



TEXAS GEAR UP

COLLEGE MATTERS

2016

SUMMER CAMP





**THIS
YEARBOOK
BELONGS
TO**

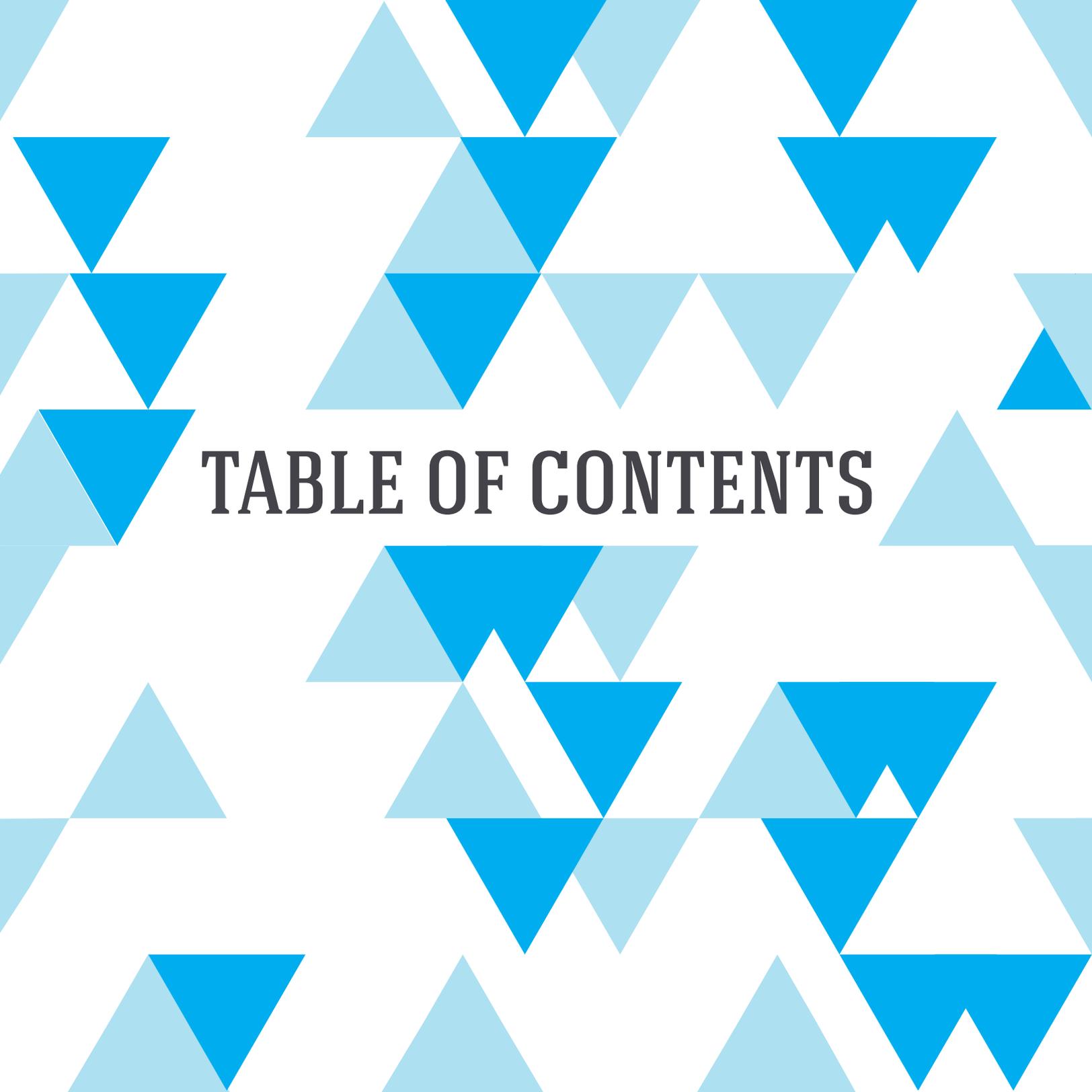
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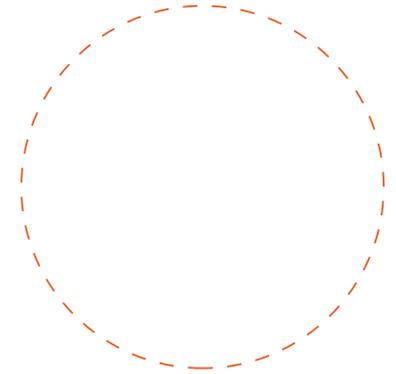
Learning the Ropes

MIKE KING



TEXAS GEAR UP

College Matters Summer Campers



I am writing this letter with a big smile on my face 😊 because summer '16 was something truly special. Having you all attend the first-ever Texas GEAR UP College Matters Summer Camp was one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life.

