

BREAKTHROUGH COLLEGE BOUND PROGRAM

RESEARCHING YOUR SUMMER OPTIONS

Now that we have returned from holiday break, it is time to start thinking about how students wish to spend the 2010 Summer! It may seem early to have this discussion as a family - and, certainly, we push students to remain focused primarily on their school work at this stage - but all of the most dynamic and competitive summer programs in the US and around the world have admission and financial aid deadlines long before the actual summer months. Starting now is the best way to ensure that you will be earning a paycheck, building your college resume, or engaging in an unforgettable academic or cultural experience when June arrives.

To streamline the process this year, we encourage families to visit the Summer Search site: <http://www.summersearch.org/about/partners.aspx>. Scroll down for a comprehensive listing of summer opportunities, broken down into several sub-categories: Academic; Community Service and Homestays Abroad; Music, Art, Literature; Adventure; etc.

It can be overwhelming to analyze this type of list, so **think in terms of your passions and goals**. Are you interested in exploring medicine as a career? Check out the "Stanford Medical Youth Science Program" under Academic opportunities. Have you always loved to put pen to paper? Consider the "Young Writers Workshop" under Music, Art, and Literature, and apply for the Dorothy West scholarship, which is meant to cover the considerable program costs.

Of course, no list is all-inclusive. **Following, you will find information for a number of programs highly recommended by Breakthrough (many of them free of charge to participants or with financial aid available) but not found on the Summer Search site:**

1.) Academic

MIT offers the MITES (Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science) Program: <http://web.mit.edu/mites/>. Deadline to apply is February 15th.

-Specifically for females interested in engineering (University of Maryland): <http://www.wie.umd.edu/>. (Applications available January 25th.)

Princeton University announces its Summer Journalism Program (for potential reporters): <http://www.princeton.edu/sjp/>. Deadline to apply: Feb. 5th.

Running Start (for young women interested in politics): <http://www.runningstartonline.org>. Applications are now available.

2.) International

The Oxbridge Programs (Travel to the prestigious Oxford and Cambridge campuses): <http://www.oxbridgeprograms.com/index.php>

More than English (Teach English while immersing yourself in another culture): <http://www.morethanenglish.com/anglos/index.asp>

3.) Leadership

Young men are encouraged to explore the Morehouse Coca-Cola Pre-College Leadership Program OR Morehouse Project Identity:

<http://www.morehouse.edu/centers/leadershipcenter/cleadership.html>
<http://www.morehouse.edu:16080/projectidentity/>

4.) Breakthrough

Applications for the Academy, as well as for positions as teacher assistants, will be available in February or March. To apply to be a TEACHER for Breakthrough, apply through the National website: <https://www.breakthroughcollaborative.org/apply/index.htm#>. The strict deadline is March 1st.

5.) Paid or Volunteer Employment

Check out <http://www.wf1broward.com/text/YouthServices/EmploymentTrainingLinks.htm> for a wide range of links to online employment searches. Though you must move swiftly, students 16 and over can also still apply for the eight-week Summer Youth Employment Program before January 25th: grab an application online at <https://syep.wf1broward.com>.

If you plan to remain in Broward County, check out www.volunteens.com for community service organizations and think creatively! If you wish to be a veterinarian, for example, see if the Humane Society needs assistance.

If you have any questions at all in navigating these links or suggestions, feel free to be in touch with Lindsay Williams, College Bound Coordinator, at 954-776-2113. She would love to speak with each of you individually to come up with targeted plans for your summers. Good luck, and remember: act fast to ensure that you do not miss key admission and financial aid deadlines!