

College Visit Supplemental Activity: Campus Scavenger Hunt

Activity Summary

During the college visit, students will collect various items related to postsecondary education.

Rationale

To raise students' awareness of which offices provide which services on a college campus.
To provide a way for students to learn more about college life.

Materials

- Copies of the scavenger hunt checklist (see *Before the Lesson Checklist*)

Before the Lesson Checklist

- q Speak with your college/university partner to determine which offices and buildings students will be visiting during their campus tour.
- q With their assistance, identify items located at each of these locations that the students could collect for free. You should also include trivia questions that students can learn from the tour guide. Some examples of trivia questions include finding information that is publicly posted (for example, if there is a plaque posted next to a statue, asking the students to record who the statue is of and why they were honored in such a way), or certain facts or campus legends that tour guides plan on sharing as part of their tour (for example, "Legend has it that if you step on that emblem during finals week, you will fail all of your exams."). Be sure to coordinate the trivia items with your college/university partner so that all of the questions get addressed during the tour.
- q Create a Scavenger Hunt Checklist with all of these items listed on it. Bring enough copies for all participants on the campus tour, including students, chaperones, and campus tour guides. Send a copy to your college/university partner so they can share it with tour guides ahead of time. A sample list is included on page SA-28.



Tip: Try to include fun trivia items in your scavenger hunt, like campus legends or student traditions. These fun facts will help students see that going to college is about more than just academics — it's also about community, tradition, and personal growth.

Before students begin their campus tour, provide each of them with a copy of the Scavenger Hunt Checklist. Explain that they must collect the items and information on the list throughout their visit. You may divide students into teams to work together and collect the information, or have students work individually.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Scavenger Hunt Checklist (sample)

Welcome to Ball State University! Can you find all of the following items?

Items to collect:

Q an admissions application

Q a campus brochure

Q a financial aid pamphlet

Q a copy of the Ball State Daily News

Q a pen with that has Ball State or the Ball State logo on it

Q A signature from a Resident Advisor (RA) _____

Ball State Trivia:

What is the name of Ball State's president? _____

The fountain by Bracken Library has a statue in it. What do students call this statue?

What Ball State alumnus and television celebrity is the journalism building named after?

Rumor has it the library was built to look like _____.

How many majors are offered at Ball State? _____

The trail leading from the Robert Bell building to the Cooper Science building is known as the
_____.

Describe one other new piece of information you learned about college.

Supplemental Activity: Career Discussion with College Students

Activity Summary

Students will have the opportunity to meet with college students who are currently pursuing a major that is related to your students chosen careers.

Rationale

To provide students an opportunity to hear first-hand information about the college experience.
To spend time with a positive role model who is pursuing the same goals the student may have.

Materials

- About the Kids2Careers Campus Event letter (sent to participating college students prior to the college visit; page SA-30)

Before the Lesson Checklist

- q With help from your campus coordinator, identify students with majors that your students are interested in who are able to participate during the scheduled time. It is recommended that you search out students who work in the admissions office or give campus tours as they are knowledgeable about being a college/university representative.
- q Ask the campus coordinator to send participating college students the information sheet on page SA-30 so they are aware of the context of the visit. Alternately, the campus coordinator can go over the information with them before the activity.

For this activity, place students into groups based upon their careers and the potential college major they would need to pursue that career. The number of groups you have and how large the groups are will depend upon the variety of careers in your class and how many college students the university can identify to participate in the activity.

Allow time for the college students to share their story and for students to ask questions. College students should use the questions outlined in the “About the Kids2College Campus Visit” letter (page SA-30) to guide the discussion.

About the Kids2Careers Campus Event

Thank you for participating in the Kids2Careers campus event to [*campus name*]. This visit is the culmination of a six-lesson curriculum on college and career awareness that the students have participated in over the past several weeks. As a part of this course, each student chose a career for themselves and researched how to academically prepare for that career and what someone in that career does as a part of their job.

As a part of the students' visit to your campus, they will spend time talking to you about what you are doing to prepare for your career. You will be assigned a group of students whose careers fit with your major. Your students will be interested in learning about your educational path — the types of courses you take, projects you are working on, and your goals for the future. For this event, we ask that you spend a few minutes sharing your educational experiences with students before beginning a conversation with them about the research they have found.

As you prepare your remarks, consider the following questions. Please use them as a guideline and incorporate some of them into your presentation. Be creative, and bear in mind that a format where you read the question and then answer is not effective.

- Is there anything about your high school years that you would change if you could?
- Is there some advice you would like to share with students so they will not make the same mistakes?
- What did you do in middle and high school to prepare for college?
- What other things are you doing to prepare for your career?
- What is college REALLY like?
- How did you decide this was the college you wanted to attend? Who helped you?
- How much fun is college?
- Do they take attendance in the classroom?
- What is your major and what types of courses are you taking?
- Who chooses the courses? What are they like?
- What is a typical day like?
- Do you receive financial aid? (*Optional*)

After you have shared your experience, begin a dialogue with the students. While they will have questions for you, it is important to ask them questions as well. Some suggested questions include:

- Which career did you choose to study? Why?
- How can you prepare for college and your career now? When you get to high school?
- What do like/not like so far about your campus visit?
- Can you imagine yourself in college? Why/why not?
- Ask if they have any questions for you.

If you have any questions before the visit please contact [*campus coordinator*] at [*phone number and email*]. Thank you again for your time and participation.

Sincerely,

[*Campus Coordinator name*]



Resource:

For a customizable version of this letter contact

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