

**You Have Options:  
Opportunities putting your best foot forward can bring, now and later.**

**Ignore the cultural taboo: You *can* and *should* mix business with pleasure.**

There are a million amazing opportunities waiting for high school and college students to learn, explore an area of interest (or the world) that you can both have a lot of fun doing and put on your resume.

**High School Summer Opportunities:**

**Dirigo Boys State**

Students in their junior year who are interested in government should let their teachers know that they would be interested in participating in this program, a week long, all expense paid, mock government program in Maine. It is a great opportunity to test out a possible field of interest, a lot of fun, and looks great on college applications.

**CIEE**

Visit <http://www.ciee.org> to explore a wide variety of international travel programs and options, some of which include hefty scholarships (two Gardiner students in pervious years have received a fully paid trip to South Korea through the program). It is also a great jumping off point to look a **studying abroad** (becoming immersed in a foreign culture and language can be an incredibly rewarding experience), and spending a summer or **Gap Year**<sup>1</sup> doing a **Work Abroad**<sup>2</sup> program in a foreign country.

**Summer Camp**

There are a huge variety of summer camps out there for anything that you can imagine. The summer can provide a great opportunity to either enroll in one of these camps (many offer scholarships, or there are local scholarships that can be used to help you fund them, although these generally are allotted quickly – so apply early!) which can both be fun and a great opportunity to work on a specific skill (playing an instrument, a sport, working on an artistic skill) or to find employment as a camp counselor at one of them, which can also be a rewarding experience. Number 1 Tip: Research early! Applications to some programs can be due six months or more before the summer starts.

**Upward Bound**

Ask guidance for more information about this summer program for first generation perspective college students.

**Summer School**

The traditional idea of summer school sometimes had a negative connotation, but it can also be a really fun way to explore a new city, college campus and take a course that really interests you. There are a vast variety of made-for-high-school summer

programs at colleges across the US with a wide variety of costs and scholarship availability.

The to most of these opportunities is to get on the research process early. Let people know that you are interested in something but are unsure how to proceed or how to find funding. You might be surprised by what you find.

---

<sup>1</sup> It is becoming increasingly common for students to defer their acceptance to college for a year (this means that they have already accepted a spot at the school) to travel, work abroad, pursue an internship and both take a break from school and gain life experience before starting their college career.

<sup>2</sup> Many countries allow students or people under a certain age to obtain limited visas to work in the country for a specified period of time. Canada and Australia are to great examples of countries that have excellent work abroad options for US students. This is a great way to gain work experience as well as to fund an international trip.