SUMMER ACTIVITIES TO STRENGTHEN YOUR COLLEGE/SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Participating in out-of-the-ordinary and meaningful experiences during the summer can enhance your opportunities for college admission and/or scholarship applications. Both college and scholarship applications often ask you to describe the activities in which you have been involved and to express the impact the experiences have had on your college and career choices. Examples of productive opportunities would include:

* Employment: Many college admission officers place a high value on work experience because of the important lessons learned on-the-job. For example, learning how to be a good employee, how to answer to a supervisor, or how to serve a specific role on a team provides valuable experience.
* Entrepreneurship: Aspiring entrepreneurs can learn valuable management and marketing skills. Some students launch their own website or computer-related business. Others teacher music, tutor, or start their own service business such as: dog walking, pet sitting, house cleaning, home maintenance or video production.
* Internships: Internships provide opportunities for students to gain priceless experience while exploring potential careers of interest. Students interested in science or medicine may seek out research opportunities as a volunteer or intern at a local university, hospital, or private lab. There are many types of internships: business, law, medicine, veterinary, fashion, psychology, media, photography, technology, teaching, theatre, politics, government and writing. The list is as large as your motivation to seek out willing mentors.
* Summer Camps: Working or volunteering in any position (camp counselor, counselor in training, swim instructor, or lifeguard, etc.) through a summer camp will offer you a worthwhile summer experience. The challenges encountered and rewards gained will provide excellent material for college admission or scholarship essays.
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* Community Service: Some students become skilled at carpentry through volunteer work. Others develop marketing, management and communications skills by organizing charitable events or pursing special projects.
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* Vacation: Believe it or not- how you choose to spend your vacation can impact your applications. While on vacation be aware of experiences that influence you in some way or another.