

Purpose | Equity

Our world is better when every young person can find their purpose.

Summer Search introduces High School Sophomores to expansive opportunities and a life-long network of support to build the skills needed to succeed. We graduate Summer Search Alumni who obtain postsecondary degrees, carve out careers, and equip themselves with mental wellbeing and financial stability.

When every young person can cultivate the power and courage already inside them, **they are unstoppable.**



**SUMMER
SEARCH**

Together,
our community
champions equity
and breaks down
systemic barriers.



Est. 1990



Est. 1996



Est. 2006



Est. 2003



Est. 2003

Over 32 years, we have partnered with 8,200 young people in the Bay Area, Boston, Philadelphia, New York City, and Seattle.

Our Challenge

There is inherent strength and resilience in the youth of America. **Not all young people are afforded the same opportunities.** Today's world puts them to the test.

With the right support, all young people can find definition and discovery.

We support students in navigating challenging circumstances and systems through mentoring, opportunities for growth, high quality education, and professional networks. Like many BIPOC and First-Generation students, challenging economic circumstances, and overlapping systems of oppression inhibit their ability to thrive.

Comparatively:

- The median family income for our participants is \$24,852.
- 91% qualify for free or reduced lunch.
- 90% of Summer Searchers are or will be the first in their families to attend college.

- The wealthiest 10% of U.S. households spend \$9K each on mentors and out-of-school enrichment for their children each year.
- 43% of U.S. college students relied on nepotism to secure an internship interview.

Our students are not defined by the systems of oppression into which they are born.

Our Students

71%

graduate from college within 4 years, more than 2X the national average of 33%

>30k

The majority of our alumni hold debt of less than \$30K compared to \$50K for adults aged 22-35 who borrowed money for college

80%

feel 'optimistic' about future job opportunities, compared to the national average of 65%

Our Approach

Our unique Participant-Centered Model empowers our young people to learn and grow from their lived experiences through cycles of action and reflection and offers space to claim their racial and cultural identity while building understanding of how identity influences how others experience them.

We offer:

- Two fully-funded, experiential learning opportunities that invite personal growth;
- Meaningful relationships via 1:1 and peer group mentoring facilitated by skilled youth development practitioners;
- Individualized post-secondary pathway exploration, financial aid advising, and financial capability coaching;
- A consistent network of support for 7-9 years, from high school through career launch;
- Access to a national network of dedicated staff, alumni, board members, and corporate partners for professional development opportunities, job openings, and more.



Summer Searchers possess the talent and inner strength to carve their place in the world as thriving adults with purpose and holistic well-being. Our alumni are closing the economic opportunity gap and living lives of purpose.

Every Summer Searcher, be they student, alumni, employee, donor, volunteer, or board member, invests in each other and themselves. The power of Summer Search comes from our depth of support, programmatically and financially.

Together, we are unstoppable.