

Summary Report of the Discover Your Path College Camp at Lake Tahoe Nevada Native Youth Community Project

October 2023

PREPARED FOR:

Nevada Native Youth Community Project



PREPARED BY:

RMC Research Corporation Tampa, FL

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Prepared by RMC Research Corporation October 2023

Overview of the Discover Your Path College Camp at Lake Tahoe

Nevada's Native Youth Community Project (NYCP) consists of two sites, McDermitt and Walker River Paiute Tribe (WRPT), which serve students and their families in three different school districts. From July 31 through August 4, 2023, McDermitt took a group of 12 students, and WRPT took a group of 13 students to Lake Tahoe to participate in the *Discover Your Path College Camp*. They joined a group of 100 students who came from around Nevada as well as Oklahoma, California, and Arizona to participate in the five-day camp that was focused on Native culture, college and career preparation, life skills learning, and the discernment of their lifepaths. The camp was sponsored by the Nevada Department of Education's NYCP, in partnership with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR); the UNR Native American Alumni Chapter; the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Hospitality; and WaterStart. The students were accompanied by the two WRPT College and Career Coaches, the two McDermitt School Community Liaisons, and the Director of NYCP. Additional chaperones and adult participants included representatives from the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, the Washoe Indian Tribe, the Shoshone Indian Tribe, and interns from UNR.

According to program materials, students participated in a variety of activities aimed at helping them:

- Learn how to prepare for college and navigate the academic, social, and cultural aspects of campus life;
- Learn about financial aid, financial literacy, and ways to pay for college;
- Explore degree programs offered at UNR; and
- Connect with Native culture and cultural leaders.

Highlights from the *Discover Your Path College Camp* include the Opening Ceremony on the first night, presented by Elder Melba Rakow from the Washoe Tribe, who welcomed the group, spoke in Washoe, and provided a prayer. Water was brought up from Lake Tahoe, and the students blessed themselves with the lake water. Tribal Chairman Serrell Smokey for the Washoe Tribe, UNR leaders, and the Department Heads of the UNR College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources gave an introduction. Additional important cultural activities include the following: the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe demonstrated bird dances; Esha Hoferer, the Paiute Language Instructor for Yerington Middle and High School, told stories and sang in Paiute; and Melanie Smokey conducted a cultural presentation on the medicinal uses of plants and basket-making. Throughout the camp, many of the activities involved the students not only as participants but also as leaders and facilitators. See Attachment A for the complete program agenda.



Figure 1Washoe Tribal Elder Melba Rakow welcomes the group and leads them in prayer during the opening ceremony.



Photo by NYCP Director Fredina Drye-Romero



Figure 2
Students listen intently to Washoe Tribal Elder Melba Rakow during the opening ceremony.



Photo by NYCP Director Fredina Drye-Romero

Participant Perceptions of the Discover Your Path College Camp at Lake Tahoe

Following the visit, the 25 NYCP participants were asked to complete an electronic survey (Attachment B). The 14 respondents provided consent and obtained parent/caregiver permission to participate in the survey, representing a response rate of 56%. Respondents included 12 students who attend McDermitt Combined School (two in Grade 8, five in Grade 9, two in Grade 10, two in Grade 11, and one in Grade 12) and two students who attend Yerington High School (one in Grade 9 and one in Grade 10). Attachment C contains all respondent comments. Due to the small sample size, the results should be interpreted with caution.



Figure 3
Students and their leaders bless themselves with water taken from Lake Tahoe.



Photo by Fredina Drye-Romero

Seventeen survey items pertained to the impact of the *Discover Your Path College Camp* on students, one item asked if they would recommend the program to a friend, and four open-ended items asked students about what they learned, what they would like to learn more about in the future, suggestions for improving the program, and questions they still have about attending or applying to college or trade school. Results from the 17 survey items are reported in Table 1. Overall, participant perceptions of the *Discover Your Path College Camp* were very favorable, with at least 93% agreeing to all 17 survey items relating to its impact. Additionally, *all* agreed to 16 of these items, including that the program helped them to learn to be a leader and stick up for themselves, better understand that they control their future, get along better with other students, know that they can do well in school, and increase their motivation and readiness to attend college or trade school. Likewise, all agreed that the *Discover Your Path College Camp*



helped them to learn how to get ready for college, what college majors there are and which might interest them, where college students live and eat, programs and activities available to Native college students, and what to expect from going to college. *All* would recommend this college camp to a friend.

