



50 Early College Awareness Week Activities for Mentors and Mentees

Looking for Early College Awareness (ECA) Week activities that mentors and mentees can do together? Here are some to consider.

Mentors and mentees can...

1. Plan an imaginary college road trip; include a map and route, budget, where they would visit and why. When they are finished planning, they can tell others about their plans and make a display.
2. Make a coloring book about college for younger students. Mentors and mentees can copy and distribute it to younger students. Make it a contest!
3. Fill out a college application and then set goals to fill the gaps on the application. This is fun to do with students in grades 8-10.
4. Decorate each classroom door in the colors of that teacher's college.
5. Tour a college campus together. Visit the CFES website (www.collegefes.org) to read articles about other mentor-mentee trips to colleges.
6. Pick a college and dress in those college colors. This not only promotes college but also gives mentors and mentees a chance to dress alike.
7. Brainstorm a list of as many colleges as they can think of without asking others. Try to come up with at least one college for each letter of the alphabet.
8. Make a bulletin board showing where high school seniors have been accepted to college. Student-made displays have greater meaning to the seniors, and along the way underclassmen learn about college.
9. Check out college mascots online. Make college mascot masks with younger students.
10. Take a state road map and pinpoint all the colleges in the state. Create a color code for two-year, four-year, public, private, etc.
11. Visit a college radio station or TV studio and do a show.
12. Play a new game. Instead of "I am going on a picnic and I packed..." change it to "I am going to college and I packed..."

13. Find out where last year's seniors went to college and have the class write to them asking about college.
14. Take white t-shirts and make their own college t-shirts.
15. Attend a college sporting event, a play, or maybe an art show.
16. Volunteer to do a leadership-through-service activity on a college campus.
17. Make a list of colleges and their website addresses to share with teachers and other students. How handy to have all the college websites at their fingertips!
18. Learn from a guest speaker about how to write the "college essay." To make it more fun, have mentors and mentees write an essay together.
19. Write a poem about college and have a college poetry jam.
20. Research and write college trivia questions and try them on other mentors and mentees.
21. Do a group project. Take a special item, mail it around the country, and have its picture taken on different college campuses. Learn about the colleges and places it visits.
22. Play College Bingo. This activity was designed for mentors and mentees to do together.
23. Play College Trivia. It takes two to come up with some of those answers!
24. Play College Jeopardy. The more mentor-mentee teams, the merrier!
25. Announce the "College of the Day" during morning opening exercises.
26. Decorate hallways with college literature or make your own college posters by looking at college websites.
27. Make a collage using old college catalogues and create a display in the hallway.
28. Do an online college scavenger hunt. This is so much fun!
29. Interview teachers, parents, community members, and/or mentors about their college experiences.
30. Interview current college students who graduated from your school or invite them to be on a panel during ECA Week.
31. Collect pictures of teachers when they were in college and make a teacher college face book. Find interesting facts and other neat stuff about their college to include.
32. Make a list of dream jobs/careers and research the level of education required.

33. Meet a college professor or have the professor sit in on a mentoring session.
34. Have high school senior mentors talk to younger students about their college search.
35. Organize a college bike parade. Younger students can decorate bikes in college colors and make a college banner for the handlebars.
36. Find out where favorite authors went to college.
37. Find out where famous inventors went to college.
38. Write children's books about going to college and put them on display in the library. Make sure students can check them out!
39. Write to colleges throughout the year for information, view books, and campus maps that can be used for ECA Week activities.
40. Cover a wall with the names of colleges that your school's graduates of the last five years have attended.
41. Research scholarships online. What kinds of scholarships are offered? Investigate how to get one. What is the most unique scholarship you can find?
42. Find out the difference between a scholarship and a loan. Using whatever materials are available, devise an interesting way to explain your findings to younger students.
43. Find out what "FAFSA" stands for and what it does for college students.
44. Interview current seniors about the college process, and put together a pamphlet using the information you get. This helpful student-to-student advice can be passed down each year.
45. Have senior mentors keep a journal about the college process and leave it to their mentees.
46. Make a DVD that documents a high school senior's journey through the college application and selection process. This DVD can be shown the following year to those just beginning the process. Make copies to take home.
47. Find out what "work study" is and what it does for college students.
48. Look for free summer programs held on college campuses. See if mentors and mentees can attend the same one.
49. Earn points for participating in ECA Week activities. At the end of the week, celebrate points earned.
50. Plan ECA Week activities for your school. This is one way of having mentors and mentees engaged in all three CFES core practices at the same time!