



CARROT: NTA

Additional Non-Teenage Activities

Start a recycling program in your community- work with city officials, not just other teens. In order to make this an NTA it needs to be organized. Other teens could volunteer to participate, but make sure you have some adult participation as well.

Conduct scientific research- learn some basic analysis skill from your biology or chemistry class and conduct an organized research effort in your area. If you design your study to give insight to a local problem you will garner local interest in the community and perhaps get written up in the paper or appear as a guest on local TV or radio. For instance, you might research the impact that global warming has had on the species of plants that will grow in local gardens. Or, perhaps you can design a study to track effective mosquito-control techniques that safely work on the local mosquito populations. Feel free to enlist other teens to help you do the research, but be sure that the project has some adult oversight and participation to ensure that the results get taken seriously. Try proposing your project to the local government and asking them to support the research with a small budget. Obtaining even a small grant will elevate your NTA in the eyes of the college.

Write for your hometown newspaper- find a local “beat” in which you have expertise and write-up a few sample articles or opinion columns. Present the material to your local newspaper and offer to do a regular story for them. Be prepared to commit to a certain number of issues and stick to the schedule no matter what.

Manage a rock band- lots of teenagers start rock bands, but few teenagers are rock band managers. Managing a rock band requires the development of a number of skills including money management, negotiation, marketing, people management and a variety of legal issues. A good manager can manage several bands at a time. You can organize gigs and shows in your area.

Play the stock market- opening a trading account and learning about investing is not complicated, but few, if any, teenagers do it. You’ll have to save money from your part-time job or allowance to get the account started, but the time you invest will pay big dividends for getting into college (and paying for it).

Buy some real estate- you don’t have to be wealthy to buy and manage rental property. You may be able to raise the down payment through a summer job and get your parents to co-sign on the mortgage. You will have to advertise to find a tenant and maintain the property. You will develop an invaluable set of skills that many Americans don’t even get exposed to until their late twenties or thirties. You will have a very impressive essay.

Invent something and apply for a patent- come up with a new product or even a process for doing something better and you might have a unique invention. Enlist some adults to help you develop a prototype and apply for a patent. You don’t have to hire a lawyer (although you may find one who is liberal with the free advice because you will impress them); you can complete the patent paperwork yourself. It is a big, big job and it will probably get rejected by the US Patent Office, but in the process will teach you a lot about how the patent system works. If your product is a good one

you may find a company to produce it and pay you a royalty. Your experience will make a great essay.

Run for public office- get your hands on the local city code and see what offices are available. Your age may not prevent you for running for city counselor even mayor. You will have to raise money for your campaign, organize your political platform and conduct your campaign. Even if you don't win you will have an incredible NTA. If you do win you will have to take the job and learn about your local government. Being an elected official is probably not a full-time job, but you will have to forgo a few extracurricular in order to find the time.

Swim the English Channel- you may never be in better shape in your life. If you are a swimmer and you dare make the 21-mile swim, you will not only be the talk of the town, but also you'll be the talk of the admissions department. You'll need to work with the right people to make it happen and, of course, train like crazy. If you can't afford the trip why not use the opportunity to raise money for charity find a willing sponsor? Contact the Channel Swimming Association, Ltd for more information.

Got a great NTA idea? We would love to hear about it! Please tell us about it by emailing it to nta@collegepeas.com