

## Important Dates

Friday, March 13  
**SDP Half Day for  
Staff Development**

Friday, March 20  
**SDP Closed for  
Eid al-Fitr**

Monday, March 30  
**SDP Spring Recess  
Begins**



Greetings, Scholars and Families —

We are so proud of this year's group of students who participated in our Fourth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Exhibition! These dedicated scholars created poetry inspired by Dr. King and presented it at last month's culminating event. Thank you to all who attended and cheered them on.

Talent Search has a lot more on the horizon! High school students, save the date of **Saturday, March 28** for our upcoming **Career Day**, where you will have the chance to **participate in workshops led by Wharton MBA students and network with professionals** from a variety of career fields. Registration will open soon and will be announced via email.

In the meantime, read on for information on CCP Discovery Day, Spring Break activities, an update on federal funding for Talent Search and other programs, and more! Have questions or need assistance? Email us any time at [vpse.talentsearch@upenn.edu](mailto:vpse.talentsearch@upenn.edu).



## CCP Discovery Day

Talent Search Scholars in 9th through 12th grades are invited to participate in CCP Discovery Day, where participants will **tour the Community College of Philadelphia, attend an admissions presentation, and learn about dual enrollment and scholarship opportunities.**

Whether you're a 9th grader who wants to earn college credits while still in high school or an 11th grader deciding where to apply next year, this day is for you!

**DATE:** Saturday, March 21

**TIME:** 9:00 am to 2:30 pm

**MEETING LOCATION:** Community College of Philadelphia

Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

**[Click here to sign up no later than Sunday, March 15!](#)**



**CCP DISCOVERY DAY**

Join Penn Talent Search at CCP for a day of information and fun!

**PRESENTATIONS FROM**

ADMISSIONS | CATTO SCHOLARSHIP | DUAL ENROLLMENT  
CENTER FOR MALE ENGAGEMENT

**SATURDAY MARCH 21**  
9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

**CCP MAIN CAMPUS**  
1700 Spring Garden Street



GRADES 6, 7 & 8

## Franklin Institute

# FIELD TRIP

TUESDAY  
MARCH 31

9:00 AM -  
1:30 PM

## Spring Break Field Trip for Middle Schoolers

Talent Search scholars in grades 6-8 are invited to join us for a Spring Break field trip to the Franklin Institute, including a live science show and admission to **Universal Theme Parks: The Exhibition.**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 31

**TIME:** 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

**MEETING LOCATION:** On campus at Penn

Our group will travel by bus from Penn's campus to the Franklin Institute and return to Penn at the end of the trip. Lunch will be provided at the museum.

**Space is limited, and you must register to attend.** Students will be added to the trip on a first-come, first-served basis. All attendees must be enrolled in the Penn Talent Search program.

[Click here to sign up no later than Sunday, March 22.](#)



## COMMUNITY SERVICE

FIELD TRIP

Cradles to Crayons

Wednesday, April 1

12:00–3:30 pm

Grades 9 – 12



## Spring Break Service Opportunity

Together with our partner program Upward Bound, Talent Search will participate in a volunteer event at [Cradles to Crayons](#), an organization that provides children living in homeless or low-income situations with the essential items they need to thrive.

All attendees will receive a letter documenting their community service hours.

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 1

**TIME:** 12:00 pm to 3:30 pm

**MEETING LOCATION:** On campus at Penn

Space is limited! Students must be enrolled in Talent Search or Upward Bound. [Click here to sign up no later than Sunday, March 22.](#)



## COLLEGE CORNER

FINANCIAL AID LETTERS

Wednesday, March 18, 6-7pm

- Reading your financial aid award letter
- Loan-based vs. grant-based aid
- Choosing an affordable college

Zoom link on Canvas!



Are you a high school student getting ready to apply to college? Join our counselor, Ms. Sofia, for College Corner, a series of live webinars covering everything you need to know about the college application process.

