

Tips to get ready for the College Fair

Make a list. You will have about an hour at the HOBY Indiana College Fair. We will split the ambassador group in half, so expect about 75 ambassadors to be with you at the college fair. Make your list of “must see” colleges and expect to spend 5 -10 minutes talking to the representative. If you have extra time, check out some of the other booths. You may stumble onto a great college you hadn’t considered. You may wish to focus primarily on schools that are more than two hours from home. Colleges and universities that are closer to your hometown can be visited in person.

Do research. Visit the websites of the colleges on your “must see” list and learn as much general information as possible. With this knowledge, you can ask more in-depth questions when you talk to college representatives.

Ask thoughtful questions. Make a great first impression by asking quality questions. Ask two or three specific questions that call attention to your specific interests about a particular college. Good questions include:

- What is the personality of this college as you’ve experienced it?
- How can I use the HOBY leadership skills on campus?
- What kind of student is happy here?
- What are some of the best features of the school?

Stay away from questions with Yes/No answers or ones that can easily be found on the website or in the catalog like: “Do you offer such-and-such as a major?”

Act like a professional. During the encounter, be professional, engaging, positive and enthusiastic at all times. Smile. Look the representative in the eye. Introduce yourself. Avoid giving yes or no answers. Ask for the business card or the name of each admissions representative you meet.

Keep an open mind. You may not have visited any colleges before or attended a college fair, but chances are you have thought about where you would like to go to school. Just because a college or university is close to you, has a great basketball team, or has alumni in your family - it doesn’t mean you should close your mind to other opportunities. These colleges need YOU to bring your talents to their campus. Let them show you what they can offer you in terms of coursework, campus culture, and financial aid packages.