

Episode 12 - Meet Ethan Knight

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SPEAKERS

Ethan Knight, Moira McCullough



Moira McCullough 00:00

Welcome to the College Scoops podcast. I'm your host, Moira McCullough and today we are talking with Ethan Knight, the Executive Director and Founder of Gap Year Association about the benefits of a gap year, the resources available through the Gap Year Association, and what opportunities are available for students now,



Ethan Knight 00:16

The reality is that most student programmer sort of interest seems like it's come back to the US domestically and we're really happy to see that because that's always been sort of like the redheaded stepchild at the gap year field, just because international has higher glamour factors to it. But let's be honest, there's just tremendous learning opportunities in our own backyard.



Moira McCullough 00:43

This is the College Scoops podcast and I'm your host Moira McCullough, we focus on everything college related from the admissions process to where to eat, stay and explore on Enron campuses. Our guests include founders, educators, authors and experts in the college space. Join us as these Experts share their knowledge, experiences and lessons learned to help you have stress free, informative and tasty college journeys. Whether it's

your first or last child going to college, or you're just interested in going to a college town for a game or meal, we've got you covered. If you haven't already, please subscribe to the College Scoops podcast to get the inside scoop, send everything college related, and leave us a review. Thanks to all of our sponsors, partners and the entire College Scoops Ambassador team for helping us bring valuable content to our community. If you would like to support college scoops as a sponsor, please head over to [patreon@patreon.com/collegescoops](https://patreon.com/collegescoops) and sign up as a sustaining listener, insider or Deluxe sponsor. We have exclusive benefits for our members free ebooks and even a College Scoops care package. Ethan knight is from Portland, Oregon, a graduate of Caitlin Gable High School and Willamette University is also a gapper. Ethan has been working within the world of gap years since 1996, when he took his own gap year to India, Nepal and Tibet. Back in those days, the only options to take in an official gap year was through the center for interim programs. And that's exactly how he first heard about this strange thing called a gap year. After an inspired talk at this high school, he started a conversation with interim programs to discuss what would eventually turn into his own sojourn, Ethan graduated from Willamette University, a small liberal arts university with majors in English and philosophy, and a minor in environmental sciences. As the Executive Director and Founder of the Gap Year Association, Ethan and his team focus on four core areas, research, equity and access resources and finally standards and accreditation. GYA has over 400 members and represents more than 150 gap year programs. Welcome, Ethan. And thank you so much for joining us today on the College Scoops podcast. Awesome. Well, thank you so much for the opportunity. Well, I'm thrilled to speak with you today because I have three kids. I have a senior in high school and with all the schools announcing their plans for the fall of 2020. Many students and families like myself are wondering what are the options available for gap your experience, and I have not been in a gap year per se. I was at a semester abroad, but my kids have been on semester abroad. And I just read this great article by Nicholas Kristof, who mentioned gap year is not a gap. It is a bridge, a launchpad a new rite of passage, which I just loved. I think just a great way to introduce the gap year but can you just share a little bit about yourself and how you created the gap your association? Absolutely. Yeah, well, I love Nicholas Kristoff. He's long been a fan of the gap year and I actually got to hear him talk at my sister's commencement speech here in Portland, Oregon when she graduated a couple years ago. It's funny there is some debate in our field ongoing and has been for the last 10 years on whether we should rebrand ourselves as bridge rather than gap and old Ultimately, the media keep sort of recycling the language of gap here. And so we figured we you know, better to just sort of do some keto and lean into what's working, and then do our job to to define the gap here is something that's educationally driven. Ideally, I think one of the major concerns that families have with the gap years that if they don't matriculate directly on to college, they won't ever get their college degree. And I think there is data to support that primarily from the National Center for Education, statistics and CES. But

