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It's Never Too Early To Be Thinking About Summer

Yes, there are many wonderful things about Fall. It's officially sweater weather, there is an abundance of pumpkin baked goods available and of course there is Fall Break from school. However, in between watching "It's The Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown" and sipping hot apple cider, maybe take a hour or so to think about what you are going to be doing in the summer. Let's face it, you don't want to be hearing of all of the amazing things that your more organized friends did in the summer, while you sat at home and binge watched Netflix. So below are some of our suggestions of really exciting summer opportunities.

Global Works

Global Works is a truly excellent organization. They pair extraordinary international travel adventures with community service and language immersion elements. Students can snorkel with penguins and sea lions in the Galapagos Islands or they can tour the 17th century ruins of Casco Viejo in Panama, all while helping the local indigenous populations. If you are interested in learning more, you can request a catalog at <https://www.globalworkstravel.com/summer-service-adventures/request/request-a-catalog/>. The cost of these service trips is in the range of \$3,000 to \$6,000. An \$800 deposit is due upon enrollment, which is fully refundable until March 1st. A 5% discount is available for members of the SAGE Scholars network. You just need to mention that you are a member when you talk to a representative upon booking your trip.

College Visits

During the school year it can be hard for busy high school students to visit as many colleges as they would like. The summer provides a great opportunity for families to see some college campuses on their way to the beach or lake. College campuses will be quieter over the summer, but there are still students around who will be taking summer classes or doing research with college professors. Now is a great time to research what schools you could visit over the summer and plan how they could fit into your summer schedule.

SAT Prep Classes

So this isn't the most fun suggestion, but now is a great time to sign up for an SAT/ACT summer prep course. These standardized tests are made to trick you into choosing the wrong answer, so a prep course with a seasoned coach can make the world of difference in your test scores. Plus, colleges look at your SAT/ACT scores when awarding merit aid, so a couple of weeks of the summer spent learning how to take the test, could end up saving you thousands of dollars of college tuition.

Pre-College Summer Programs

If your high school student wants to get a real taste of college this Summer, there are a number of pre-college summer programs that they can explore. The PrepScholar website did a great job of organizing these programs by state and university, seen here: <https://blog.prepscholar.com/pre-college-summer-programs-for-high-school-students>.

There are a diverse range of subjects offered, from creative writing to engineering, so students can explore subjects that interest them the most. Some pre-college summer programs are open enrollment while others have a more rigorous admissions process and require things like teacher recommendations, application essays, and/or standardized test scores.

There are some free pre-college summer programs and many programs that offer financial aid for qualified students, but these programs often cost thousands of dollars.

If you have personal success stories that you would like to share with us, we would love to hear them. Please email us at support@sagescholars.com and let us know if you would be willing to let us share your experience in our next Market Cap and Gown publication.