

## Unofficial Visits

Written by the [Baseball Factory](#) Staff

The summer is an extremely busy time for a baseball player. With games, practices, tournaments, showcases and camps, there isn't much time for anything else other than sleeping. As a result, many families think that they don't have time to go and visit colleges; however, the summer can serve as a great opportunity to visit numerous schools and begin narrowing down or adding to your college list.

I'm sure that you are going to be traveling at some point during the summer, either to attend a college camp, tournament or showcase. These trips can provide a great opportunity to visit a few colleges. For example, if you live in New York and your team is going to a tournament in Maryland, there are hundreds of schools in between your house and the tournament. Leave a day early and come home a day late, so that you can plan some time to stop by a few college campuses. Even if you are only able to tour the campus or stop by the baseball field, you can learn a lot in a quick visit.

Ideally, you want to try to do as many of the following things when visiting a school:

- Take a campus tour (You can usually arrange one with the admissions office. At some schools they run hourly, but try to call ahead to make sure)
- Tour the athletic facility, including the baseball field
- Meet with a member of the admissions office (They should be able to answer any questions you have about the school – size, majors offered, academic requirements, financial requirements, and any other questions you have. They may also want to ask you a few questions so that they can learn more about you)
- Meet with a member of the coaching staff (see below)
- Meet with a player from the team
- Sit in on a class (only during the school year)
- Go see a baseball practice or game (only during the fall/spring)

High school players are allowed to take as many “unofficial” visits as they want. An unofficial visit is any visit to a college campus during which time the college coach pays for none of your expenses including hotel, transportation, food, or even a bag of sunflower seeds. If the coach or another member of the university pays for anything, the visit will be considered an “official” visit.

On this visit, you should tour the campus and facilities, meet with someone from the admissions office, and meet with someone from the baseball program. Make sure to schedule a meeting with the admissions office and baseball staff before you plan your visit. **Do not show up to the coach's door and expect him to have 30 minutes, or even 10 minutes, to sit down with you. If you set up a meeting with the baseball staff ahead of time, they will usually set aside time to answer your questions and discuss their program.**

Please realize, however, that you must set up this meeting, not the coach. Do not show up at the coach's office expecting him to give you an hour presentation on why you should attend his school. Come prepared with questions. Use this visit to learn as much as you can about the school, program, and coaching staff.

When visiting colleges, dress appropriately and prepare for your interview. Make sure you have questions ready for the coach (see the list of suggested questions) – these questions will help you “fill in the blanks” in regards to what you already know about the program. Be honest and up front with the coach as he is gauging your personality throughout the interview. Be tactful and make sure that you – not your parents – are initiating the conversation and developing the relationship. It is your future at stake – take an active role.

You should also begin preparing to take official visits to those schools that are seriously recruiting you. You may take up to five official visits. You may only make one official visit to a school, but you can take an unlimited number of unofficial visits. You may begin taking official visits after the first day of classes during your senior year in high school. Official visits are not allowed before that date. In most cases, college coaches will contact you to invite you to make an official visit.