happily, what we try and sort of highlight within a good gap year is that you have some intention, some purpose, some drive, some goals, skills you want to tackle or something in that arena. And so when you add that intentional component to a gap year, students actually matriculate better through college, their time to graduation is improved, their GPAs are improved. So there's a lot of good cause to embrace the gap here. In fact, you know, most colleges do ironically though, yes, it is still sort of written as a gap. Most people tend to fall into gaps rather than do them with intention. So that's some branding work we have ahead of ourselves for sure. Or you would ask sort of what is it about the gap? How did we get started? What was, you know, our original sort of impetus for existence? I've been doing gappy work for almost 20 years. At this point in my career, I think one of the biggest reasons why we've decided to build the gap, your association, honestly, it happened around the same time that the Occupy Wall Street movement was really kicking off. And we saw all these great intentions, beautiful sort of positions held around equity and sort of, you know, greater sharing of sort of the wealth of our country, and letting all of the issues that are in that imbalance. And ultimately, that movement petered out for in my best opinion, there was no central messaging, there was no flag in the ground, their whole point was everybody's messages equal. And unfortunately, that's not something that really translates into the working world. How do we actually interact with information and so quickly it was like, Alright, well, we got to build, we got to put a flag in the ground, we got it, we got to sort of muster support for this thing, because the gap year could really be something big for so many good people. And it's truly proving to be that but when we first launched the gap year Association, it was built around really four core concepts or pillars, if you will. One was around the notion of standards and accreditation. So one of the biggest reasons why students weren't taking a gap year was because families, parents, educators, they just didn't know what the good ones were. So better not to recommend one then recommend the bad one. So we created a whole set of standards. In fact, we actually have the standards development organization title by the US Department of Justice in the Federal Trade Commission for gap year education, which is kind of a cool thing out. So aside from standards and accreditation, the next one is probably going to be in the realm of equity and access. So one of our big goals is to increase the number of people who are doing this from every socio economic, racial, theoretical, futuristic, we want everybody to take a gap year because the good is just that profound for The individual and the people that get to touch that person throughout their career. One of our core goals for equity and access, we have a huge financial aid web page on our website. But one of the core goals for the gap year Association, quite frankly, is to open the door to college credit broadly for a gap year, just a semester worth a year is I think, a big ask for college to accept. But it's to also include eventually access to FAFSA, federal financial aid dollars, and we've seen how much educational value there isn't a gap year, so I think it's surely within reach. And in fact, many gap year organizations already have access to college credit and FAFSA. So our goal is to expand that reach. The third

pillar is on resources trying to make it more accessible information perspective. A lot of people just still don't know about the gap year or they have some maligned perspective on what it is they might believe that it's really expensive and in fact, some gap years are paid. I sort of navigated my gap year after I think it was seven months overseas and five months working netting about four \$3,000 by the time it was all said and done, so really resources to make it more accessible, help families digest it. And then the last one is really about research. If we want to know, you know, where to lean into this as a concept as a pedagogy, we're trying to really understand what are the inputs that lead to certain output, which is really exciting conversation to have. And there's three really major seminal surveys going on right now. One, that's the 2020 National Alumni survey. One, that's our annual State of the field survey. And then we've got this great coalition of colleges, the gap year Research Consortium at Colorado College was really taking off to do a lot of the higher ed research around gap years. So I really have just talked to you're off for like half an hour or more. It was a good question and a good open. As a parent, you you hit on all the four key points that I thought of and I have said when one of my kids said I want to gap year I'm like, Well, hey, how do we know where to go? What's a good again, like what does that involve? And are you going to get credit for it? Make sure that you can get credit and three. I don't know if we can afford afford it? How does that work? And what resources are available? So as a parent with kids wondering, is a gap year a feasible option, the gap, your association just hit on the fact that I found you and I know now where to go to help guide families and parents and students to investigate and make sure that okay, these are the options, this is what's available. And guess what, it is affordable and there are accredited programs. And here's a platform that you can go to and a resource, a team that you can work with to help you through this decision making process. In terms of the Gap Year Association, is there, the organization that you have, you have members that are part of the organization, you also have gap, year programs that have been accredited that are on your platform as a resource for families. How does that work from a program perspective? Good question. Yeah, great question. Well, so yeah, so open it we aren't we're a membership based Association. So members get an annual right to vote for board members. And just like any membership association with it. So you know, frankly, the good majority of the work product comes from our committees or volunteers that are members themselves. And so we've worked to try and establish a really good landscape for gap, your sort of promotion, education awareness, and so have membership categories for Gap Year students or high school and college counselors. Both of those memberships are \$25 a year it's really just a way to say like, like, No, I'm interested in it's worth some time. And then we have higher professional levels memberships for those that sort of directly engage in the gap, your space gap your consultants, and we have whole accreditation process for gap year consultants, capture programs providers, same thing, accreditation process for them, and then also for colleges, and one of the most well trafficked aspects of our website during Coronavirus

