



## **Volunteer Information: College Application and Exploration Week**

Most volunteers will know that the college process involves applying to one or more schools, but it will help to provide them with context for why your school is hosting a whole week of fanfare about college applications. Use volunteer training as an opportunity to “set the stage” for college access work throughout the school year. Below is text you can put in a flier or email to volunteers giving them an overview of the event, application process, and next steps for students.

### **What is College Application and Exploration Week?**

College Application and Exploration Week is a statewide event sponsored by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and CollegeforTN.org.

### **What is the goal of College Application and Exploration Week?**

The goal of Tennessee’s College Application and Exploration Week is to build excitement around the college application process and provide every graduating Tennessee high school senior the opportunity to apply, with a focus placed on first-generation students and students who may not otherwise apply to college. We define college as any formal education after high school.

### **How do I address questions about application fees and fee waivers?**

For colleges that require an application fee, students can use credit/debit cards online for some colleges, or print their online application(s) to mail with a check to the college(s). Should students have questions about eligibility for fee waivers, please refer them to their school counselor.

### **What are their next steps?**

In order to be eligible for financial aid, college applicants must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible beginning October 1 of their senior year. The earlier students complete and submit this form, the better! Also, refer students to the “Now That I’ve Applied, What’s Next?” handout that their teacher or school counselor has given them.