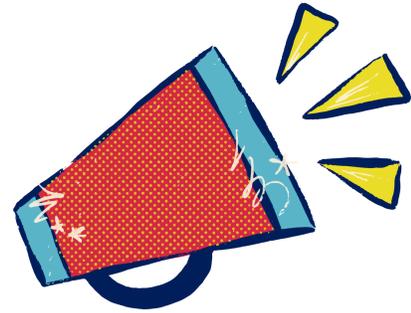
This month's session on **Wednesday, March 18** at 6 pm will cover Financial Aid Letters!

**Join on Zoom:**

<https://upenn.zoom.us/j/92100309823?pwd=x5LHaixCb1wn8EvSeieFjp7nPvwaNF.1>

College Corner meets on select Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Though sessions are geared toward helping 12th graders accomplish their college application goals, younger students are welcome to join for a preview of what's next.

## Talent Search and TRIO Advocacy Update



Did you know that Penn Talent Search is a federal TRIO program?

TRIO programs operate in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., the Pacific Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Collectively, **more than 3,400 TRIO programs nationwide** help nearly one million students enter and graduate from college each year. Penn Talent Search alone serves 583 students in Philadelphia.

We've shared in past newsletters about a recent White House budget proposal that would eliminate all TRIO programs in the coming year, threatening TRIO students' access to the academic advising, career guidance, and personal support that make success possible for so many first-generation and low-income students.

**Thanks to your support, Congress has approved the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026, maintaining federal TRIO funding for the fiscal year through September 30, 2026.** This is good news! However, Talent Search and Educational Opportunity Center programs across the country are still waiting for the grant competition notices that will allow us to continue serving students for the next five years. With current grants expiring August 31, 2026, **immediate action is needed to avoid service disruptions for more than half a million low-income, first-generation students.**

**Policymakers in Congress need to hear from YOU** — the TRIO students, parents, and families — about the importance of protecting Talent Search and other programs, so we can continue to support every one of our participants along their educational journey!

**Use this link to contact your senators and representative** asking Congress to prevent a lapse in Talent Search and EOC Services by launching the grant competitions and issuing all awards by June 30.

Thank you for being a TRIO advocate!

# LAUNCH YOUR FUTURE

*Philly College Fair 2026*

## THURSDAY, MARCH 26

*3:30pm – 7:30pm*

LOCATION:

**THE SALVATION ARMY  
KROC CENTER OF PHILADELPHIA**

4200 WISSAHICKON AVENUE | PHILADELPHIA, PA 19129

- MEET COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES
- COLLEGE PREP & SUCCESS WORKSHOPS
- NCAA ELIGIBILITY & SPORTS PATHWAYS
- HEALTH, ARTS & CAREER PATHWAYS



### INVITED UNIVERSITIES:

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY • LASALLE UNIVERSITY • JEFFERSON • ST. JOE'S • CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE • DREXEL UNIVERSITY • UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA • COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA • MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY • GWYNEDD MERCY UNIVERSITY • CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY • LINCOLN UNIVERSITY • DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY • MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY • BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY • HOWARD UNIVERSITY • COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY

### SPONSORED BY:



RAY & JOAN KROC CENTER  
of Philadelphia



Join students, families, and educators for the Philly College Fair 2026 at the Kroc Center of Philadelphia. This free event connects attendees with college representatives from local and regional universities while offering resources to support academic, athletic, and career success.

**Thursday, March 26**

**3:30 pm to 7:30 pm**

**4200 Wissahickon Avenue, Philadelphia**

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Meet directly with college admissions representatives
- Learn about college prep and student success strategies
- Explore NCAA eligibility and athletic pathways
- Discover health, arts, and career-focused programs

No registration is required to attend!

Sponsored by the Philadelphia College Prep Roundtable and The Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Center of Philadelphia.

---

## Opportunities for Talent Search Scholars

### Schuylkill Acts & Impacts Program

An expedition to inspire watershed action, the Schuylkill Acts & Impacts program engages students from communities within the Schuylkill River Watershed in a hands-on service-learning experience.

