

## Last Hurrah

**After college, you may think summer isn't as fun as it used to be. Take advantage of your free months while you can.**

Work in international policy. Bike across the country. Teach in Europe. Forget getting your math requirements out of the way: Take a cue from these unique summer ideas and make the most of your time off.

### Cruise Coast to Coast

When graduating Champlain College senior Nick Girard, 21, began planning his summer, he knew what he *didn't* want: anything conventional. "I like to travel and see new cultures, places and people," Girard says. "So I wanted to work that into what I did post-graduation."

The Westminster, Ma.-based grad and a friend will be hopping on mopeds this summer and replicating Horatio Nelson Jackson's first-ever cross-country auto trip, which took place more than 100 years ago. "When [we] researched Jackson's road trip, we thought it was awesome—especially the amount of adventures that he got into—and we decided that we would follow his route," Girard says.

The trip is scheduled to begin in San Francisco this July, proceed to New York City and end in Burlington in mid-September. Students stuck at home can keep tabs on Girard's road trip via his online blog, [www.mopedcountry.com](http://www.mopedcountry.com).

### Help Out, See the World

Organizations such as Global Volunteers offer groups, individuals and (should you want to round up mom and dad) even families, the opportunity to travel and volunteer at the same time. "I learned a lot about the cultures in India and the warmth, kindness and respect everyone has to offer," says Serena Pisani, a McGill University student who volunteered in India through Global Volunteers. "And now I appreciate everything in my life a lot more."

From teaching English in Greece to landscaping on a reservation in Montana, Global Volunteers, founded in 1984, offers a number of summer trip options for a reasonable fee. For more information, visit [www.globalvolunteers.org](http://www.globalvolunteers.org).

### Get the World Working

If you must sign up for summer school, at least center it around something unusual. Co-organized by the United Nations Association of the USA, Seton Hall's week-long United Nations Intensive Summer Study Program is open to students from all universities and offers the opportunity to network, watch debates and more. "Seeing the UN in action—dealing with its primary responsibility of peace and security during a major international conflict—is an experience that will forever be ingrained in me," says C. Eduardo Vargas, 30, who received a Master of Arts in Diplomacy & International Relations from Seton Hall University. Vargas participated in last year's UN Intensive Summer Study Program, held primarily at the UN campus in New York. "Actually being in the horseshoe chamber while the discussions took place made all the readings and studies come alive." For more information, on Seton Hall's program, visit [http://diplomacy.shu.edu/academics/un\\_studies/summer\\_program.html](http://diplomacy.shu.edu/academics/un_studies/summer_program.html).

### Recreate

Many students have no choice but to work over the summer. If you fall into this category, look for jobs that cater to student's summer schedule—and the seasonal weather. The National Park Service hires college students as summer maintenance staff, rangers, researchers and more at its nearly 400 natural, cultural and recreational sites across the nation. Get experience and spend the summer outdoors! For more information and job listings, visit <http://www.nps.gov/>. 



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