has been our college deferral policies. So when I first started launching the reactor Association. It was like, one of the hardest pieces of information to find was what are College's deferral policies relevant to gap years, there was no list that we could find. So I tasked an intern on it. And now in my third tier of hurts, because we've been at that conversation enough times to try and stay abreast of how colleges are adapting on their on their different policies. You know, you'd I'm sort of like how are we adapting what what are some of some of the changes in the field, probably specifically relevant to Coronavirus. And there's been a lot of adaptations made, I think, you know, historically one of the core concepts about a gap year de facto not as a way of design, but just sort of how it's happened is to go international. And I think, you know, partially what you're trying to do in a gap year is, there's a thing called transformational learning theory. And part of what you're trying to do in a transformational sort of learning environment is to provide these these I call them radical juxtapositions to the way that we've done life, right? We all grown up in our own bubbles, whatever that means to us. And I think it's really important to be able to identify what does success look like for you? How do you want to chart your path forward to understand other ways to do this thing called life. And so the more radical of a juxtaposition you can create, oftentimes, the better the learning outcome. Now, that's not always the case, but going, you know, somewhere totally different like India, or parts of Africa or the Middle East like that'll, that'll wake you up to all of the sort of the differences in the cultures and help you understand who you are at about, you know, at a core level, but let's be honest with Coronavirus, those international pieces have really become more of a challenge. They're still out there on offer, there's still hope that there will be a vaccination or some radical improvement to treatment protocols. But the reality is that most student programmers sort of interest seems like it's come back to the US domestically and we're really happy to see that because that's always been sort of like the redheaded stepchild at the gap your field, just because international has higher glamour factors to it. But let's be honest, there's tremendous learning opportunities in Rome. backyard. I traveled internationally a lot in my 20s. And it wasn't until really my sort of late 30s and 40s that I really got into our own country. And you can have tremendous cross cultural experiences from from New York City, Louisiana, from California to Alaska, even within California, even within New York, there are such sort of differing perspectives and and need, that there's really opportunities showing up domestically a lot. And I'm happy to talk to you a little bit, maybe we can make it more of a discussion rather than me just sort of hammering them all out. You know, what I always say, you know, in terms of with every challenge, there's an opportunity, and we've moved around a lot as a family. And I said to my kids one time, like, let's not talk about the next international trip that we're going to take, why don't we explore our backyard, our neighborhood, the state next to us? I mean, you're absolutely right. I think the opportunities here we may not have looked at them as closely as we have the opportunity to now As you said, there's a way for students to continue to learn and grow and thrive in a gap year program in house now and take

the opportunity to do that. So, talk to us a little bit about that. So you said that there are companies are moving to offer those types of options? Maybe?