Table 1Participant Perceptions of the Discover Your Path College Camp

	Item	N Respondents	% Strongly Agree	% Agree	% Disagree	% Strongly Disagree
Goir	ng to the College Camp helped me	e to				
a.	Learn to be a leader.	14	43	57	0	0
b.	Learn to stick up for myself.	14	29	71	0	0
c.	Understand I control my future.	14	71	29	0	0
d.	Get along better with other students.	14	50	50	0	0
e.	Know I can do well in school.	14	57	43	0	0
f.	Want to graduate from high school even more than before.	14	64	36	0	0
g.	Increase my <i>motivation</i> to attend college or trade school.	14	71	29	0	0
h.	Increase my <i>readiness</i> to attend college or trade school.	14	57	43	0	0
I would recommend this College Camp to a friend.		14	79	21	0	0
The College Camp and tour helped me to learn						
a.	How to get ready for college.	14	71	29	0	0
b.	What it is like to be a college student.	14	43	50	7	0
c.	What college majors there are.	14	64	36	0	0
d.	Which college majors might interest me.	14	71	29	0	0
e.	Where college students live.	14	64	36	0	0
f.	Where college students eat.	14	64	36	0	0
g.	Clubs and activities for college students.	14	50	50	0	0
h.	Programs, clubs, and activities for Native college students.	14	64	36	0	0
i.	What to expect from going to college.	14	71	29	0	0

Note. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.



Figure 4Students gather around the fire pit.



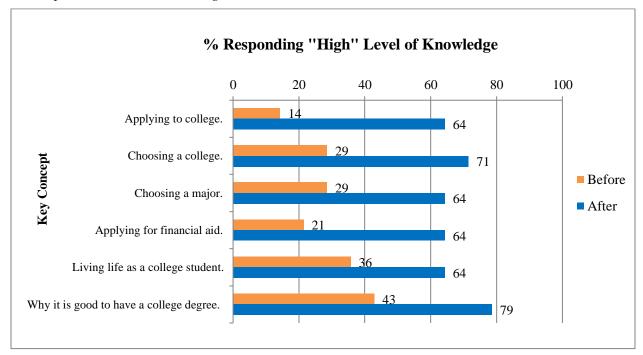
Photo by WRPT College and Career Coach Rubicella Valdes

Perceived Impact on Participant Knowledge

Participants were asked to rate their level of understanding of key concepts covered during the program using the following scale: *Low, Moderate, or High*. The percentage of participants rating their level of knowledge as *High* before and after the program is presented in Figure 5.



Figure 5
Participant Perceived Knowledge Gains



Note. Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers.

Prior to the program, participants' perceived knowledge level on the six key concepts was low to moderate, with between 14% and 43% rating their knowledge level as *High*. Following the program, these percentages increased between 28 and 50 percentage points. Reported knowledge gains were highest in the areas of applying to college, choosing a college, and applying for financial aid, with reported gains of 50 percentage points for the first concept and 43 percentage points for the latter two concepts. Reported knowledge gains were lower for the concept of living life as a college student (a gain of 28 percentage points).

Participants were asked to provide commentary on the two most important things they learned during the program. Fourteen participants responded to this item and expressed that they had learned about a variety of topics. These generally centered around the following four main themes: (a) the many majors available, (b) what college life is like, (c) how to prepare for and apply to college, and (d) social skills. Representative comments from students include:

How many majors there are.

What to expect from certain careers.

What college is like.

How to prepare for college.

Being social.



How to interact with other people.

Participants were also asked to provide commentary on the topics they would like to learn more about. Fourteen participants responded to this item and expressed interest in learning about a variety of topics. These were predominantly centered around three themes, including (a) information about majors, including nursing and technology; (b) preparing for and going through college; and (c) native clubs and cultural practices, as evidenced by these comments:

Different majors.

How to get into college and trade school.

Sharing more cultural practices from different tribes.

