



10 Summer Activities to Boost Your College Resume

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Summer programs can help boost a high school student's acceptance to college. Schools are looking for students that utilize their summer breaks to expand upon their personal and professional interests. This can range from volunteering, joining an exchange program or working a summer job. These activities can help distinguish you from other college applicants.

Listed below are suggested activities that you can involve yourself in over the summer:

1. Take a College Course

If you are interested in a particular subject, find a college campus that offers a program revolving around that subject. A majority of these programs offer the opportunity to live on campus and take courses taught by the college's professors. This is a great opportunity to experience college life. However, there are programs which you can commute to the college or take classes online.



2. Participate in a Global Program

Reach out to your high school's counselor to inquire about volunteering abroad. Volunteering abroad allows you to leave your comfort zone and experience a different culture. If you are passionate about working in lower income communities, a service trip may be a great opportunity for you to do so! You can even check with local churches and organizations to inquire about these types of programs.

3. Join a Research Team

As a high school student, involving yourself in research looks impressive on your resume. However, finding somewhere to volunteer can often be difficult. Try emailing a local college to

ask if they know anywhere that might need assistance over the summer. Numerous local colleges and companies are typically looking for high school students to volunteer with basic tasks.

4. Find a Job

Most schools are impressed with students who hold jobs over the summer. In the United States you can begin working at the age of sixteen. There are many job opportunities at local summer camps, restaurants and grocery stores. As an international student, working to earn an income may not be possible, however, you can inquire about job opportunities in your home country during the break.



5. Volunteer

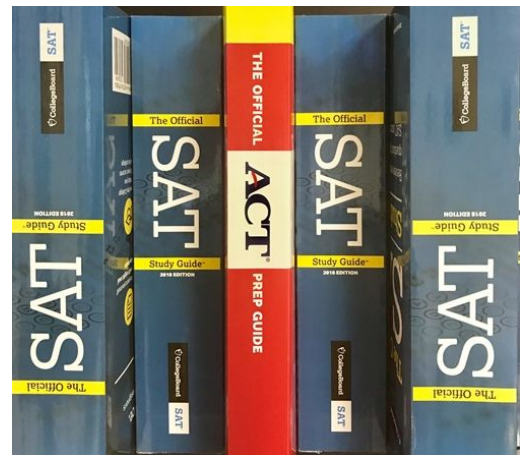
Keep in mind that colleges are interested in long term community projects. You can choose to do charity work by assisting in local hospitals, homeless shelters, soup kitchens and even your local library.

6. Apply for Internships or Shadow

An internship is a great opportunity to gain some insight into your future profession. This can be at a lab, a company or a non profit organization. If you know want to participate in an internship, it is best to apply as early as possible. Most places select summer interns by early March. Alternatively, you can observe someone at their job by shadowing them. The best way to find these types of opportunities is through personal connections.

7. Start Standardized Test Preparation

Your last few years of high school are filled with standardized tests, so the summer is a great time to focus on preparing for them. You can buy prep books for the ACT, SAT and PSAT online and work through them during the summer, take an online or in person prep course, or even hire a tutor.



8. Start a Personal Project

If there is something that you are passionate about doing, such as writing a book, or creating a blog, summer is a great time to do so! If you want to showcase this on your college resume, be sure to have something that can account for your work.