



AIKENHEAD PAINTER  
COLLEGE CONSULTING

## Casual Campus Visits

Freshmen & Sophomores:

### Casual Campus Visits Despite Covid-19

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Spring is a great time to visit college campuses on a casual basis. "Casual" means taking advantage of travel (limited as it is these days) that may bring you near a college campus.

You need not sign up for a formal tour or information session, but walk the grounds, talk to students, look around and get a feel for the school's student body, campus layout and other offerings.

Check the school's website to see if they are welcoming visitors!

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Many schools currently prefer virtual visits. You can broaden your reach from local or regional schools to "visit" nationwide or even internationally, all from the comfort of your home.

These digital tours are now content rich and visually robust giving visitors a much better sense of the surrounding area. As freshman and sophomores, you may, understandably, not have a specific list of schools in mind. Therefore we recommend looking at different types of schools.

## LOOK AT A WIDE RANGE OF SCHOOL TYPES

Whether you visit in person or on-line, casual visits should include a broad range of schools so you can see what different types are available. We recommend you look at

- Large public universities
- Small private schools
- Colleges set in rural areas
- Urban school settings
- Schools close to home or in-state as well as some farther away

Familiarize yourself with a variety of school types and consider what appeals at each school.

These visits can help you look more deeply and with some self knowledge when you start embarking on more targeted research and building your college list.

**Note the highlights:** After each visit, eat at a local establishment or on campus if possible. During the meal make a note of 2-5 highlights from the visit.



## KEEP IT FUN AND INTERESTING!

Finding ways to keep it fun and informative are key to successful campus tours in person or virtual.

Some ways people have done this are

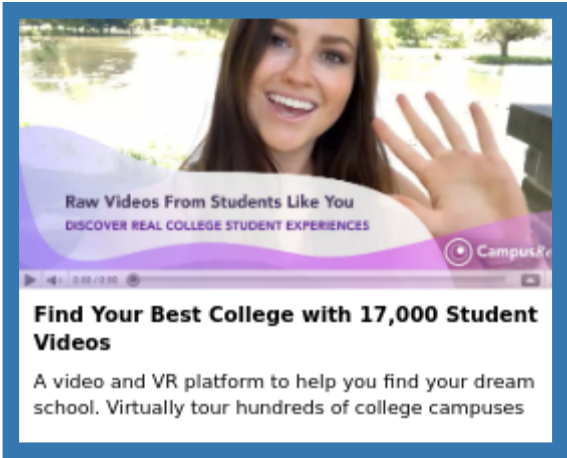
- BINGO: create bingo cards of things important to you and compete with your family! Winner gets a keychain from the campus store.
- Art: some students find drawing something from the campus helps keep the memory in place.
- Video: Take a movie of the family checking out various spots on campus or make a Tiktok on each campus.
- Scavenger hunt: Create a list of spots to visit and score points for finding them on each campus or website.

Here are some example BINGO cards and a scavenger list to print or use as inspiration for your own! [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

# A FEW TIPS AND TRICKS FOR VIRTUAL TOURS

- Tours: These are usually available on the school website under "Visit". Often there are additional tours showing housing dorm life or specific facilities.
- [Campusreel.org](http://Campusreel.org) & [Induck.co](http://Induck.co) offer a wide array of schools and videos (dorm rooms, student interviews, dining options etc) & other info.

**Make an account on [campusreel.org](http://campusreel.org) and check out their virtual tours and student movies!**



- Clubs/Organizations: In addition viewing a list of organizations, visit the club's individual website to get a sense of their activities and if it interests you.
- Talk to students: Most schools can arrange a virtual conversation with a panel of two or more students or an individual campus representative.



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# VISIT A VARIETY!

**Public, Private, Urban, Suburban, Rural, Selective, Large, Small**

## **Day Trips from Sacramento:**

UC Davis  
San Francisco State  
Saint Mary's College of California  
Sacramento State  
University of San Francisco

## **Day Trips from Los Angeles:**

UC Irvine  
University of Redlands  
Claremont Colleges  
CSU Los Angeles  
Loyola Marymount University

## **Day Trips from Boston:**

UMass Lowell  
Boston College  
Tufts  
Northeastern  
Babson College  
Olin College

## **Day Trips from Washington DC:**

University of Maryland, College Park  
George Washington University  
Goucher College  
Gettysburg College

## WHILE ON CAMPUS

Get / Download a map: Use this to guide yourself around the campus and check out facilities: theater, athletic center, student union, career center

Location/Campus setting: Would you be happy in this setting? Are you comfortable with the location be it close or far from home? What is public transportation like?

Campus newspaper or radio: pick up a copy or tune in to find out about campus happenings.

Bulletin boards: Check out flyers announcing upcoming events.

Talk to people: Don't be shy about asking students you meet about why they came to the school and what they do or don't like about it



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