Schuylkill Acts & Impacts is a **6-day watershed expedition** along the 120-miles of the Schuylkill River, from its headwaters in the anthracite coal lands of Schuylkill County to its confluence with the Delaware River in Philadelphia. **Twelve select students** from all 5 counties in the watershed come together to experience first-hand the impact of land use on water quality through guided tours, fieldwork, water sampling and interactive presentations with policy makers and planners.

Students **camp in tents at state parks and nature preserves**. Students need to bring a sleeping bag, clothes, and their personal items, but all other necessary gear, food and transportation including tents, kayaks, and life jackets will be provided.

Students must be **high school age** and live or attend school in Schuylkill, Berks, Chester, Montgomery, or Philadelphia counties. Selected students must participate in the entire program from Sunday, July 12, 2026 to Friday, July 17, 2026.

**[Click here to get more information and apply no later than March 20.](#)**

---

### PennRSSA Summer Academy

The Penn Rising Scholar Success Academy (PennRSSA) is a **free, college preparatory and career exploration program for high school students** across Philadelphia. This includes students from the School District of Philadelphia, public charter schools, and Archdiocese of Philadelphia schools. PennRSSA welcomes students from all backgrounds and accepts participants regardless of GPA.

### Provost's Summer Mentorship Program

The Provost's Summer Mentorship Program is a **FREE, immersive four-week summer program** curated by faculty and staff in five Penn Undergraduate, Graduate, and Professional schools, including the Perelman School of Medicine, the Nursing School, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, the Penn Carey School of Law, and the School of Dental Medicine.

This year's program will run from **July 6 through July 31** (Monday through Friday, 9 am to 4 pm).

Eligibility Criteria and Application Requirements:

- City of Philadelphia residency
- **Currently in 9th or 10th grade**
- Minimum 3.0 GPA
- High school transcript
- 250-word essay
- Up-to-date vaccine record (requested after acceptance to the program)

**[Click here to get more information and apply no later than March 10.](#)**

---

### VPSE STEM Academy Summer Program

The VPSE STEM Academy Summer Program is a **FREE, five-week program for Philadelphia middle school students entering grades 6–8**, hosted by the Vice Provost for Student Engagement at the University of Pennsylvania.

Students will explore STEM and STEAM through **hands-on activities, experiments, and workshops in robotics, coding, engineering, biology, and environmental science**. The program combines STEM learning with entrepreneurship, as students work in teams to complete a STEM Innovation Research Project, developing a real-world solution connected to an annual theme.

This summer's rigorous program will provide high-caliber academic, career, and college preparation, as well as financial literacy content. Students will also participate in a small-group Capstone Project. The program will be delivered in small cohorts led by University of Pennsylvania undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.

When and Where:

- Professional Development Week: June 22nd - June 25th
- Program Duration: **6 weeks (June 29–August 5, 2026).**
- In-Person Days: Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays on Penn's campus.
- Virtual Days: Thursdays on Zoom.
- Fridays: Fun extracurricular activities (i.e., including museum visits and campus tours)!

**[Click here to get more information and submit the interest form no later than March 8.](#)**

Participants will also take part in STEM electives, choosing two areas of focus to support their project and gain hands-on experience in skills like CAD, Python, Unity, or Science Lab. The program concludes with a final research report and team presentation showcasing their innovation. Hands-on workshops and field trips will further inspire creativity, problem-solving, and collaboration, giving students a preview of STEM in action.

This year's program will run from **June 22 through July 23** (Monday through Thursday, 10 am to 2 pm).

Eligibility Criteria:

- Enrollment in a Philadelphia (Public, Catholic, Private, or Charter) School
- Entering 6th through 8th grade in the Fall of 2026 and must be 12 years old at the start of program
- Essay (250 words) describing yourself and your interest in the program, STEM, and entrepreneurship

**[Click here to get more information and apply no later than March 8.](#)**



Follow us on social media and visit us online at **<https://vpse.upenn.edu/ets!>**

Penn Talent Search | 3819-33 Chestnut Street Suite 110 | Philadelphia, PA 19104 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!