Participants were also asked to provide suggestions to improve the program. There were 14 responses, 4 of which stated that no improvements were needed, as the camp was great as it was. A few students suggested having more cultural programs and activities, more kids attending, additional majors explained, and more vegan food options. When asked to provide questions that they still have about attending or applying to college or trade school, four students queried about colleges or trade schools that offer Native American tuition waivers, college application due dates, how draining applying to college really is, and whether or not their plans are achievable. The remaining students did not have any questions.

Summary of the Discover Your Path College Camp at Lake Tahoe

Due to the small sample size, the results should be interpreted with caution. Overall, the Discover Your Path College Camp held at Lake Tahoe was very well received by the participants, with at least 93% agreeing to all 17 survey items relating to its impact. Additionally, all agreed to 16 of these items, including that the program helped them to learn to be a leader and stick up for themselves, better understand that they control their future, get along better with other students, know that they can do well in school, and increase their motivation and readiness to attend college or trade school. Likewise, all agreed that the Discover Your Path College Camp helped them to learn how to get ready for college, what college majors there are and which might interest them, where college students live and eat, programs and activities available to Native college students, and what to expect from going to college. All would recommend this college camp to a friend. Reported knowledge gains were highest in the areas of applying to college, choosing a college, and applying for financial aid, with reported gains of 50 percentage points for the first concept and 43 percentage points for the latter two concepts. Reported knowledge gains were lower for the concept of living life as a college student (a gain of 28 percentage points). Students offered commentary on topics they learned about, topics they would like to learn more about, and their experiences during the program.



Attachment A: Discover Your Path Agenda

College of Liberal Arts

Interested in elevating your community? The UNR College of Liberal Arts prepares future leaders and individuals who make a lasting impact on their communities and society. Learn about the multiple degree programs we offer that prepare students for a diverse and fast-changing world. Learn words from several Indigenous languages and explore the history and culture of the people who speak them. You will also learn about exciting career paths that provide you with the opportunity to work directly with Indigenous communities.

College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources

Wear your walking shoes and take a nature walk! Explore how environments, water systems, and plants all contribute to our geographic makeup. Learn to identify indigenous plants and wildlife surrounding Lake Tahoe and beyond. During the walk students will explore and appreciate the environmental systems needed for a successful cohabitation of humans and animals.

Desert Research Institute

A showcase of renewable energy. NV Energy will present their renewable energy portfolio and future energy plans. Following the presentation, DRI will host a hands-on activity involving solar energy.

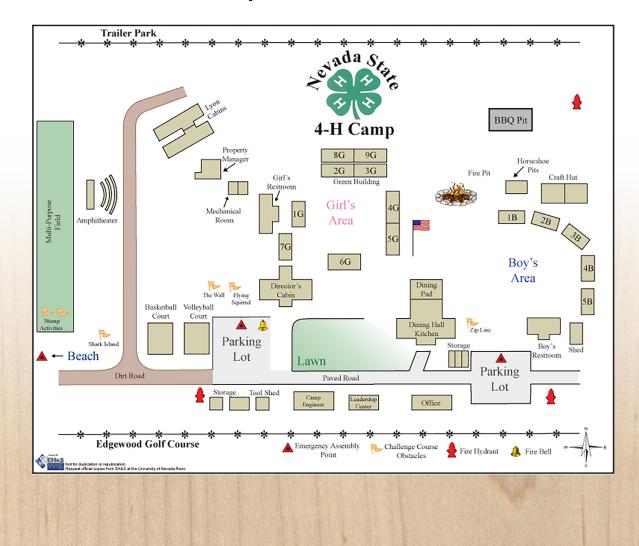
Reynolds School of Journalism

"Telling our own Stories: Media Production for Tribal Communities." This session will present the importance of developing media production capability for tribal communities so that members can tell their own stories. Native-produced video stories will be screened and we will discuss ways that young people can produce their own work.

School of Public Health

Oh no! The Zombie Apocalypse you have always feared has struck! Are you prepared? Will you survive? Join our session and find out! Want to change the world? A background in public health or kinesiology equips you with the knowledge and training to enact legislative change, conduct contact tracing for communicable diseases, protect the body from injury and prevent environmental harms that impact our communities. If you are interested in health or are pursuing a health care occupation your journey can start in the School of Public Health at UNR! Graduates from our School of Public Health will go on to be the leading researchers, practitioners, and advocates who work to address the most complex health issues of our time.

