

STUDENT ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION

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Title of Program: "A STEP AHEAD"
Foster Care Computer & College Preparatory Camp

Where: University of Great Falls, 1301 20th St South, Great Falls, MT 59405

What is it?

Twenty-four high school seniors and college freshman in the 2010-11 school year will gather at the University of Great Falls for a three-day summer college preparatory camp July 7, 8 and 9, 2010. These students are currently in foster care or have aged out of the Montana foster care system. Students will learn basic Windows and software programs. They will also participate in some information sharing about how to deal with some of the personal challenges they may face during the transition to college. They will get some help using a career database called Montana Career Information Systems (MCIS). Evening activities include entertainment and other fun activities. All campers will leave with a laptop computer to use for school. The overall goal of this summer program is to offer foster care students the opportunity to enjoy learning in a college campus setting.

Focus:

Throughout the past half-decade, advances in computer technology have dramatically changed the way we live. Today, computers continue to dominate the business world and are common in educational settings. Through this camp, foster care students can get the "edge" that students from a family setting already have in place when they enter college life. They will return home with the tools and knowledge it takes to be successful in their future goals.

Purpose / Goals:

"A STEP AHEAD" Foster Care Computer & College Preparatory Camp has the following objectives:

- Provide an orientation to university life for adolescents who traditionally have not had the opportunity to visit campuses;
- Provide instruction on the use of the software on their computer;
- Send participants home with a computer and the basic knowledge of how to use it;
- Provide an opportunity for foster care students to enjoy learning on a college campus through a combination of academic and social interaction with peers and university faculty and instructors.

Program Delivery:

The plan is to bring 24 high school students currently in foster care to campus on Wednesday, July 7, 2010 beginning around noon for lunch and introductions. We will get them checked into their dorm rooms then lunch will be served in the dining room. An agenda will be sent to the chaperones and the students once they have been accepted to camp.

Activities include:

- group functions to help the campers get to know one another better

- classroom time with instructors and presenters
- scheduled breakfast, lunch and dinners will be provided
- some entertainment and fun activities
- wrapping up somewhere around noon the final day

Selection Criteria:

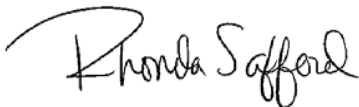
The 24 participants will be recruited this spring from throughout the state. Interested participants must indicate why they are interested in the camp on the application form and post secondary education must be a part of their transitional living plan. They must have a need for a computer and the skills to go with it. Youth must be currently in state or tribal foster care custody. **The youth should have a letter of recommendation with the application to help them in the selection process.** Student Assistance Foundation has a panel that will make the final decisions on the accepted applicants. If the demand is high, we will select from those that show the most promise of being successful in a postsecondary educational setting and the most need. Acceptance letters and agendas will be mailed out to successful applicants no later than mid-June.

To apply:

Complete the application, student conduct, photo release and medical forms in the packet and return to the address at the top of this letter or at the end of the application no later than April 23, 2010.

The instructional staff, college faculty, presenters and I are all excited about this opportunity this summer. We have planned a full, active and safe camp for foster care high school students. Please do not hesitate to contact me for additional information.

Sincerely,



Rhonda Safford
Student Assistance Foundation
"A STEP AHEAD" Foster Care Computer & College Preparatory Camp Director

“A STEP AHEAD” Camp Application

July 7, 8 and 9, 2010

Sponsored by Student Assistance Foundation &
The Department of Public Health and Human Services, Child and Family Services Division

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Student's Name: _____
Last
First
Middle Initial

Birth Date: ____ / ____ / ____ Age: ____ Gender: Male Female
mm
dd
yyyy

Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Current mailing address: _____

City
State
Zip

Cell phone: _____ Alternate phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Permanent mailing address: _____

City
State
Zip

Are you currently in a foster care placement? Yes No If yes, name of social worker: _____

If you are not in a foster care placement, were you: In foster care up to or beyond your 18th birthday
 Adopted after age 16
 Had a guardianship established after age 16

Name of emergency contact person or guardian: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ - _____ - _____

List the high schools you have attended:

Name of School	City & State	Dates Attended	Grade level completed this spring	GPA	Graduated (Year)

Name of college or program you are planning to attend: _____

Address of college or program: _____

Type of college or program: University College
 Community College Vocational/Technical
 Other

What type of degree or certificate will you obtain or like to obtain: Associates (2 yrs. or less)
 Bachelor's
 Certificate

What is/are your major(s) or field of study or what would you like to study at college:

Have you applied to this college or program: Yes No Have you been accepted? Yes No

Have you ever applied for "A Step Ahead" camp in the past? Yes No

Could we contact you via text messaging? Yes No

In a few sentences why do you want to attend this summer camp?

