

## A “Crate” Idea

Here is a “crate” idea to help you organize your college exploration process:

Find a plastic crate designed to hold hanging file folders. If you don’t have one around the house, you can find one at any office supply store.

To begin, set up the following folders:

- |                        |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| * Career planning      | * Interview                     |
| * Standardized Tests   | * Personal Statement/Essay      |
| * College Planning     | * Scholarships                  |
| * Activities Resume    | * Financial Aid (if applicable) |
| * Campus Visits        | * Military/ROTC (if applicable) |
| • NCAA (if applicable) |                                 |

Reserve another 15–20 folders to label for each college on your “long list.” As you begin to receive information from these colleges, you can set up a file for each school you are interested in. We suggest that you keep all the other college mail (i.e., schools you aren’t that interested in) in a “slush” box—don’t throw them out—you may come back to them later on.

As you weigh each college choice, move the college files around, arranging them in order of preference at that particular time. This order will most likely change as you progress through this process.

As you move through the selection process, you will want more folders available. We will add material and make changes in your files as you get ready for your freshman year in college.

It’s a challenging and exciting process, and it will flow much more smoothly if you’re organized!!

\*\*\* Special thanks to Evelyn Yeagle for the documentation of this “crate” idea.