4-H Camp Rd, Stateline, NV 89449







SPONSORS



University of Nevada, Reno:

College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources

College of Education and Human Development

College of Engineering

College of Liberal of Arts

College of Science

Office for Prospective Students

Orvis School of Nursing

Revnolds School of Journalism School of Public Health

The University of Nevada Reno Native American **Alumni Chapter**

And:

Nevada Department of Education, **Indian Education Program UNLV, School of Hospitality** WaterStart

Discover Your Path!

July 31 - August 4, 2023

Days, Times, Events and Breakouts

Monday, July 31, 2023

2 - 4 p.m. Camper Check-in

5 - 7 p.m. Opening Ceremony and Dinner

7 - 10 p.m. Get To Know Your Cabin! Lights out at 10pm

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

6:30 a.m. Polar Bear Plunge Blessing and Breakfast 8 - 8:45 a.m.

9 - 11 a.m. College Breakouts (See page for College Break outs)

11:30 a.m. - Noon Lunch

Beach Time and Games 1 - 3:30 p.m.

5 - 6:30 p.m. Preparing for College & Beyond (30 min. sessions)

How to prepare for college/Admissions How to pay for college/Financial Aid Finding your path: Interest Inventory

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Dinner

Cultural Night Activity. Lights out at 10pm 7:30 - 10 p.m.

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

6:30 a.m. Polar Bear Plunge 8 - 8:45 a.m. Blessing/Breakfast 8:45 - 9:00 a.m. Find your breakout/clean up

9 - 11: a.m. College Breakouts (See page for College Break outs)

11:30 a.m. - Noon Lunch

1 - 3:30 p.m. **Beach Time and Games**

5 - 6:30 p.m. Preparing for Employment (30 min sessions)

> **Getting Career Ready Employment panel** Career Studio

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Cultural Night Activity. Lights out at 10pm

Thursday, August 3, 2023

6:30 a.m. Polar Bear Plunge 8 - 8:45 a.m. Blessing/Breakfast 8:45 - 9:00 a.m. Find your breakout/clean up

9 - 11 a.m. College Breakouts (See page for College Break outs) Lunch

11:30am - 12:00pm

Beach Time and Games 1 - 3:30 p.m. 5 - 6:30 p.m. Spending Frenzy Activity

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

7:30 - 10 p.m. Cultural Night Activity. Lights out at 10pm

Friday, August 4, 2023

6:30 a.m. Polar Bear Plunge 8 - 8:45 a.m. Blessing and Breakfast Grounds Cleanup/Pack 9 – 9:30 a.m.

9:30 - 10 a.m. Evaluation and reflection on next year's camp

10:30 a.m. Conclusion of camp and pick up time

Break out descriptions

Tuesday August 1, 2023 * 9 - 11 a.m.

College of Education and Human Development

Be part of creating the future by joining teaching, human development, or the family sciences! These subjects are not only the foundation of society. they are the gateway to all other subjects. Being part of our programs will give you valuable skills, leadership experience, and the ability to impact many generations to come! Participants will get a chance to meet with current faculty, learn about the exciting projects in the community, and gain knowledge on the journey to a bachelor's in Teacher Preparation or Human Development and Family Science.

College of Engineering

Discover the extraordinary world of engineering during the College of Engineering session! Engineering fills the world around us. It connects us to everything in our lives from planning a city to using computers when traveling in space. An engineering degree can provide you with a well paying job and an exciting career. As an engineer you have an opportunity to make a difference to society. This session will provide participants with a hands-on immersive experience as they explore engineering concepts in the world around them.

College of Science

Interested in living a life of discovery? Then please join us during the College of Science session! Our College offers the opportunity to explore so many different pathways in the world of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Want to help improve the health of humanity? Or unlock the mysteries of the human mind? Our life sciences and psychology programs may be the perfect fit for you! Come join us to see if the world of science sparks your curiosity!