E

Ethan Knight 14:20

Absolutely. Yeah. Well, it's been interesting because, you know, if you look at sort of the millennial demographic versus the Gen Z demographic, and what those students want are different things. So I think many programs were already doing some adaptations to their program model to be more receptive, you know, hospitable for the Gen Z students. And so I think, you know, what many of them have been doing is, is maybe slow baking a domestic program. And that's, I think, what it were a lot of organizations were going, it takes time to build a good program, you know, you have to have good contacts, good people, good leadership staff to lead and execute the program. And so so they've all basically taken all of those sort of slow baking ideas. And fast track to them, it cranked the oven up to 600 degrees to get it done well and fast. And so many of them are launching. There's some really innovative models that are coming online. Like one of the things that I best heard phrased about this moment, this opportunity is, you know, Necessity is the mother of invention. And there's a lot of inventing going on right now that that I think is going to parlay quite well for students in terms of learning opportunities. We as a gap year of field have really had to to stay adaptive in the exact same ways that colleges are right. So the circumstances that surround Coronavirus in college also impacts awesome as a gap year field. The big difference, however, is on a college campus, you're talking 2030 40,000 students and it's much harder to maintain all the distance and prerogatives and mandates that are out there. Right. The checks the balances, it's really easy to break a container and at the same time, we know that youth are our most risk prone at that age. And so you have to build an extra layers of tolerance to your risk management protocols so that people know those mistakes. can be balanced at least somewhat. And then a gap your field it's much different rather than a campus of 30 40,000 students a cohort of eight or a cohort of 12. And so that means that there's a lot more opportunities to engage in some really innovative ways. Now one of the things that's a challenge ahead of us is we've seen how how there's this this expansion in the number of programs that are out there, but at the same time, whereas maybe a previous cohort of gappiya students might have been 15 or 20. Or for instance, the case of city here in Los Angeles, normally they'll do 300 students in a given cohort, this year, sort of the capacity of most of those have been reduced. So whereas normally gap your program might have 15 students this or they might say, let's just keep it at 10 or if you're doing city are normally do 300. Like I said this year they're doing 200 so increase in number reduction in capacity, all the stay savvy to you know, of course Coronavirus.



Moira McCullough 16:55

If a family or student is looking for that information. That's something that they could go to your website, your organization and find that information as to those programs that are being homegrown and slowly being released and offered. Yeah, we have a search function on our website where students can search for gap year programs. Before Coronavirus, got maybe 500 searches a month and we were happy with that traffic. Our members were happy with that traffic. And now we're closer to 1500 searches per month, we tripled. And what's been really interesting is we've also been able to add a new component for programs you will designate whether they're in person for their Coronavirus gap year, whether they're online, whether it's hybrid or whether they're still deciding so there's actually a webpage that you it's not quite live yet. We're still waiting for our members to finalize, but by the time this is produced and shared, I'm sure it'll be live. So gap your association org backslash programs hyphen, COVID dot php. will take you to full list of all of our members that have taken the time to fill out where they're where their stances on Coronavirus. Granted, many are making it up as they go. We all are I mean, let's be honest. So these are subject to change. And some are not reporting yet because they're still dialing in the final details. But But yeah, that's an exciting component. And one of the things that I think we've also seen happen, you'd asked earlier, sort of some of those accreditation processes. We're seeing accredited programs really get asked about a lot more. And I think that makes sense just because when things feel less in your control, it's one of the few ways you can exercise some modicum of control. And that's to sort of find those that have the better bona fide the better credentials, the pass through objective measures. And that's exactly what our systems were designed From a parent who has just gone through the experience of helping my oldest son returned from the University of Sydney in a feeding frenzy as many students had to navigate as a parent you know, they're requesting but I never even thought to ask because frankly, I didn't think that this would happen. So, you know, I'm an explorer. I love traveling. I've been overseas family has, we're comfortable with that. I sent my son off and I thought, see you and actually we were supposed to go visit him on March 13. And on March 11, Tom Hanks came out with the announcement that I had it so obviously we shifted our plans and did not travel over. But the question was, is he in a program that has the infrastructure the support to help him navigate what next the next step? So when I talk about accreditation, I'm looking at programs now and I think many parents are and students. There's a whole nother layer of information that people are looking for now saying, okay, risk management, like what happens? Does that program have the lessons learned? Do they take the lessons learned from the spring? And what are you doing with that to make sure that everyone is safe sound and taking care of Yeah, I think it's interesting because there's a lot of the debate so so we have weekly calls for our professional members to to try and you know, frankly workshop, a lot of these problems,

