work on conservation projects around the ranch, such as building a greywater marsh or renovating the barn. Other times we would just relax, playing frisbee, basketball, or go for a walk in the rolling plains.

What did you do besides volunteer?
We attended many cultural and religious ceremonies. VISIONS has worked with the Blackfeet people for almost 30 years, allowing the VISIONS program access to community celebrations as honored old friends.

There was also play. On the weekends we explored Glacier National Park – camping, backpacking, hiking or swimming in freezing cold glacial lakes. We also attended North American Indian Days, a celebration of native pride.

What did you learn through the VISIONS program?
Learning and experiencing this vibrant culture was only made possible because of VISIONS. I am so grateful to be one of the few outsiders who was able to experience it. By the end, Browning almost felt like a home – I knew my way around, could name every single restaurant and hotel, and recognized almost every face in the supermarket. This was my second summer with VISIONS and I was not disappointed!
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ACLU SUMMER ADVOCACY INSTITUTE
www.aclu.org/issues/aclu-summer-institute
Location: Washington, DC
The ACLU Summer Advocacy Institute brings together a diverse group of students to participate in a week-long, firsthand learning experience for the next generation of social justice advocates. Students learn directly from lawyers, lobbyists and community activists working to defend civil rights and civil liberties.

ALFRED UNIVERSITY SUMMER PROGRAMS
www.alfred.edu/about/community/summer-programs/
Location: Alfred, NY
Alfred University offers summer programs in astronomy, art, creative writing, computers, ceramic and glass engineering, robotics, theater, equestrian and swimming. Students enjoy learning, making friends and experiencing life on a college campus.
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www.bu.edu/summer/high-school-programs/
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COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY
PRE-COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAM IN EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY
www.wm.edu/as/niahd/precollegiatesummer/index.php
Location: Williamsburg, VA
The William & Mary Pre-College Program in Early American History immerses rising high school juniors and seniors in history through visits to historic sites and museums in Virginia. Students earn 4 hours of transferrable college credit for their work during the three-week residential program.

BROWN UNIVERSITY
PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS
https://precollege.brown.edu/
Location: Providence, RI
Each summer, talented high school students from around the world enroll in Brown Pre-College Programs to experience Ivy League academics and prepare for a successful transition to college. More than 300 courses, in one-to-seven-week sessions, on campus, online, or around the world.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY SUMMER COLLEGE PROGRAMS
www.sce.cornell.edu/sc/
Location: Ithaca, NY
Cornell University Summer College offers precollege programs for motivated high school students. Experience the excitement of college life, take college courses with renowned faculty, and enjoy an unforgettable, life-changing summer with 1,000 other high school students.

DUKE UNIVERSITY
YOUTH PROGRAMS
https://learnmore.duke.edu/youth
Location: Raleigh, NC
Duke Youth Programs offers a wide range of intellectually stimulating and fun activities for middle and high school students. Participants can choose from a variety of options: writing, STEM, leadership and video production. Participants will have the chance to experience college life while living on Duke University’s beautiful campus.

EMERSON COLLEGE PRE-COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAMS
www.emerson.edu/academics/pre-college
Location: Boston, MA
Enjoy summer in the heart of Boston with one of our challenging academic programs for high school students. Programs are intensive, fun and teach competitive, practical skills in communication and the arts. Learn more and apply today!
EMORY UNIVERSITY
PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAM
http://precollege.emory.edu/
Location: Atlanta, GA
The Emory Pre-College Program is a summer academic program for high school students. It gives college-bound sophomores and juniors an exciting glimpse of academic and residential life at a top-ranked national university.

ENGINEERING SUMMER ACADEMY AT PENN
https://esap.seas.upenn.edu/
Location: Philadelphia, PA
The Engineering Summer Academy at Penn offers a unique summer opportunity for a select group of motivated and talented high school students. Experience rigorous and challenging college-level studies at our high-tech, ivy-league program in the heart of Philadelphia!

THE EXPERIMENTORY AT DEERFIELD ACADEMY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS
https://deerfield.edu/the-experimentory-at-deerfield-academy/
Location: Deerfield, MA
An innovative middle school summer program, the Experimentory at Deerfield Academy allows students to delve into project-based, creative learning. We focus on collaborating and communicating, fostering creativity, and developing how we look at the world. It's also a great chance to sample a top boarding school.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY PRE-COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAMS
https://summer.gwu.edu/precollege
Location: Washington, DC
The George Washington University's Pre-College Summer Programs provide high school students with hands-on learning opportunities in and outside the classroom by taking advantage of GW's strengths in research, diverse communities, and a vast network of local and global partnerships.