College of Liberal Arts

Interested in elevating your community? The UNR College of Liberal Arts prepares future leaders and individuals who make a lasting impact on their communities and society. Learn about the multiple degree programs we offer that prepare students for a diverse and fast-changing world. Learn words from several Indigenous languages and explore the history and culture of the people who speak them. You will also learn about exciting career paths that provide you with the opportunity to work directly with Indigenous communities.

Orvis School of Nursing

Welcome to the Orvis School of Nursing session to explore the exciting and rewarding nursing career path! Nurses are the providers and change agents improving the health and well-being of our society. A nursing degree will lead to many career opportunities in various healthcare specialties with good pay and personal growth.

UNLV, School of Hospitality

The William F. Harrah College of Hospitality at University of Nevada, Las Vegas is the world's preeminent hospitality management school, pairing a world-class education with industry-relevant practical experience. This immersive, holistic learning environment uniquely prepares students for leadership roles in Tribal Gaming.

Wednesday, August 2, 2023 * 9 - 11 a.m. **College of Engineering**

Discover the extraordinary world of engineering during the College of Engineering session! Engineering fills the world around us. It connects us to everything in our lives from planning a city to using computers when traveling in space. An engineer-ing degree can provide you with a wellpaying job and an exciting career. As an engineer you have an opportunity to make a difference to society. This session will provide participants with a hands-on immersive experience as they explore engineering concepts in the world around them. Come build towers with us and see if they can withstand an earthquake! Build a rocket for NASA and construct a parachute for astronauts. Be a future innovator!

College of Science

Interested in living a life of discovery? Then please join us during the College of Science session! Our College offers the opportunity to explore so many different pathways in the world of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Want to help improve the health of humanity? Or, unlock the mysteries of the human mind? Our life sciences and psychology programs may be the perfect fit for you! Come join us to see if the world of science sparks your curiosity!

College Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources

Participate in "Rangeland Olympics". Come learn about Rangeland Ecology and Management by enjoying an interactive activity. Build knowledge and skills for a career working to conserve and restore environments.

College of Liberal Arts

Why Indigenous Studies Matter! This session will introduce students to the interdisciplinary field of indigenous studies. Indigenous Studies explores the impacts of colonial histories and experiences, and strategies to create decolonial futures. Indigenous Studies grounds students with a deep understanding of their unique historical and contemporary realities and equips them to undertake scholarship that centers indigenous knowledge.

School of Public Health

Want to change the world? A background in public health or kinesiology equips you with the knowledge and training to enact legislative change, conduct contact tracing for communicable diseases, protect the body from injury and prevent environmental harms that impact our communities. Public health and Kinesiology are interdisciplinary fields its they help prepare students for a robust career in health care fields.

Thursday, August 3, 2023 * 9 - 11 a.m.

College of Education and Human Development

Be part of creating the future by joining teaching, human development, or the family sciences! These subjects are not only the foundation of society, they are the gateway to all other subjects. Being part of our programs will give you valuable skills, leadership experience, and the ability to impact many generations to come! Participants will get a chance to meet with current faculty, learn about the exciting projects in the community, and gain knowledge on the journey to a bachelor's in Teacher Preparation or Human Development and Family Science.

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Native Youth Community Project (NYCP) College Camp Student Survey

10	day's Date:	_			
1.	I attend school at:				
	☐McDermitt Combined School	☐Mineral	County Hig	h School	
	☐Yerington Intermediate School	Yeringto	n High Sch	ool	
	Other (Please specify)		
2.	The highest grade of school that I	have comp	leted is:		
	☐ 6 th grade ☐ 7 th grade ☐ 8 th grade ☐ 9 th grade ☐ 10 th grade ☐ 11 th grade ☐ 12 th grade ☐ 12 th grade				
3.	Going to the College Camp helped	d me to Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	a. Learn to be a leader.				
	b. Learn to stick up for myself.				
	c. Understand I control my future.				
	 d. Get along better with other students. 				
	e. Know I can do well in school.				
	 f. Want to graduate from high school even more than before. 				
	g. Increase my motivation to attend college or trade school.				
	 h. Increase my readiness to attend college or trade school. 				

