

COACHING FOR COLLEGE e-Tip Sheet

for parents who have a student preparing for college

SUMMER + COLLEGE VISITS = ROAD TRIP - July

This could be the first time you and your teen are visiting a college campus. Perhaps you did this type of trip a few years ago with an older son or daughter. Either way, it seems different with each child and perhaps you are heading to new destinations as you tour campuses this summer or later in fall. When the temperatures are hot and you are taking a few vacation days to do the tour, you want to make the experience worthwhile.

Is there a formula for success? Not exactly, but the acronym **PPIRR** might help you and your teen travel with less wear and tear.

PLAN

It starts with a conversation with your teen. First, has your teen decided on some college campuses to visit? If yes, proceed to the next question. If no, you might consider asking some open ended questions, like what do you need to decide? How can I be of help? Remember, this is just looking, like window-shopping. If you are curious, you will go inside the store and take a closer look. Would your teen want to visit a college nearby as a “test run?” Second, what college(s) are on the travel plan? Call the college and check the website for tours as many have Saturday tours. Review the college admission requirements for SAT and ACT scores. Most students think about applying to a college that is a “safe” choice, the sure bet. In addition, many students apply to a college that is a “maybe” choice and finally, the “stretch”, or long shot.

PREPARATION

Strive for a few colleges that will give you a comparison, but be realistic. If you jam the visits together, you will wear out and be stressed out. A large campus or urban campus might offer excitement, numerous majors, and great athletic events. On the other hand, it might be overwhelming for your teen and too impersonal. A private college can be in located in Boston or a small town in Iowa. What is your son or daughter looking for? Attending college in New Orleans can sound like a great escape after living in the snow belt, but are you ready for the change of climate and southern living? Think about campus size, location, tuition, distance for travel, transportation options, admission requirements, and fit. Like buying your first car, you want to check out a few different car lots and go for test rides. Each car will handle a little differently. So it is with college, take it for a test ride. A second test ride might be called later in fall when students are in classes.

IMPLEMENTATION - We start with the checklist:

Who is going on the tour, the whole family or just a parent and the teen?

Obtain campus information & a map from the college website or when you arrive to the campus.

Remember to pack:

- Sunglasses
- Camera
- Notebook
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Pick up bottled water when you arrive.
- Build in some fun or sightseeing.

Feel your teen could use a jumpstart for the college planning process? Perhaps as the parent, you realize you could use a tune-up on your career path as well or want to prepare to become an *Empty Nexter*®. Contact Beckon Call and let's talk!



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Use your senses - open mind, observant eye, curious attitude, keen ear, trust your intuition.

REVIEW

Well, how was it? What was your impression? How did your teen like the campus, the tour guide, the dorm rooms, the food? Is your teen quiet or talkative? What was the general attitude of the admission staff? What's the learning you can take from the experience?

RELAX

Find a nice restaurant for dinner to sample the local cuisine or head for the hotel pool. Just be. Be the parent; be in the moment with your teen. Tomorrow is another day, another campus or the return trip home. Remember, this is just the beginning of the journey to college.

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