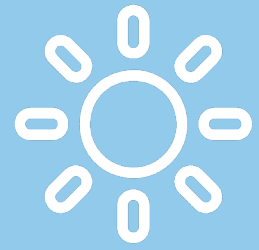


HOW TO SPEND YOUR SUMMERS



KEYS TO SUCCESS

BE CURIOUS.

Keep learning over the summer. The classroom isn't the only setting to spark your curiosity. Read. Visit museums. Explore nature.

FIND JOY.

Do what brings you joy. Is it being outside? In a lab? Traveling? Exploring? Tending your pets? Spend time doing things you enjoy.

REFRESH.

Use the summer to regain balance in your life. Rest, Relax, and restore.

TOP 10 IDEAS FOR A GREAT SUMMER

NOTE: This list is in no particular order. Think of it as a list of ideas, not a checklist of accomplishments to achieve!

- 1 REGISTER FOR A CLASS OR PROGRAM:** Explore opportunities beyond the boundaries of the EA community. Here is an [extensive list](#) of summer programs affiliated with colleges, high schools, non-profit organizations, and educational facilities.
- 2 GET A JOB:** Don't underestimate the value of getting a job - any job! The type of work is not as important as the skills you will learn and demonstrate. Work hard, be dependable, and connect with people of all ages.
- 3 VOLUNTEER:** Get involved to give back to your community. It's not necessary to go across the world to help others; find opportunities around Philadelphia.
- 4 READ:** Read for pleasure. Read the news and be informed. Get started on your summer reading for school.
- 5 DISCOVER OR HONE A SKILL:** Be willing to leave your comfort zone over the summer. Find ways to stretch yourself in positive ways.
- 6 SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Have a relational summer. Build connections and develop stronger relationships. Join an in-person class, find people who share your interests, and reconnect with old friends. Log off social media and participate in your community.
- 7 GO OUTSIDE:** Take advantage of the summer and go outside! Studies show that being outdoors is great for our emotional well-being. Spend time exploring nature. Hike, ride your bike, take walks. Run, swim, row.
- 8 VISIT A COLLEGE:** Summer is the perfect time to schedule visits at the colleges and universities on your list. Plan for each visit ahead of time, make a list of goals for the visit, and enjoy immersing yourself in campus culture!
- 9 CREATE A RESUME:** Create a resume and continue to build on it with your newer experiences. Consider using this [resume template](#).
- 10 REFRESH:** Between classes, activities, athletics, and more, the academic year can be stressful. Take summer to give yourself a break. Allow yourself to do nothing, and even get bored. The lack of distractions or agendas help creativity blossom and refresh you for the fall.

The best summers are when you enjoy yourself, venture outside, grow, gain new knowledge, and improve your confidence as you navigate the world outside The Episcopal Academy.

SUMMER FAQ

What is the "right" way to spend my summer?

There is not just one "right" way to spend your summers during high school. If you leave your room and house, get out of your comfort zone, engage in the world, or gain new experiences, you will spend your summer wisely. Be open to growing intellectually, creatively, or personally, and you will have a terrific summer experience. It's unnecessary to pay money for a program or travel to another country for an exciting and productive summer.

What do I do this summer, and how will it help me with my college applications?

Colleges don't have checklists of things they expect applicants to do. There are no magic formulas and no specific mix of activities that will make you stand out as an applicant. Instead, the interest you choose to pursue is what matters. What do you love to do in your free time? What are you curious to learn more about? If you're still stuck, think about the following: If you were asked to speak about something for 15 minutes, what would that be? How can you tap into that interest?

How do I best use or reflect on summer experiences in my college applications?

Be open to new ideas, and be present. Observe your surroundings and the people around you over the summer. Journal. Reflect on what you are learning and how you are growing into the person you want to become. When it comes time to write your college application essays, reference your journal and note how you have grown. How has the summer intersected with your interests or expanded your horizons? You may have some excellent outlines to further explore for your application essays. Additionally, most jobs, community service projects, and learning experiences can be added to your resume and college application activity page.

What if I don't have much time over the summer due to family obligations?

Thank you for honoring your family in this way. Colleges value these commitments. Your EA college counselor will help you learn how to detail this in your applications so colleges are aware.

Will EA help support me in finding a summer internship or academic program?

Every January, the College Counseling Office sponsors a Summer Opportunity fair. Attend the fair, and hear our faculty share their expertise about various summer programs. In addition, EA has an extensive alumni and parent network. Make connections and learn more about opportunities in the area.

THIS SUMMER, MAKE YOUR MARK.

There are so many opportunities to explore this summer. Check out our extensive list of programs affiliated with colleges, high schools, non-profit organizations, and educational facilities.

EXPLORE 

REACH OUT.

The EA College Counseling team is always here to help. If you have any questions along the way, please do not hesitate to reach out to your EA college counselor!