our most recent call was diving into a lot of the Black Lives Matter, I'm happy to see that that's a conversation or field is really engaging with, but we spent a good amount of time just focusing on quarantine. So let's imagine you take two students in, you put them in a room together to quarantine for two weeks at the start of the program. And then there's the rest of the cohort. Well, there's actually a whole lot to think through about that from testing prior to departure to testing sort of on arrival. What's accessibility? What's turnaround time? What's reliability? How many times do you have to test positive or negative before you're confident? What's the availability of reliable testing? Are you are you talking sort of virology testing to say is there an active virus in your system? Are you testing for the antibodies? Also, what happens if a student gets Coronavirus? How do you support that student because you obviously can't engage with them in the same way that Couldn't they didn't have Coronavirus, but you might have to take them to the hospital. So what's the availability of local hospital facilities? What happens if your staff person gets it and we're thinking through it, like normally I try and live at five or 10 foot level that's off the ground frequently go to 30 or 40,000 feet. But that's just the visioning me at these conversations. We're getting inches off the ground, just because that's what's required in order to really have things so thought that out. When you talk about all the changes in all the work that everyone is doing right now, they're taking that platform that they had the framework that they had, and looking at lessons learned, and then thinking out, let's be thoughtful in this. And there's, as you said, I find that there's so much information out there and it Where do you go, and that's the trouble because as you said, it's changing all the time. That's good. It's constantly being updated, but from a student or parent perspective, families looking at the options available. You could get exhausted just because it's proven exhausting for a lot of progress. too, because the other thing too is programs have had to furlough staff. So they're working with less staff right now to try and develop these programs. I'm constantly reminded that the resilience of humanity, I'm constantly reminded that we are far more capable than we think. And there were people who managed to have phenomenal experiences right after 911, there will be those students who are just intrepid and say, You know what, this is my window, this is my opportunity, I'm going to make the most of it. There's also a great need in our world right now. And so, you know, I think one of the core components of a good gap year is some element of volunteerism or giving back, I can think of a few capes that people could wear on that front, you know, off the back of my hand, and name them and come up with a list, you know, 100 times larger just for the need that's in our local communities. It's hard to find those volunteer opportunities and get trained up on them, but there's a lot of media out there. So I think people can be sort of in an activist front with black lives matter. Be a sort of on a political front with the election coming up or be it on food. needs food security issues, homelessness, or issues that are plaguing our country for a long, long time? Well, that's absolutely right. And when you talk about the type of gap experience a gap year, it's it's that intentional one. And I think now more than ever, there are students

looking at it and thinking, you know what, for whatever reason, I do not want to go back to school, maybe the school is online, you know, they're going back to a hybrid scenario where you're online learning and what can I do? That would be a valuable learning experience that's local. And to your point, between the volunteer service and different activists opportunities, there's a lot out there that we now have the opportunity to take advantage of that we may not have thought of before, if you had a couple key bits of advice for a student who is thinking about a gap year option, many of the schools have not come out. Some have come out with the reopening of what they're doing in the fall, but some we're still waiting for



Ethan Knight 24:02

My favorite advice, quite frankly, is, is just allow yourself to research the topic. And so my favorite thing to do that I encourage students to do is to go to our website, look through our programs, find any of our programs, and literally spend, spend no more than 45 minutes, preferably 30 minutes. And the task here is not to write down the name of the organization. The task is to go through at least four or five different websites of organizations and write down the activities that are exciting to you. And one of the challenges is that there's so much that's out there that it's really tough to wrap your head around and most students, they look at the concept, they're like, wow, that doesn't fit nicely in any boxes. Part of the onus is on me to select it. I'm just going to stick to the tried and true path. And so they pursue the college degree. My experience has always been that every student benefits from a gap here. The challenge is that I don't think that's right. Write for every student and those that I don't think it's right for, frankly, they're all into the bucket into their into the sort of I put them all into the same sort of space as I'm really excited for college I can't wait to learn. Now my experience is most freshmen don't do that. You know, one of one of the common jokes in our field is that most students take a gap year, it's just called their freshman year. We all chuckle at that, because we know what that actually is sort of references. But if you're able to give away a full semesters worth of college credit for that kind of social experience, and it certainly seems on offer, that there's a tremendous amount of learning through this kind of experiential endeavor. And so we're really keen on pushing it. I think some of my best advice to families and parents is get excited about the possibility allow yourself to get excited about the possibility. I would strongly encourage working with gap year consultants at this point, there is a lot of information that's coming out a lot of stuff that's adjusting and changing. And if you can hire a consultant, you know, you can pay them by the hour or by a package. Let them do all the negotiation and navigation They're oftentimes pairing a student with a program. Even though the program's not exactly guaranteed to run at this point, they're pairing the student with that with that organization more because they're like, Okay, well, if their plan A doesn't work, this organization has a B and A C option. And