Attachment B: College Camp Student Survey

4.		Duld recommend this Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree	College	Camp to a	friend.			
5.	The	e College Camp and to	our help	ed me to le Strongly);	Strongly
				Agree	Agre	e L	Disagree	Disagree
	а	. How to get ready for col	lege.					
	b	. What it is like to be a co student.	llege					
	C.	. What college majors the	ere are.					
	d	. Which college majors m interest me.	ight					
	е	. Where college students	live.					
	f.	Where college students	eat.					
	g	. Clubs and activities for o	college					
	h	. Programs, clubs, and action Native college stude						
	i.	What to expect from goi college.						
6.	iten	this question, think and the second thick the second second the second s		•				
			the (s <i>tanding <u>Bl</u></i> College Can	np		College	•
	_	Item	_	Moderate	High	Low	Modera	ate High
	a. b.	Applying to college. Choosing a college.						
		5						
	c. d.	Choosing a major. Applying for financial		_ _				_ _
		aid.	_]] [_
	e.	Living life as a college student.	u	u	ш		u	u
	f.	Why it is good to have a college degree.						

Attachment B: College Camp Student Survey

7.	The two most important things I learned at the College Camp are
8.	I would like to learn more about
9.	The College Camp could be improved by
10	Questions I have about attending or applying to college or trade school are

Please return the completed survey to the person who gave it to you. OR, please click on the "submit" button at the end of the survey to submit your responses.

Thank you for completing this survey!

Attachment C: Participant Comments on the Discover Your Path College Camp

[Note that the student quotations in this attachment appear exactly as they were entered by the students via the online survey.]

7. The two most important things I learned at the College Camp are...

- How many majors there are. how to use financial aid.
- I learned that I am control of my future, and that I enjoy learning in different settings beside a classroom.
- What to expect from certain careers.
- Its easy if you do it right.
- To be a leader, how paying for colleges and what things that can help you, to speak up and to not be shy, ask questions, be involved.
- building frindship and collage and career ready.
- The two i learned from the College Camp The only way you can make friends is to get out of your comfort zone and just be energetic and have fun. And also that there are many opportunities out there waiting for us to go and achieve them.
- One is to how to apply to college and what to expect in college.
- how to prepare for college and see what majors interest me.
- I'm great with finances and controlling my money and I learned to work with other people.
- How to interact with other people, what college is like.
- I learned at college camp getting along with friends and getting into a college.
- Idk
- Being social and asking questions.

8. I would like to learn more about...

- Different majors.
- Sharing more culturual practices from different tribes.
- Getting even more prepared for college.
- The experience.
- I want to learn more about native clubs and things to help me through college.
- Hospitality.
- I would like to learn more about different cultural practices and more stories about different cultures.
- I would like to learn more about the nursing schools.
- Nothing else im pretty sure.
- Indigenous and the ways of my own people.
- Technology because, it was fun building bots.
- How to get into college and trade school.
- Every thing.
- More majors.

9. The College Camp could be improved by...

- Lock on the doors and more vegan options.
- More vegan options, and larger portions.



Attachment C: Participant Comments on the Discover Your Path College Camp

[Note that the student quotations in this attachment appear exactly as they were entered by the students via the online survey.]

(just a suggestion, we should have one night where we have a dance and get dressed and mingle)

- I think its good where its at right now.
- there was activities but maybe more activities.
- They really don't got nothing that could improve it because it was good as it was.
- Nothing loved it how it was.
- The college camp can be improved by having more different kinds of majors explained.
- It could be improved by making the camp longer or staying out longer on some nights.
- If there was more cultural programs and activities.
- There isn't anything I want it to improve because for me, it was great.
- Different food for morning before going to groups.
- Having more things to do.
- Idk.
- More kids attending.

10. Questions I have about attending or applying to college or trade school are...

- ?
- None.
- Nothing much.
- Which colleges or trade schools have native american tuition waivers?
- I really don't got nothing i feel like i wanna more about everything.
- Nothing.
- The time that is due for applying for different colleges.
- Does it really drane you when you apply to colleges.
- None at the moment.
- I don't have any questions.
- All of my questions were answered at the camp.
- Can I do the things that I want to apply for.
- None.
- I have none.

