

Guidelines for College Camp Participation

NACAC affiliates interested in participating in the College Camp program must submit a letter and the enclosed application to the NACAC national office stating the program objective and their commitment to adopting a local community program. Each affiliate may elect to establish a long-term relationship with a designated school or community group or conduct several short-term programs emulating the College Camp concept.

To support efforts to launch College Camp programs in NACAC states and regions, NACAC will:

- Provide sample release forms, medical forms, applications and model curriculum for participants
- Provide a sample budget and in-kind contributions for the college or university site
- Provide training to community group leaders on the college admission and financial aid processes
- Promote the camp within the association and with the public through the *NACAC Bulletin*, e-list and Web site, as well as newspapers and other appropriate local media
- Help state/regions develop an evaluation mechanism

NACAC state and regional affiliates wishing to participate in a College Camp program will:

- Designate a program coordinator and committee
- Recruit volunteers—from both the secondary and college level—to serve as mentors, conduct workshops and supervise all camp activities
- Select the college or university site for any summer or on-going activity with community groups
- Develop a budget for the state or regional affiliate and state expectations for the sponsoring college or university
- Designate oversight responsibility for program management to the State/Region Executive Board

- Promote the camp within the association and with the public through the *NACAC Bulletin*, e-list and Web site, as well as newspapers and other appropriate local media
- Develop an evaluation mechanism

The Camp Experience

There are two models for the NACAC College Camp:

- *A 2-day camp experience*—typically over a weekend—with an overnight stay on a college campus, workshops, and athletic and social events. Parents may be invited to participate
- *A 1-day experience*—typically on a Saturday—made up of three or four 90-minute workshops. Parents may be invited to participate

Target Population

- Middle and secondary school students, with special outreach toward underrepresented racial and ethnic minority students, as well as students who would be the first generation in their families to attend college.
- Parents of these students

Curriculum

The camp is designed to provide participants with a variety of skills to enhance their reading, study and time management skills; familiarize them with admission, financial aid, scholarship and application procedures; and generally prepare them for the rigors of the college admission process.

Proposed Curriculum Topics for Middle School Students

- Reading and study skills
- Time management skills
- Test-taking skills, with emphasis on verbal and mathematical development
- Mock classes with college professors
- Campus tours and demonstrations
- Computer lab

- Courses that prepare students for challenging high school experiences
- Teachers and counselors as resources and supporters
- Co-curricular portfolio

Proposed Curriculum Topics for Middle School Parents

- Working with your child's guidance counselor
- Building a foundation for educational success
- Helping your child chart a challenging high school experience
- Understanding the variety of postsecondary options and how to help your child prepare for them
- Financial planning for college
- Taking a college tour
- Developing a college timeline
- Evaluating and visiting colleges
- Planning co-curricular activities
- Determining academic courses
- Using teachers, counselors and other influencers as resources and supporters
- Understanding your child's developmental changes—both intellectual and personal
- Using the Internet to search for information on colleges and financial aid

Proposed Curriculum Topics for High School Students

- Reading and study skills
- Time management skills
- Test-taking skills, with emphasis on verbal and mathematical development
- Actual classes with college professors
- Elements and methods of college choice
- Financial aid, scholarship search, fee waivers, etc.

- The college application
- Overview of college types
- Career development/options
- Academic portfolio
- The college essay
- The campus visit and interview
- Self-advocacy and communication skills
- Standardized testing
- Etiquette
- Academic courses
- Co-curricular activities
- Student's role in financial aid

Proposed Curriculum Topics for High School Parents

- Working with your child's guidance counselor
- Building a foundation for educational success
- Helping your child have a challenging high school experience
- Understanding the variety of postsecondary options and how to help your children prepare for them
- Financial planning and process for college
- Developing a college timeline and action plan
- Evaluating and visiting colleges
- Understanding the parent role in the college choice process
- Understanding developmental changes—both intellectual and personal
- Keeping your child motivated
- Finding information on college and funding sources
- Using of out-of-school time productively
- Choosing a major