

MATCH ACTIVITY IDEAS: MIDDLE SCHOOL



Virtual Campus Tour

Time: One to two match meetings

Take your mentee on a virtual tour of campuses. Visit the website of a college or university at www.campustours.com. Take virtual tours of other colleges in Michigan and across the country.



College Admissions Application

Time: One match meeting for the application, and check in on progress until goals are met

Find out what colleges your mentee is interested in and print an admissions application for the school or go to www.commonapp.org to print a generic college application. Bring the application to a match meeting and begin filling it out with your mentee. Discuss and set goals to fill in the gaps or to strengthen the application.



College Event Field Trip

Time: One match meeting, several hours

Take your mentee to a college event, e.g., a basketball game, a football game, an art fair, etc. Your program may be able to secure free tickets for these types of events; make sure to ask!



Sports Games

Time: Can be incorporated into one match meeting, or several

Play games and name teams after colleges in Michigan or the mascots of those colleges. If you don't know the name of the college mascots, look them up with your mentee.



Read a Book

Time: One or more match meetings, depending on length and quantity of books

Read books about individuals who have overcome obstacles and succeeded and/or non-fiction texts about potential career fields. Check out the "Reading Materials: Middle School" section for book suggestions! Discuss and have your mentee create short reports or posters about the books they have read.



Career Scrapbook

Time: Several match meetings

Work with your mentee to create a career notebook/scrapbook. Have them think of 10 possible careers they might be interested in pursuing. Create informational sheets/collages about each career with pictures of individuals doing that job or pictures of something related to the job, along with a brief paragraph about the job responsibilities of a person in the field, information on the type of required career training and how long the training lasts, and the name of a few colleges or universities that provide the training.



Online Personality Test

Time: Match meeting

Have your mentee take a free online personality test, explaining that such tests provide ways to think about future careers. There are no absolutes about what one can or must do. The quizzes are a fun way to get youth thinking about their futures.

- www.kidzworld.com Type “careers” in the search field. The site has two kid-friendly, rather short quizzes, with fun questions.
- www.missouri.edu Search: Career Interests Game. Review this site with your mentee. It’s a little complex, but it provides interesting information about personality types and careers. It’s best suited for older middle school students.



College Fun Collage

Time: One to two match meetings

Create a collage of the fun things you can do in college: study abroad, attend sports events, join a fraternity or sorority, participate in community service, or live in a dorm.



Role Model Study

Time: One to two match meetings

Study the life of a famous individual or a role model with your mentee. Questions to think about could include: What is the person’s occupation? What training did he/she need for that occupation? What characteristics made that individual a success? Ask your mentee why he/she chose that particular individual? How can they follow in the individual’s footsteps?



Job Shadow

Time: Several match meetings to set up and attend the job shadow

Talk with your mentee about the careers they are interested in and help them to find and ask individuals in that field if they would be willing to have you and your mentee shadow them at their jobs.



College Positive Rewards

Time: Extended term, check in with their progress over the months

Look for opportunities to encourage and reward your mentee when he/she does a college positive behavior, e.g., gets good grades, complete a project, or has a leadership moment. Set goals for specific projects and/or grades and reward those goals with college-related items, such as t-shirts, hats, mugs, pennants, key chains, and/or posters.



Career Presentation

Time: Several match meetings

Do research with your mentee on a career he/ she may be interested in and host an event for your mentee and their parent(s)/guardian(s), families, counselors, teachers, etc. in which the mentee can give a presentation about their research of a particular career path. Have them dress up as an individual in that career for the presentation event. The research could include information about why they chose the career, the schooling required, which college(s) they might attend and why, what they could accomplish in the field, or individuals who have done something significant in this area.