Signature of Student

Date:

Signature of Chaperone or Guardian

Date:

Sign the application and mail or fax it to: (do not email the form)

Rhonda Safford, Camp Director
Student Assistance Foundation
2500 Broadway
Helena, MT 59601
1-800-852-2761 ext 7750
fax (406) 495-7852

APPLICATION DEADLINE APRIL 23, 2010

S STUDENT ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION

PHOTO/PUBLICITY RELEASE FORM (required)

Name: _____

For value received and without further consideration, I hereby consent to the use of all photographs, videotapes or film, taken of me and/or recordings made of my voice and/or written extractions, in whole or in part, of such recordings at the "A Step Ahead" Foster Care Computer and College Preparatory Camp held on July 7, 8, and 9, 2010 by Student Assistance Foundation and/or others with its consent, for the purposes of illustration, advertising, or publication in any manner.

Student's address: _____

City

State

Zip

Signature of Student

Date:

If the subject is a minor under the laws of the state where photos are done:

Guardian's name: _____

Guardian's address: _____

City

State

Zip

Signature of Guardian

Date:

MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED

Note to chaperone/s or guardian/s and student: please review these rules together and return the signed acknowledgements on page two. These rules are to be abided by and taken seriously.

Student Assistance Foundation & Department of Public Health and Human Services “A STEP AHEAD” Foster Care Computer and College Preparatory Camp

Student Conduct and Program Rules

Supervision

While students are ultimately responsible for their own conduct, administrative, instructional, and residential staff work together to provide clear guidelines and careful supervision. Outside class, students are supervised by the chaperone/s. Chaperone/s participate by providing support and encouragement, enforcing rules, and possibly helping conduct some of the activities. Along with the chaperone/s - instructors, teaching assistants, staff, and administrators are prepared to help students adjust to the University of Great Falls and to the experience on a college campus. Students will not leave the group or their room without permission from their chaperone or instructor.

Although helping students have a positive social experience is important to us, prospective students should know that their primary goal while enrolled in the program is to succeed learning how to use their computer and function in a college setting. Students will not visit improper website during the computer training sessions. **Students unable to make this a priority should not attend our program.**

Note to Students

While designed with the academic and recreational interests of all students, our program is highly structured and operates with only one set of rules. Some students find they can accept these rules (11 p.m. lights-out, for example; little time to hang out; strict campus boundaries; and close supervision), but others may find them too restrictive and subsequently, may be unhappy.

All students, will have to make their own decision about whether the program is appropriate for them, and should come only if they are fully committed to following all of the rules.

Housing

Students stay in a college dorm with their chaperone/s. Each hall will have 4 chaperones. There are dorm style showers to be shared and bathrooms. There is a front desk that is manned 24 hours and all other entrances are locked at 11:00 pm. The group is an important part of the residential experience, as it provides students with a sense of identity and belonging within the larger campus community.

Students will be assigned to rooms when they arrive on campus. During the program students are not permitted to visit opposite sex rooms.

Evening Activities

When students are not in class they attend activities planned. These activities are supervised by the chaperone/s, staff, administrators and/or the teaching assistants. Our goal is an activity so that all students can have fun and get to know one another.

Daily Schedule

The daily schedule is quite full. Students are required to attend all classes and activities, and there is little unstructured time.

Expectations for Student Conduct

We expect our students to meet the highest standards of behavior, both in personally and in dedication to academic pursuits. To this end, students must adhere to the rules, which require them to uphold personal and academic integrity, respect the ideas and property of others, and ensure that those around them do the same. In addition, students are expected to:

- strive to do the best work possible
- respect individuals of different races, cultures, religions, genders, sexual orientations, ages, disabilities, and national origins
- behave in a friendly, cooperative, and responsible manner toward all persons, college and local communities
- attend all class sessions, meals, activities, and meetings
- observe all rules for student conduct.

Students may be dismissed from the program for any of the following reasons:

- not attending to their scheduled activities
- being in restricted areas of campus, or leaving campus, unaccompanied by a staff member
- being in an opposite-sex room
- leaving their rooms after lights out
- stealing or vandalizing property, possessing or using tobacco, alcohol, or drugs
- bullying or hazing
- undermining the safety or well-being of self or others (includes threats)

Prohibited Items

The following items must not be brought to campus:

- weapons of any kind (including pocket knives and martial arts devices)
- any flame-producing device (including matches, lighters, and firecrackers)
- bicycles, skateboards, roller blades, skates, or scooters
- water guns
- laser pointers

Cell phones or ipods brought to the classroom or other group functions will be checked in with a chaperone then given back to you at the end of the session or at a break.

In addition to the above list, we reserve the right to confiscate for the length of the program any items that, in our judgment, demonstrate the potential for distracting students from the goals of the program, pose undue risk to the safety and well-being of people, or pose undue risk to property.

I have read the Student Conduct and Rules and discussed them with my chaperone(s) or guardian(s). I agree to abide by all rules and regulations stated and understand that I could be sent home early (at chaperone's or guardian's expense) if I fail to abide by set rules. Please sign and return with admissions form.

Name: _____

Signature of Student

Date:

Signature of Guardian/Chaperone

Date: