



Discover Year

'18 – '19

Discover Year FAQ

What is Discover Year?

Discover Year is a bridge between now and what's next. It's more than a gap year. It's an intentional and structured pursuit of God and His plan for your life.

Why would someone want to do Discover Year?

Life is full of transitions. None more critical than your teens and 20s. Discover Year creates intentional space for God to speak life and direction into these transitions. During this year:

- You'll understand who God created you to be — not who your past says you are, not who the world says you are, but who your perfect Father declares you to be.
- You'll experience a relationship with God that's marked by fullness and intimacy, a relationship that's deeper than checking boxes and more satisfying than going to church once a week.
- You'll be able to know and defend what you believe about God because you've asked yourself the scary questions, not just because it's what you've always been told.
- You'll step into the future with confidence, even when the details are unclear, because you've learned to listen to and follow the compass of God's voice.
- You'll develop life-giving friendships to encourage you along the way, trusting those bold, faith-filled voices who keep you from settling as you go about life's journey.

What will I learn during Discover Year?

While learning is bound to happen, the goal of Discover Year is personal discovery. During your time with us, you'll answer critical questions, including:

- Who is God?
- Who am I?
- How do I know God?
- How do I know me?
- What has God done?
- What am I to do?



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Who should do Discover Year?

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Whether you think you want to run a business, join the army, start a church, or raise a family, Discover Year will help you establish a godly foundation of identity, freedom, and purpose. Applicants must be between the ages of 17 and 25 and have a high school diploma or equivalency.

What will I do during Discover Year?

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Everything you'll do during Discover Year is designed to help you align your values, priorities, and decision-making with God's Word, experience intimacy with God, and gain direction for your life.

Discover Year experiences include classroom environments, group settings, one-on-one mentoring, local and foreign mission trips, personal retreats, physical exercise, book discussions and serving opportunities within the local church.

The weekly schedule will vary due to scheduling of mission trips, events, holidays, etc. However, Discover Year participants can expect to be engaged Monday through Thursday (morning through early afternoon) and on Sundays.

When should someone do Discover Year?

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Discover Year will be most helpful during transition seasons of life — after high school, after college, between jobs, etc.

What would someone do after Discover Year?

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The goal of Discover Year is to prepare you for what's next. What's actually next will look different for everyone. It could be college, work, ministry, family, or something else.

Regardless of where God leads, a greater understanding of who God is and your identity in Him will set you up for greater success in whatever door He opens next.



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When is Discover Year?

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Discover Year is a nine-month program starting in August and running through the following May.

How much does Discover Year cost?

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Discover year costs \$3,250. This covers all experiences involved with the Discover Year program including materials, books, and all mission opportunities.

This cost does not cover room and board, transportation, or any other living expenses. Most students will need to work part-time during Discover Year to help cover these expenses. While working does increase the demands on a student's schedule, it also increases maturity and helps cultivate people skills.

How do I apply for Discover Year?

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You can apply for Discover Year online at newspring.cc/discoveryyear.

You will need to include the following with your Discover Year application:

- A completed personal reference form from a close friend or non-immediate family member giving their support of your decision to pursue Discover Year. A link to this form can be found on the first page of the Discover Year application.
- A 3-5 minute video answering the following:
 - Why do you think Discover Year is right for you?
 - What is one area of your life that you would like to experience significant growth in throughout your time at Discover Year and why?



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What does missions look like with Discover Year?

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All Discover Year participants will be involved with missions on three different fronts.

First, we will be involved with local missions through [The Lot Project](#) in Anderson and [The Dream Center of Pickens County](#) in Easley. These opportunities will be single-day projects sprinkled throughout the year.

Secondly, we will take a weeklong trip to Jackson, Mississippi, to partner with [We Will Go Ministries](#).

Finally, we will take a weeklong trip to Antigua, Guatemala to serve and experience God's work with [Iglesia Del Camino](#). You will be responsible for getting a valid passport book, but no special immunizations are required for this trip.

General Gap Year FAQ

We believe Discover Year is more than a gap year, but we've included the following information to help you understand how Discover Year could be a part of your journey.

What is the purpose of a gap year?

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Gap years can be beneficial on multiple levels:

- First, gap years give students more time to make major life decisions that have lasting implications. Studies show college students are changing majors at higher rates than ever. We believe a student who has more time to think and pray about their next step is more likely to make a choice they can stick with.
- Secondly, gap years give students the opportunity to gain life experience and personal maturity. Gap years are often thought to be "time off." However, if done right, they can function to help students learn more about themselves and fill in critical gaps and prepare them for the future. We like to think of Discover Year as being a bridge to keep you from falling into the gap.



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If I want to go to college after a gap year, what should I do?

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Most institutions encourage students to apply for acceptance before taking a gap year. Logistically, it's easier for admissions counselors to work with students who are still in high school.

Upon acceptance, students should contact the school about deferring their acceptance. Every institution is different, but with the rise in popularity of gap years, schools are becoming increasingly supportive of taking this time.

Discover Year will not earn you college credit at this time.

Will I lose my scholarships if I take a year off from school to do a gap year?

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Every situation is different so you need to contact the scholarship organizations directly for final verification. However, most student aid will still be available if the gap year is taken before actual enrollment.

For federal aid, students should fill out a FAFSA before their gap year as well as another application after the gap year. If nothing has changed about the family's financial situation, then the amount of aid should not change.

Some scholarships require continuous enrollment meaning that, once you start a program, you must be enrolled each semester until you finish. If this is the case, taking a gap year in the middle of a degree program may put you at risk.

For aid given out by a specific institution, students should be in contact with the school before making their decision. Every institution will be different, but many are willing to hold and defer aid.