culturally, I can tell that you'd be a great fit with that organization. So let's let's sort of, Let's marry you to that organization at this point and keep her options open for other things that come online downstream. That's a really smart approach to take. It doesn't necessarily can be you and quite frankly, most gap year organizations have adjusted their full refund policies to delay a little bit so that families have more capacity, more ability to consider options. I did have an interesting conversation with a parent a couple weeks ago whose daughter had just gotten into her reach school. And this was exciting for her. But the school had just announced that they were going to be fully online for the fall and the daughter was not into it. And so she was basically saying, All right, well, I'd like to take it happier, but the school was saying no, you're not allowed to defer. And frankly, a lot of colleges, if you're coming in off of the waitlist are refusing to allow you to take a deferral. Right. And we understand what that what's underneath that right. Of course, the colleges are concerned about their longevity, if they can't sort of fill this cohort, you know, what does that portend for the long term and the short term financial needs? Well, what's interesting is there's a lot of sort of lawsuits coming online for call because we were just named in our first lawsuit by a family who's trying to get a gap year deferral, and they're citing us to try and help improve their case. We're not going to hopefully be an on the stand or anything. But it's an interesting thing that that's just now starting to happen with us. And so I think what a lot of colleges are going to end up actually doing, as we're watching our first wave sort of swell again, in our country here it is, you know, in June, is that we're going to see a lot of colleges who initially said, Great, we're going to be in person have to add that date approaches say, actually, we can't do that. Right. And so what I think is good advice with this dad ended up actually coming to was to say, well, maybe I should deposit at a gap year organization because I know I can sort of remove my deposit, you know, way in advance. But I'll also keep the path going with college. And unfortunately, there's some ethical challenges with that. But at this point, you know, from my perspective, if I'm a student, and the college feels like they're gaming me for their own personal benefit, it's hard not to think that well, maybe I should do the same. And so I think a lot of students are saying, Well, I'm gonna I'm gonna keep my options open, because I feel like that's what the colleges are doing. So I'm going to do that myself. And I think there's a really natural approach to doing that. So finding the right pair of fitting organization that you can put some energy into and book a reserved spot I think is a good Good, good bit of advice.

M

Moira McCullough 28:47

That is great advice. As a parent who's in the moment right now and out of the two college students I have one school has come back with what they hope will be the framework and to start school in person in August. The other school is significant, my daughter goes to a significantly larger school which has not come out with the official

notice. And then as I said, I have a senior in high school. So to your point, like, typically I do all the research myself, I we mentioned, we both travel a lot. So you and I do all of our own research and we feel confident that we have a plan B and C, I've definitely somebody who has a plan A but I've got a couple other ones in the back pocket to make sure that I'm covered. But now more than ever working with a consultant provides you with that added layer of framework and insight because so much is changing so fast. And I like the example you gave with students who are being reflective in their approach and college is expensive. It's it's a lot and I know the online learning was not a tremendous win in our family. So it's it's a lot for families to take in and try to manage in a short timeframe with everything changing.