ISSOS INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOLS
www.issos.com
Location: Multiple Locations
The exclusive ISSOS summer school program offers high school students from all over the world (age 13-18) the unique opportunity to combine learning, creative enrichment and action-packed adventure at one of three amazing, historic and picturesque universities: St. Andrews in Scotland; Cambridge in England; and Yale in New Haven, Connecticut.

JULIAN KRINSKY CAMPS & PROGRAMS
www.jkcp.com
Location: Multiple Locations
Summer should be about doing what you love, meeting people from all over the world, preparing for college and experiencing something new. We offer 22 programs for ages 5-18. Students can choose from business, art, e-sports, STEM, cooking, fashion, sports and more at Haverford College, University of Pennsylvania, and Villanova and Yale universities.

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LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY
https://summer.lmu.edu/
Location: Los Angeles, CA
LMU offers an engaging opportunity for motivated high school students to get a sneak peek at college life through a unique two-week experience designed to challenge students' critical and creative ways of thinking.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM
https://sps.northwestern.edu/college-preparation/
Location: Evanston, IL
Experience college life at Northwestern University this summer in the College Prep Program. High school sophomores and juniors can take undergraduate courses for college credit, or enroll in a two-week IN FOCUS seminar in a special topic area.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR TALENT DEVELOPMENT
www.ctd.northwestern.edu/summer2019
Location: Evanston, IL
Northwestern University’s Center for Talent Development Summer Program has earned global recognition as a premiere learning experience. Academically advanced students enjoy academic challenge through fast-paced enrichment, honors, and Advanced Placement courses, taught in a highly supportive environment near Chicago.

THE SCHOOL OF THE NEW YORK TIMES: SUMMER ACADEMY
www.nytedu.com/pre-college/
Location: New York, NY, and Washington, DC
Welcome to Summer Academy! Summer Academy gives intellectually curious high school students the opportunity to live and learn in New York City or Washington, DC, while studying topics in journalism, media, technology, arts, culture, sports, fashion, business, science and more.

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Day & Residential Summer Workshops for Kids and Teens ages 5-18

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Plus Family Week - 7 days and 6 nights of art and adventure for the whole family!

Visit idyllwildarts.org/summer or call 951-468-7265 for more info.
SMITH PRECOLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAMS
www.smith.edu/academics/precollege-programs
Location: Northampton, MA
Every summer, Smith College welcomes more than 250 high school girls who want to pursue their academic interests in and outside of the classroom, strengthen their college applications, and meet other motivated, ambitious college-bound women from all over the world.

STANFORD PRE-COLLEGIATE SUMMER INSTITUTES
https://summerinstitutes.spcs.stanford.edu/
Location: Stanford, CA
Stanford Pre-Collegiate Summer Institutes is a three-week summer residential program held on Stanford campus that provides academically talented and intellectually curious students currently in grades 8–11 with intensive study in a single course.

ST. JOHN’S COLLEGE SUMMER ACADEMY
www.sjc.edu/summer-academy/
Location: Annapolis, MD and Santa Fe, NM
The Summer Academy provides an authentic, hands-on introduction to the liberal arts, the great books, and to St. John’s unique pedagogy. With exciting classroom activities and numerous field trips, we provide many opportunities to build friendships with like-minded peers. Off-campus excursions are fun and provide a great introduction to the rich culture and history of areas surrounding Annapolis and Sante Fe.

SUMMER SPRINGBOARD
https://summerspringboard.com/
Location: Multiple Locations
Summer Springboard provides pre-college summer programs on the campuses of UC Berkeley, Yale, Georgetown, Duke and Northwestern universities. Our mission is to help students increase their self-awareness so they can make decisions about college selection, academic majors, and careers that reflect their personal visions for success.

STORRS, CT
UConn Pre-College Summer provides rising high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to live and learn through four challenging and intensive one-week sessions to choose from at UConn Storrs, a nationally ranked public university campus.

