**Want to use your GIV experience as a Flexible Pathway?  Here’s how!**

Every school has a different process for creating Flexible Pathways to learning, and it’s totally up to you whether you want this to be part of your Flexible Pathway. Just in case you do, we’ve put together some tips to help you make your GIV experience part of your personalized learning plan at school. You’ll have success by planning early and then following three steps – sharing what you expect to learn, showcasing what you are actually doing in the Institute, and then spotlighting what you have learned. Here’s how!

**Step 1: Before Your Institute**
- After you find out that you have been accepted into the Institute, check the GIV Accepted Student webpage (www.giv.org/accepted) for some of the kinds of proficiencies that you’ll be developing in your Institute.
- If needed, talk with your school counselor about how those match up with the proficiencies/competencies your individual school requires for graduation.
- Your counselor or coordinator may ask for a brief written proposal from you stating what you expect to gain.
  
  **Things to include in your proposal:**
  - The name of the Institute you are attending
  - What goals and expectations you have for this experience (what you want to learn, what you want to do, & how it fits with your interests!)
  - What proficiencies/competencies those goals line up with (and how many credits you’re seeking if your school uses a credit model)
  - How you plan to demonstrate what you learned after the Institute.

**Step 2: During Your Institute**
- Keep a personal log of your hours and the things that you are doing that relate to the competencies. This may include reflections or journaling.
- Talk to your Institute’s director and your faculty during the first few days about the fact that you are hoping to receive credit.
- Get faculty signatures on your hours log and reflections.

**Step 3: After Your Institute**
One model for how to demonstrate your learning back at school could be:
1. Write an essay on what you learned and how you met your school’s competencies.
2. Do a presentation, teach a class, tutor your siblings, write a school newspaper article, or find some other way to bring what you learned back to your school and/or community.
3. Submit a packet with your original proposal, documentation of hours and activities, materials/reflections from the Institute, and your follow-up work to your school counselor.

As you can see, to have your school count your GIV experience towards your graduation requirements, it’s important to plan ahead, communicate with your school counselor and Institute Director, and document the work that you do. We have a feeling you’ll find it worth it!