

Summer Vacation Tips

Are you sometimes bored during summer vacation because you have too much time on your hands? Did you know that free time during summer can be useful to your work world future? Free time allows you to explore things you were too busy to do during the school year. Summer vacation will offer you 4 opportunities: You can get work experience — You can learn a skill — You can make new friends — You can exercise and get stronger. Here are tips about things you can do during summer vacation:



GET A JOB

According to labor laws in most states, you may work 8 hours per day during school vacation. Most employers require job seekers be 16 years of age because of their insurance company's rules. A few employers will hire job seekers as young as 14 years old. Look around your city to discover where you would like to work. Visit this company's website to learn about the company and find out how to apply for a job. Or, do a "cold call" (visit in person without an appointment): a) Dress like a worker at this company. b) Walk into the company (alone). c) Ask to speak to the manager or assistant manager. d) Say, "I am interested in working for _____ (use the company's name). How do I apply for a part-time job?"

In addition, CareerOneStop Centers helps job seekers find summer employment. To find a CareerOneStop Center near you: a) Visit the website: careeronestop.org. b) Click on "Find Local Help." c) Enter your zip code. You may also use internet job search websites such as: snagajob.com and indeed.com. You need to enter a job title (such as cashier) and your zip code. Make sure you get your parents' permission before you apply for any job you find on the internet.

TAKE JOB TRAINING CLASS or ADULT SCHOOL CLASS

Summer gives time to explore job training class in areas such as Police Science, Fire Fighting, Computer Applications, Nurse's Aide, Dental Assistant, Animal Health, Construction, Auto Mechanics, Auto Body Repair, Retail Sales, or Emergency Medical Technician. Check with your counselor or career center to find the job training classes near you. If you complete a job training class, you will receive a Certificate of Completion to use on your future job applications and resumes. Also, you will meet supervisors who may allow you to use their names as references on your future job applications and resumes. Most classes offer unpaid work experience. But, Auto Mechanics and Auto Body Repair classes may save you money because you may work on your own car.

TAKE A COMMUNITY COLLEGE or COLLEGE CLASS

Most community colleges encourage high school students to take one of the many classes offered during summer session. High school students may need to have a 2.0 (C) grade point average, and need an approval form signed by their principal or counselor to give to the college. To apply to a college summer class and get a list of classes offered, visit the college website or call the college Counseling Office. Colleges accept summer session applications as early as March! When you take a college class, be sure to list this class on your future job applications and resumes.



VOLUNTEER IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Volunteer work is respected by employers because it shows that you are motivated, thoughtful, caring, and dependable. You may list volunteer work on your future job applications and resumes. One word of caution: When you volunteer, you must be interested in that activity, or it will not be a rewarding and successful experience. Here are some ideas about where you can volunteer this summer: hospital or retirement home; city recreation department; city library for children's story hours; law enforcement Explorer programs; helper in church groups; and volunteer in animal shelters.



JOIN SPORTS TEAMS

Participating in a sports program builds leadership qualities that can lead to success in the work world. When playing sports, you learn new skills: 1) You learn to support the team (or later, company). 2) You learn to show a united and positive "face" to the other team no matter how you feel inside. 3) You learn to "read" the other team so that you understand how they think. 4) You practice respect for the official (or later, supervisor) so that you do not get thrown out of the game (or later, fired). Participating in a sports program is a fun way to learn these skills and attitudes that will help you succeed in jobs. For example, managers and supervisors view themselves as leaders of company "teams."

LEARN HOBBY SKILLS



Hobbies help you learn skills. Are you interested in art? Take a crafts class at a craft store. Are you mechanical? Learn how to build and race remote control (RC) cars or planes. Are you interested in animals? Raise animals to show at county fairs or 4H shows. Like music? Buy a musical instrument and take lessons. Hobbies, and the skills they develop in you, can lead to enjoyable and well-paying jobs in the future.

START A BUSINESS

Maybe you would like to start a summer business to help seniors or working parents in your community. Create a business card to give to neighbors and friends to let them know that you are looking for jobs in yard service, child care, car detailing, or housekeeping.

QUICK CHECK:

1. List 4 opportunities summer vacation offers.
2. a) During vacations, how many hours per day may you work? b) Why may an employer require job seekers be 16 years of age?
3. a) What is a "cold call"? b) List the 4 steps to make a cold call to a business you like.
4. a) List 3 steps to find a CareerOneStop Center near you. b) List 2 other job search websites.
5. a) List 3 job training classes that are interesting to you. b) If you complete a job training class, what do you receive? c) You may meet supervisors who may allow you to do what?
6. Name 2 things that high school students need to enroll in a college for summer session.
7. When you take the class, where do you list it?
8. a) List 4 things volunteer work shows an employer about you. b) What is the caution about volunteer work? c) List 3 places you may do volunteer work.
9. a) List 4 skills you learn from playing sports. b) How do managers view themselves?
10. List one hobby you may enjoy learning to do.
11. Design a sample card for a business that a high school student can start this summer.
12. a) What activity might you enjoy doing this summer? b) What skill will this activity teach you?