

**STUDENT ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Camp Director: Rhonda Safford
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Title of Program: “A STEP AHEAD”
- Foster Care Computer and College Preparatory Camp

Where: Montana State University Billings

What is it?

Twenty high school seniors and college freshman in the 2008-09 school year will gather at MSU Billings for a three-day summer college preparatory camp July 7, 8 and 9, 2008. These students are currently in foster care or have aged out of the Montana foster care system. These 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 some entertainment and other fun activities. All campers will leave with a new computer to use for school. **BE SURE YOU HAVE ROOM IN YOUR VEHICLE TO TRANSPORT THE SYSTEMS HOME WITH YOU.** 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:

The Foster Care Student Summer 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 20 high school students currently in foster care to campus on Monday, July 7, 2008 beginning at 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.

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 11:30 a.m. the final day

Selection Criteria:

The 20 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 can 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 form, student conduct form and medical form. Return these to the address at the top of this letter or at the end of the application no later than April 25.

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
Foster Care Student Summer Camp Director

Type of school or program: <input type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> College <input type="checkbox"/> Community College <input type="checkbox"/> Vocational/Technical <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Name and address of emergency contact person or guardian: Telephone:
What type of degree or certificate will you obtain or like to obtain: <input type="checkbox"/> Associates (2 yrs. Or less) <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate	What is/are your major(s) or field of study or what would you like to study at school:

Have you applied to this school or program:

Yes No

Have you been accepted?

Yes No

Are you already attending?

Yes No

What is the date you began attending?

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 it to:

Rhonda Safford, Camp Director
 Student Assistance Foundation
 2500 Broadway
 Helena, MT 59601

rsafford@safmt.org
 1-800-852-2761 ext 7750
 fax (406) 495-7852

APPLICATION DEADLINE APRIL 25, 2008

S STUDENT ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION

PHOTO/PUBLICITY RELEASE FORM

Name : _____ (please print)

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 prep camp held on July 7, 8, and 9, 2008 by Student Assistance Foundation and/or others with its consent, for the purposes of illustration, advertising, or publication in any manner.

Name _____ (signature)

Address: _____

Date: _____/_____/_____

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

Guardian: _____ (please print)

Guardian: _____ (signature)

Address: _____

Date: _____/_____/_____

**Student Assistance Foundation
Department of Public Health and Human Services
Foster Care Student Summer Camp
July 7-9, 2008
Medical and Emergency Form**

I, the undersigned legal guardian, hereby authorize a counselor or a staff representative of the Foster Care Student Summer Camp to consent to and authorize the administration and performance of all treatments that may be considered advisable or necessary in the judgment of attending physicians, in the event that the youth should be admitted to any hospital, or be in need of any medical treatment. This authorization shall continue for such a time as this youth is participating in the above-named summer camp, including travel to and from said program.

Participant's name _____ SS# _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ Date of Birth _____ Sex M F Age ____
Participant's signature _____

Contact information in case of Emergency

Legal guardian Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____
Email Address (optional) _____

Foster Parent or group home Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____
Email Address (optional) _____

Legal guardian, foster parent or group home provider Signature (**required if student is under 18!**) _____

Health History: Please complete so that health providers can be aware of your needs:

Medical conditions: _____
Medication allergies: _____
Food allergies: _____
Current medications and dosages: _____
Any special care or treatment anticipated during camp: _____
Accessibility needs: _____
Other: _____

Complete and return with the application no later than April 25 - an incomplete form could mean rejection of the application.

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* *College prep 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 Carroll College 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 "pod" will have one room for each of the 3 students and one room for the chaperone/s. All rooms are off of a common area in the "pod". There is a single shower to be shared and a bathroom in each "pod". 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.
- No smoking – this is a smoke free campus

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

Ipods or cell phones will not be brought to the classroom or other group functions.

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.

Print Name _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____

Chaperone/Guardian Signature _____