UMASS AMHERST SUMMER PRE-COLLEGE
www.umass.edu/summer/
Location: Amherst, MA
UMass Amherst Summer Pre-College provides an opportunity for motivated high school students to earn college credit in an academic or research-based program, live in the premium Honors Residential Community, eat in our award-winning dining hall, and discover what makes Amherst an amazing college town.

SAMPLE DEERFIELD THIS SUMMER
JULY 8 – AUGUST 4

The Experimentory Summer Program inspires creativity, fosters character, & challenges thinking while providing a fun-filled Deerfield Experience!
**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND TERP YOUNG SCHOLARS**
[ysp.umd.edu](http://ysp.umd.edu)

**Location:** College Park, MD

The Terp Young Scholars program invites high school students with exceptional ability and promise to an outstanding pre-college experience at the University of Maryland. During three weeks in July, students earn 3 college credits and learn about university life.

**VISIONS SERVICE ADVENTURES**
[https://visionsserviceadventures.com/](https://visionsserviceadventures.com/)

**Location:** Multiple Locations

We hold an unfailing belief in the ability of teens to contribute to a better future. Through collaborative service work, community building and cross-cultural living in the United States and around the world, VISIONS participants develop an enduring sense of purpose and a deeper understanding of themselves and the world.

**WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY SUMMER IMMERSION PROGRAMS**
[https://immersion.summer.wfu.edu/](https://immersion.summer.wfu.edu/)

**Location:** Charlotte, NC

The Wake Forest Summer Immersion Program is a hands-on learning experience. Students dive deep into a field of study with access to world-class faculty, researchers, and industry professionals.

**WASATCH ACADEMY SUMMER PROGRAMS**
[www.wasatchacademy.org/academics/summer-programs/](http://www.wasatchacademy.org/academics/summer-programs/)

**Location:** Mt. Pleasant, UT

The Wasatch Academy summer school program gives students from around the world an interactive learning approach coupled with a whole lot of fun. Students can make the most of their summer through a combination of program offerings, outdoor activities, and a tight-knit community.

**ARTS**

**FRENCH WOODS FESTIVAL OF THE PERFORMING ARTS**
[http://frenchwoods.com](http://frenchwoods.com)

**Location:** Hancock, NY

French Woods Festival offers summer camp programs in dance, theater, music, circus, magic, visual arts, film and video, sports, tennis, fitness, waterfront, skate board, rock and roll and horseback riding. We cater to children from 7-17 years old.

**FRENCH WOODS SPORTS AND ARTS CENTER**
[http://fwsportsarts.com](http://fwsportsarts.com)

**Location:** Hancock, NY

French Woods Sports and Arts Center (FWC) is America’s top teen-only summer camp. We are only 2.5 hours from New York City. Our camp has a fully elective program, which allows campers to choose from traditional and not-so-traditional summer camp activities. Campers ages 12-17 have the option of an affordable two-, four-, six-, eight-, or 10-week sessions.
What are you doing this summer?

Our Summers are full of Plays, Musical Theater, Dance, Music, Circus, Magic, Sports and Art. Our program is individual choice – you make your schedule. We offer over 90 activities every day and 4, 3-week sessions.

frenchwoods.com  800-634-1703  admin@frenchwoods.com
**PROJECT FASHION – PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT & DESIGN**  
[https://fashion.experienceamerica.com/](https://fashion.experienceamerica.com/)  
**Location:** Los Angeles, CA  
Do you want a meaningful and creative career but don’t know where to start? Learn the basics of stitching and sewing and work in teams to create clothing for a Los Angelese fashion brand. Make new friends, gain confidence in your creativity and carve out a direction for a successful future.

**SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO (SAIC)**  
[http://www.saic.edu/continuing-studies/high-school/summer/](http://www.saic.edu/continuing-studies/high-school/summer/)  
**Location:** Chicago, IL  
SAIC’s Early College Program is a great way to earn college credit and explore your passion for art at one of the most historically significant accredited independent schools of art and design in the nation, in the heart of Chicago!

**SOTHEBY’S SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR PRE-COLLEGE STUDENTS**  
[www.sothebysinstitute.com/new-york/summer-study/pre-college/](http://www.sothebysinstitute.com/new-york/summer-study/pre-college/)  
**Location:** New York, NY  
Designed for teens with a strong interest in visual art, art business, design and luxury, this program invites students to spend two weeks immersed in the world’s most vibrant arts and culture capital: New York City. Explore different facets of the New York art scene and learn how the art world works from the inside out.

**BUSINESS/ENTREPRENEURSHIP/LEADERSHIP**

**LAUNCH GENERATION**  
[www.launch-generation.com](http://www.launch-generation.com)  
**Location:** Multiple Locations  
Structured as a hybrid of a conference and a summer camp, our programs in San Diego, California, and Cambridge, England, develop the skills and adaptability needed to launch, in business and in life. Our experiential curriculum and innovative speakers and staff introduce financial, entrepreneurial, and leadership skills. We ensure a customized and high-caliber experience for each teen. No two days are the same!

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COMMUNITY SERVICE

GLOBAL ROUTES
www.globalroutes.org
Location: Multiple Locations
Be more than a traveler. Global Routes pioneers innovative, value-driven, experiential international education. The New York Times calls us “one of the most respected organizations in the field.” Over 10,000 students have had transformative experiences through our industry-leading approach to community service, adventure travel and cross-cultural exchange. Locations include Central and South America, Africa, the Caribbean and Asia. Take the first step today.

VISIONS SERVICE ADVENTURES
https://visionsserviceadventures.com/
Location: Multiple Locations
We hold an unfailing belief in the ability of teens to contribute to a better future. You'll settle into the daily life of the host community, get to know locals, experience different customs and feel a sense of global connection. Locations include Alaska, Montana, Central and South America, and Asia.

HEALTH/WELLNESS

INWARD BOUND MINDFULNESS EDUCATION
https://ibme.info/programs/youth/
Location: Multiple Locations
On iBme teen retreats in the USA and Canada, we practice meditation techniques and mindful movement, connect in small discussion groups, participate in fun workshops and have free time to make lifelong friends. Our program guides teens in developing self-awareness, compassion, and ethical decision making, and empowers them to apply these skills in improving their lives and communities.

Live an artful life.

Explore, eat, speak, dream, breath, and make ART.

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9th-12th grade

SESSION 1:
June 23-July 8
SESSION 2:
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Semester
Summer
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High school sophomores and juniors can earn college credit in undergraduate classes or take a two-week seminar at the university ranked #10 nationally by U.S. News and World Report.

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EF INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE CAMPUSES
www.ef.edu/language
Location: Multiple Locations
Learn a language abroad on the adventure of a lifetime. You will see the world, experience a new culture, and make friends from 100 countries as you prepare for your global future. Start any Monday and study from two weeks to up to a whole year. Study in France, Italy, Costa Rica, Spain, Germany, Japan, Korea, China, Portugal and United Arab Emirates. Ages 13 and up.

SEVILLE ABROAD: SUMMER PROGRAM IN SPAIN
https://sevilleabroad.com/summer-program-in-spain/
Location: Seville, Spain
With a high emphasis on close contact, trust and personalized attention to students and families, we present this Summer Program in Spain, which is not like any other summer program. We will make sure you have and enjoy an experience of total immersion in the life, language and culture of Spain.
LEARNING DIFFERENCES

SOAR SUMMER CAMP IN WYOMING
http://soarnc.org/
Location: Dubois, WY
SOAR offers high adventure summer camps designed specifically for youth and young adults between the ages of 8 and 25 diagnosed with ADHD and LD. Each of our summer camp programs promotes friendships, increases self-confidence, and develops life skills.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

YMCA CAMP LAKEWOOD
www.camplakewood.org
Location: Potosi, MO
Located in Missouri’s eastern Ozarks, Camp Lakewood’s overnight summer camp for kids ages 6-17 provides a well-rounded experience for campers by getting them to have fun outdoors while learning life skills within a safe and trusted environment. Teen programs are about adventures, personal growth, activities and new friends.

STEM

ACADIA INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY
http://www.acadiainstitute.com/
Location: Seal Harbor, ME
Acadia Institute of Oceanography’s Advanced Sessions are pre-college summer courses offered to students ages 15-19 who have completed one year of high school science, preferably biology or chemistry. These two-week sessions are of an analytical nature, and students are expected to prepare laboratory reports and analysis of their field work. We also offer students the chance to explore their collegiate options with college tours and the opportunity to receive 4 credits from the University of Maine Machias.

ALFRED UNIVERSITY SUMMER ROBOTICS ENGINEERING CAMP
www.alfred.edu/about/community/summer-programs/academic-camps/robotics-engineering.cfm
Location: Alfred, NY
This dynamic camp is based on the VEX Robotics System that offers high school students an exciting platform for learning about areas rich with career opportunities spanning science, technology, engineering, and math. Students will experience hands-on learning in small classes, through assembling and programming the VEX Robotics System to perform various functions.

Pre-college summer programs on the campuses of UC Berkeley, Yale, Georgetown, Duke and Northwestern

www.summerspringboard.com
858-780-5660 • info@summerspringboard.com
I am half Japanese, shy, and wasn’t living up to my full potential. I had moved to various places in the US including California, Colorado, Nevada, and Massachusetts. I love learning about growing foods, snowboarding, learning how things work, and hanging out with friends.

In my sophomore year, I was part of summer program and met so many people that changed my life for good. I have become independent, confident, comical (debatable), and reasonable. Now, no matter where I am on campus, I know the people I am around at all times.

The community garden started out as a project (an experiment) class that I thought would be interesting. After helping build it, the garden needed a constant caretaker. It stuck with me and I stuck with it.

I love Wasatch Academy because of the diversity of people, the different programs available, and the varied activities we do for recreation. The summer program changed everything for me.

I am Jadon
PRE-COLLEGE RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS AT WELLESLEY
www.wellesley.edu/summer/precollege
Location: Wellesley, MA
The Wellesley Pre-College Summer Residential Programs offer courses and workshops from engineering to computer modeling. Students can engage with top professors in their fields and discuss topics in small, intimate classroom settings. Designed specifically for the female student, these programs provide students with the chance to enrich and further explore interests in STEM fields.

WAGNER COLLEGE PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS
wagner.edu/pre-college
Location: Staten Island, NY
Experience college life, earn college credit and explore the city that never sleeps. The Wagner College Summer Pre-College Program provides motivated high school students with invaluable opportunities to grow and learn in New York.

TRAVEL/CULTURE

ABBEY ROAD PROGRAMS
www.goabbeyroad.com
Location: Multiple Locations
Founded in 2000 by Stanford Alumni, Abbey Road was founded as a mission to provide high quality, life-enriching, educational summer programs for teens, and we remain on trajectory. Our programs take place across eight different nations, in Europe and North America's most beautiful destinations, filled with once-in-a-lifetime experiences and exhilarating excursions.

CENTER FOR STUDY ABROAD
www.centerforstudyabroad.com
Location: Multiple Locations
For over 20 years, CSA has offered nonprofit, low-cost study abroad opportunities for students and adults worldwide. High quality, accredited programs that are affordable, open to all worldwide, have easy registration and are flexible. Participants can earn college/academic credits. Locations include Australia, Central and Latin America, Asia, Europe and the Caribbean.

CIEE GLOBAL NAVIGATOR HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER ABROAD
www.ciee.org/teenlife
Location: Multiple Locations
Our immersive study abroad programs are three to four weeks long and offer an ideal balance between interactive coursework, travel adventures and engagement with local students and families. Choose from three program types: Language & Culture, Service & Leadership or Global Discovery. Explore the world and come home with new skills, newfound passion – and maybe college credits!

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Since 1990, CSA has offered reasonably-priced overseas opportunities in more than 50 countries for teens and adults worldwide!

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www.centerforstudyabroad.com
www.centerforstudyabroad.org

CROSS-CULTURAL SOLUTIONS
www.crossculturalsolutions.org/high-school-volunteer-abroad
Location: Multiple Locations
CCS Summer High School Volunteer Abroad programs in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Peru, Morocco and Ghana are designed for curious, passionate and adventurous high school students who want to serve others and connect to another culture while traveling abroad.

REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FROM OUR ADVERTISERS, GO TO
www.TeenLife.com/request-summer

RUSTIC PATHWAYS
www.rusticpathways.com
Location: Multiple Locations
With Rustic, we travel because exploring new places and interacting with people from other cultures provides opportunities to learn about ourselves, others, and the world in a way nothing else can. With 100-pluls programs in 17 countries for ages 12 and up, Rustic can help you discover your passions!

TRAVEL FOR TEENS
www.travelforteens.com
Location: Multiple Locations
TFT offers authentic travel experiences in over 45 different countries for ages 13-19. Our programs provide opportunities for cultural exploration, community service, language and photography in a fun and safe environment.
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