



Linda M. Groat, M.A.
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Simply Back to Basics
["Providing Customized Solutions for Life Situations"](#)

[Get it Together! Keep it Together! Let Linda Help!](#)

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******* Don't forget to Drop off your hazardous waste at the upcoming collections*******

**Saturday, May 10th at ECC North, from 9-2 (Williamsville, NY)
or
Saturday, June 21, at ECC South on Rt. 28. (Orchard Park, NY)**

[Click Here](#) for directions to ECC North and South.

Call 858-6800 to hear a recorded message with details on accepted items.

Linda's Organizing Tip for April 2008:

Many thanks to fellow NAPO Organizer, **Kim Allman, of Act Together Organizing**, of Rock Hill, South Carolina, for providing this month's tip. Her daughter is finishing up her Freshman Year, so she has first hand experience getting organized for college! According to her, now is the time of year to begin preparing! Even as students are finishing up their 9th grade years, it is not too early to begin to understand what lies ahead!

Spring Into Action for College, Now!

- ❖ Plan early. EARLY, EARLY! Start investigating college options in sophomore year (freshman transition time has too much going on already!)
- ❖ Different colleges have different entrance requirements (2 vs. 3 years of foreign language, for example) so make sure high school class choices have them covered. Know if your preferred schools want to see SAT scores, ACT scores or both, and take them first during your Junior year. If results are not as exceptional as you hoped, you've got time to improve. You can take them as a freshman or sophomore, but too early and colleges won't accept them. Check with the school guidance department.
- ❖ Visit colleges during actual class time if possible instead of in summer breaks – you get a whole different feel for a campus when it's active and full. Try to sit in on classes where possible.
- ❖ Take advantage of any and all job-shadowing days or college visit days that your school system offers.
- ❖ Financially speaking, they told us to save for college, but no one ever said to save up for senior year... Pay for prom, announcements, graduation cap & gown, additional photo packages, class ring, deluxe yearbooks, Senior day activities, etc and pretty soon you're talking about real money!
- ❖ Scholarship application deadlines come early – some as soon as fall of Sr. year, some further into spring. Your school's guidance department should have this on file. Get all these dates on

your calendar... and figure in the prep time. It may take an hour or two to fill out an on-line application form, but it might take three weeks to prepare a project, paper, essay or interview.

- ❖ You can apply for Federal Student Aid (which also covers state aid, grants, etc – one application and you're done) online as soon as the parent(s) and students tax returns are filed... earlier is better. This is a free process. The official website is <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>. You have to register first, receive your PIN by return email (allow several days to a week or more) and then log back in and complete the online form. There are hundreds of other similarly spelled sites that "help" you fill out these forms, but for a fee. If they ask for money, you're in the wrong place. Federal deadline is usually June 30 for the upcoming school year; state deadlines vary and are usually MUCH earlier. The FAFSA site lists all deadlines.
- ❖ Know the exact size and furnishings of a dorm room and contact your roommate before you go shopping. Know exactly what is and isn't allowed in the dorm. Less is usually more (gotta love that!)
- ❖ Talk, talk, talk about how life will be different for both the student going away and the siblings (and parents) "left behind".
- ❖ Be prepared for the first visit/summer home to be awkward... it's a new life phase and relationships are changing. Express any expectations you may have for the student to return to a curfew, regular chores, summer job, etc.
- ❖ Continue to talk about future plans once they're in college... "When you move out, I'm turning your room into an exercise studio!"

There's so much more help out there now ... family liaisons offices, scholarship workshops, transition specialists. Etc. Take advantage of any or all of them if you need... but know there are thousands of scammers out there just looking to make a fast buck. Be aware of what you really need to do, and what you don't. The colleges themselves are your best resource.

Kim Allman

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If you need help with organizing, simply call Linda.

These tips are for sharing!

Please forward to others interested in organizing ideas.

I welcome all feedback about these articles. Please feel free to e-mail me anytime.

Unsubscribe by sending me an e-mail with "No Thanks" in the subject line.

Previous month's tips can be viewed at www.simplybacktobasics.com.

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