E

Ethan Knight 30:00

So it's interesting, a lot of the pushback from colleges, some colleges have announced we don't know whether we're going to be online or in person, but we're going to charge full price. Some of the pushback has been from the college to say, well, we'll listen to the academics. That's what we're here for. It's all there. So we're totally within bounds to charge full price. That's an impossible pill to swallow for a family when the cost is as much as it is. And on the edge of as much economic uncertainty as is out there. You know, one other thing that people are considering when they're taking a gap year especially now is that it might give their financial reporting a year to catch up so that their eligibility for faster more reflects their actual need rather than their 2019.

M

Moira McCullough 30:42

The one comment I would make about the learning to with the online and I am all about the visual. You give me a science book, I cannot understand that. But you put me in a program where the ocean is my classroom, and tell me Okay, try to teach me through that, I will get it and it resonates with me. So I remember listening to my daughter, a particular class that she was taking in his Israeli Arab conflict class. And she said the teacher was, you know, I don't know how old but he just would sit and tell stories. And the lecture hall was captive, captivated by this person just telling his stories now translate that to online, and it was a disaster for her. So great advice. And thank you so much, because in a short time, you provided so much information so much help to families, students, and parents who are trying to navigate the next six weeks with the information that they are getting from college programs and trying to figure out what the options are available from a gap year program. And initially, a lot of people will say, oh, there's no international so it's not it's not an option. Move on. But you've just enlightened us to say no, there are options and take a look at them.



Ethan Knight 32:00

And let passion be your guide. You know, I think one of for me the core concepts behind the gap year is where the heck in our society is an individual ever given permission, let alone encouraged to define success for themselves. And so I'd say most of us end up trying to live someone else's definition of success and I just don't know how, you know, just talk to logically logically Can you do that yet most of us are trying to do it. And so I think, you know, again, peers is at its core, it's a lot about figuring out what does success look like for you so that you can be more purposeful in your pursuit of it? And if that's sort of driving a BMW the great spend the time to figure out what that is for you don't just do it because the Joneses habit you know, keeping up with the Joneses, but if it's a social justice, a cause an issue, environmental, cultural, you know, societal, maybe that's it, then then take the time to figure out what that is, so that you can accelerate your path through it. That's the big thing about the ampere I think about it as an accelerator



Moira McCullough 32:58

Are their gap years for Parents?



Ethan Knight 33:02

That's one of my favorite questions. And one of my most commonly asked ones, usually on the heels of Wait, I didn't. How can my kid gets all the good opportunities?



Moira McCullough 33:12

Yes,



Ethan Knight 33:12

there are there really are.



Moira McCullough 33:13

I know, I just talked with one of your members, Marian Taylor from the Taylor the gap. And she mentioned she had gone on a program and I thought, right, that's what I'm asking for my birthday and anniversary gift. You'll see a couple of ticks in traffic from my Ethan.



Ethan Knight 33:30

That sounds great. I'm happy. Hopefully we can be of assistance. I'll schedule another follow.



Moira McCullough 33:35

Ethan thank you so much for joining us. I really appreciate it.



Ethan Knight 33:38

Absolutely more. Thank you for the opportunity and the interest and the work you do I see what you do online and it's helping a lot of people. So thank you.



Moira McCullough 33:45

I hope so. Thank you. Thank you, Ethan for joining us today. The Gap Year Association is a valuable resource for students, parents and educational professionals interested in exploring gap your opportunities. There's a post information from a list of accredited gap year consultants and programs to financial aid information college for all policies. A helpful guide to planning a gap year for students and parents and other helpful resources one can use as a research gap your opportunities. Ethan also shared his tips for both students and parents as they analyze their options for the fall. You can find all of our show notes and links to the helpful resources mentioned throughout our conversation on our website at CollegeScoops.com/podcasts. You can learn more about the Gap Year Association on their website at GapYearAssociation.org or on Facebook. Please take a couple of minutes to rate review and subscribe to College Scoops. Thank you for listening to our College Scoops podcast. Our entire College Scoops team strives to make the college journey a little bit easier, less stressful, fun and tasty by sharing all the inside scoops we have curated along the way. We would love to hear You about topics to cover and your ideas and everything college related. Reach out to us at CollegeScoops.com or follow us on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.