

MATCH ACTIVITY IDEAS: HIGH SCHOOL



Virtual Campus Tour

Time: Match meeting

Take your mentee on a virtual tour of your campus and other schools via www.campustours.com. Discuss some of the things freshman might need to know, e.g., such as how to buy books, where to go for registration information, etc.



College Admissions Application

Time: Match meeting for application, check in with their progress with goals

Find out which college(s) your mentee is interested in, and print admissions application(s) for the school(s) or go to www.commonapp.org to print a generic college application. Use that application as a template, and begin filling it out with your mentee. Discuss and set goals to fill in the gaps or to strengthen the application (volunteer, extracurricular, grades, etc.)



College Application Essay

Time: Match meeting

Have your mentee write a sample essay or review his/her actual college application essay. Remind them that they should carefully write and re-write their essay to make sure they eliminate any errors. Also encourage them to have others review them, such as guidance counselors, school administrators, parent(s), and writing teachers.



College Event Field Trip

Time: One match meeting, several hours

Take your mentee to a college event, e.g., a basketball game, a football game, an art fair, etc. Your program may be able to secure free tickets for these types of events, make sure to ask!



College Positive Rewards

Time: Extended term, check in with their progress over the months

Look for opportunities to encourage and reward your mentee when he/she does a college positive behavior, e.g., gets good grades, complete a project, or has a leadership moment. Set goals for specific projects and/or grades and reward those goals with college-related items, such as t-shirts, hats, mugs, pennants, key chains, and/or posters.



Read and Discuss Books

Time: One or several match meetings, depending on length and quantity of books

Read books with your mentee about famous or everyday individuals who have overcome obstacles. Or read books about what it takes to be successful in any field or area of life. Discuss the books at various intervals or after the entire texts have been read. Use the book as a springboard for a discussion of what they can do to create their own success stories.



Video Résumés

Time: Several match meetings to plan and create videos

If your mentee excels in sports or performance-based areas (e.g., the playing of an instrument, such as the violin, theatre, etc.) help them develop video resumes of their talents that they can burn to DVDs. These DVDs—which should include a label that has the student’s name and area of expertise—can be sent to the directors of the sports/performance departments at various colleges or universities along with a letter of interest that includes a request to be considered for a scholarship. Before sending the DVDs and letters of interest, work with your mentee to find schools with programs in their areas of expertise that are known to offer scholarships and/or schools with programs that are of interest to him/her. You should also help him/her locate a contact person at the school and find out if that individual will accept the DVD. The video should include an overview of the student’s competency and should reflect the type of skills the colleges or universities require and focus on in their programs.