Gap Year Checklist

Start Here: Why Gap Year?

- [ ] Figure out why you want a Gap Year and explore the paths that interest you. ***You can chose more than one at once!***
  - Resources: Gap Year Association (WEB)

- [ ] Think about what you like, what matters to you, what you're good at.
  - Resources: Personal Values Assessment (WEB), My Next Move, (WEB) High5 Strengths (WEB)

- [ ] Set clear goals that make sense for what you want: Set goals that make sense for which path you chose.
  - Resources: MindTools (WEB), Grad's Guide - Goal Setting (VIDEO)

- [ ] Seek out financial aid and scholarships to help reach goals.
  - Resources: FAFSA (WEB), Appily (WEB), Gap Year Financial Aid (WEB)

Path A: Build Skills For A Future Career

Take classes or earn short-term certifications that match what you're into.
- Resources: Coursera (WEB), SEMCA (WEB), Detroit at Work (WEB)

Look into apprenticeships and internships in industries of interest to gain hands-on experience.
- Resources: Going-Pro (WEB), Pure Michigan Talent Connect (WEB)

Connect with pros in fields of interest, find mentors and learn about careers.
- Resources: LinkedIn (WEB), Mentoring.org (WEB)

Make a great resume and LinkedIn profile with your new skills.
- Resources: Indeed (WEB) , LinkedIn (WEB)

Path B: Make Money & Gain Independence

Get paid work or freelance gigs to handle money on your own.
- Resources: SEMCA (WEB), Indeed (WEB), Upwork (WEB)

Learn about personal finance and managing money well.
- Resources: Practical Money Skills (WEB)

Path C: Serve Others

Explore and join volunteer programs to help causes you care about.
- Resources: VolunteerMatch (WEB), AmeriCorps (WEB), Peace Corps (WEB)

Path D: Personal Growth, Travel or Entrepreneurship

Find programs abroad or in different cultures to work or learn about new places.
- Resources: Go Overseas (WEB), Gap Year Abroad (WEB)

Consider starting a small business to serve others or solve problems.
- Resources: Small Business Association (WEB), EdX (WEB)

Read The Gap Year Newsletter on Smore

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