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Mommy Minute [Sarah CodyContact Reporter](#)

Parents & Teens: Consider Visiting College Campuses During Spring Break



Wesleyan University, Middletown

Many families visit colleges during the summer but Janet Rosier, an independent educational consultant in Connecticut, believes taking tours during spring vacation - when college students are on campus - is a better option. Then, visitors can really get a sense of the atmosphere on campus by talking to students.

Rosier, also a certified educational planner, offers these tips for meaningful visits:

Take notes.

“If you see more than two campuses in one visit, you really start to forget the details,” she says.

Spend time in the student center.

“Take a look around, see what’s being talked about - the kinds of clubs and activities. Get a feel

for the vibe of the campus," says Rosier, noting that visitors should pick-up a copy of the school newspaper and eat in the cafeteria.

Don't just rely on the traditional tour.

In addition, poke around and ask students' questions, such as, "How accessible are the professors? What are weekends like?" Also, call ahead to make appointments with sports coaches or music teachers.

Ask the right questions.

"During the admissions sessions, (prospective students) shouldn't be asking anything that is information they can get from the web site," says Rosier. "Look like you've done your homework, that it's not your first time thinking about the college."

Don't expect love at first sight.

"I remind students that not everybody goes onto a campus and feels that they've had an epiphany," says Rosier. "Some people do get a great feeling like, 'This is it,' but a lot of students don't....Most students would be very happy on a number of campuses. They shouldn't feel like they have to find the exact, right one."

Located in Westport and Woodbridge, [Janet Rosier's Educational Resources Inc.](#) aims to demystify the college admissions process.

"It's an extremely difficult process for students for many, many reasons. It's extremely competitive and there's also so much hype surrounding it," she says. "Students need to go on a campus. At that point, it becomes less abstract and more concrete."

Don't forget: the prospective student should enjoy the journey.

"Visiting a college should be fun, not just stressful," says Rosier. "They have to remind themselves that they're in the driver seat, to a degree. I think they lose sight of that when all of the talk is about how competitive it is to get in. They're still the ones that need to be choosing colleges that are a good fit for them."