

# TEEN NEWSLETTER

It's Your Life...  
*are you ready?*



September 15, 2022

College planning is exciting for both students and parents, but when you add up the cost of hotels, meals, airplane tickets, and gas money, excitement can easily take a downward turn. Let's take a look at some ways to help make this part of the college search affordable.

## 1. Get help from the school

Many schools offer discounted lunches, hotel stays, free shuttle service or even free airfare. [Blog.collegegreenlight.com](https://blog.collegegreenlight.com) keeps a list of every college that offers fly-in programs, and it's updated annually. If your target school isn't on the list, it's always worth a phone call to the admissions office. Not only can they connect you with resources to make your trip more affordable, they may also be able to arrange meetings with professors or other students who can make your trip more worthwhile.

## 2. Tour from home

You can conduct a tour from the comfort of your own home with the help of the internet. Many college websites have all the information you'd learn from a college tour and more, including a virtual tour visitors can take on their own time. You can even go to [youvisit.com](https://youvisit.com) to browse over 100 virtual tours, complete with video tours and real students acting as tour guides. As a bonus, many schools consider "informed interest" an important factor in an application decision. This means that the more facts about a college you can relate to in your application essays, the better chance you have of getting in.

## 3. Translate visits into savings

Some colleges offer fee waivers for students who visit. Most fees are only about \$50 (unless you're applying to one of the big-name schools — Harvard charges as much as \$75 per application). But \$50 multiplied by the average of seven schools each student applies to in a given year adds up to \$350 you just saved by visiting the college in person.

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#### 4. Schedule for efficiency

Most college tours take less than an hour, and most “college towns” have many colleges within a short driving distance. If you want to speed through, going for quantity over quality, you can hit quite a few in one day. But while the tour might be quick, it might not show as much “demonstrated interest” in a college if you were to dine and dash. To get the most application boost from your visit, you should take the time to stay for an info session. Be sure to provide complete and accurate information to the school so they can match it easily with your application. If it’s an important college, it might be a good idea to stay for an interview. Using a schedule like this, it’s best to plan to visit one school in the morning and another in the afternoon to make the most out of this “vacation.”

#### 5. Tour with a group

College group tours are growing in popularity. They save you hundreds of dollars while making sure you see as many as 21 colleges in eight days. These tours cover the cost of hotels, transportation, and meals. They also take the burden off your shoulders of deciding which schools are the best for you to see and when. You can also meet other high schoolers who are looking at colleges and be able to take comfort in someone else going through the same thing you are. It’s also a great way to ensure you can get to visit schools while preserving some of your vacation days! You can check out some of these tour groups at [college-visits.com](http://college-visits.com) and [campusvisitexperts.cetours.com](http://campusvisitexperts.cetours.com).

College may be the best time of any young person’s life, and you deserve to find a college that’s a good fit. The touring stage of that process can feel frantic and seems like it’s draining your wallet day by day. It’s the hardest part for students and parents before having to say goodbye in the fall. But if you just take the time to look into resources, you can find the school of your dreams without turning your savings into a nightmare.

Bring us along for your tour! Did you know you can find and locate totally free ATMs nationwide in our Mobile app? Utilize your Interior FCU [Mobile app](#) to stay in touch with your finances on the go.

**Keep an eye out for a special CU Scholarship for College Students!**