It was amazing to see the hard work of the entire camp staff come together the moment you all arrived on campus. Watching you step off the buses with your bags packed and ready to become a college student for a week gave me feelings of apprehension and exhilaration—I was truly cognizant of our responsibility to help reveal your path toward becoming a college-ready student. (Notice how I used SAT words in the previous sentence? 😎)

All jokes aside, the Texas GEAR UP College Matters Summer Camp was a special time for the camp staff and me—hopefully you feel the same. As you look through the yearbook, I want you to always remember to live life in the moment. Moments are what make life special, and I am honored to have shared these moments with you!

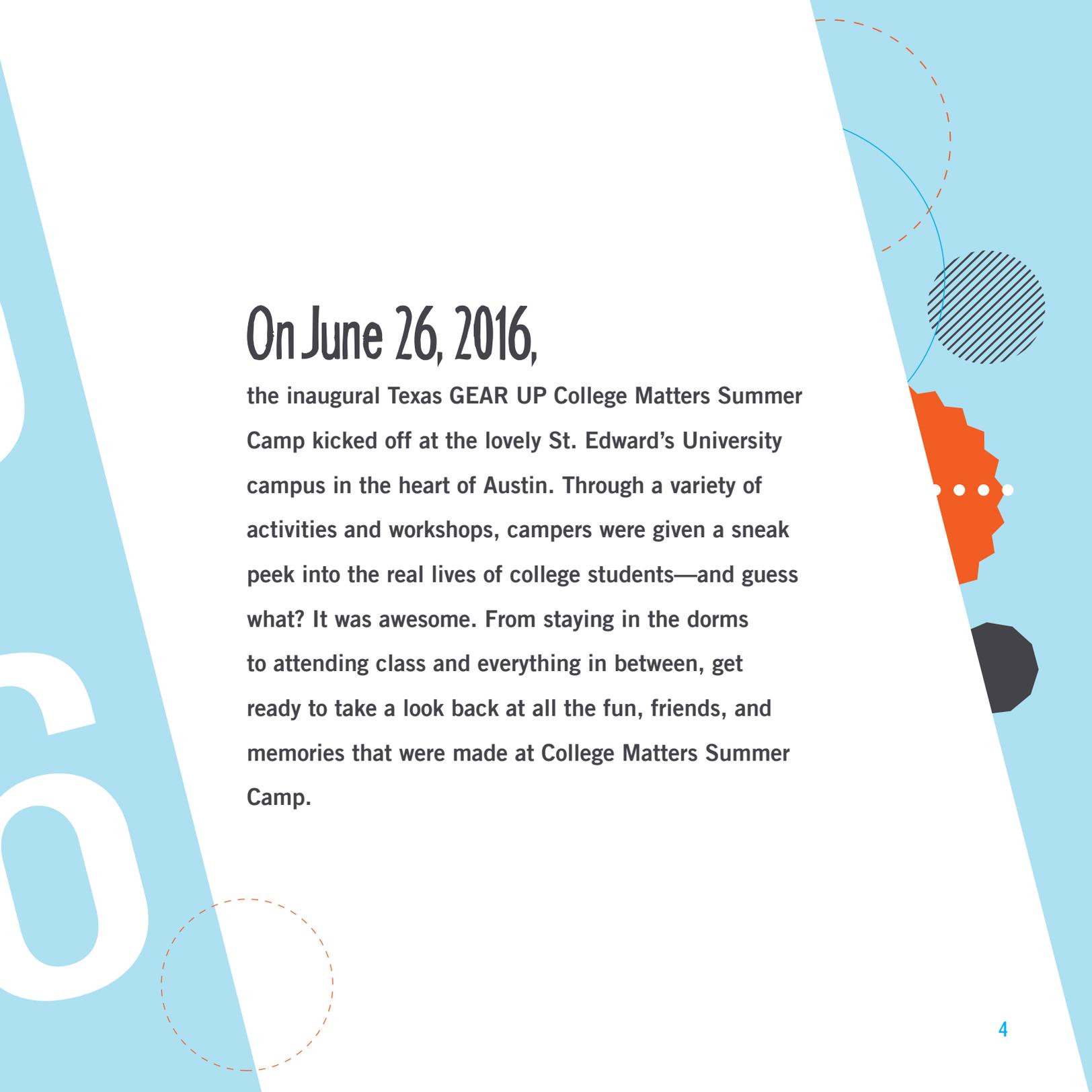
Enjoy the journey... Keep it movin'...

Sincerely,
Michael King, Camp Director



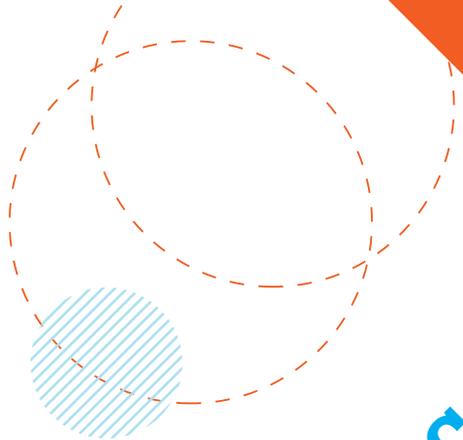
SUMMER CAMP 2016





On June 26, 2016,

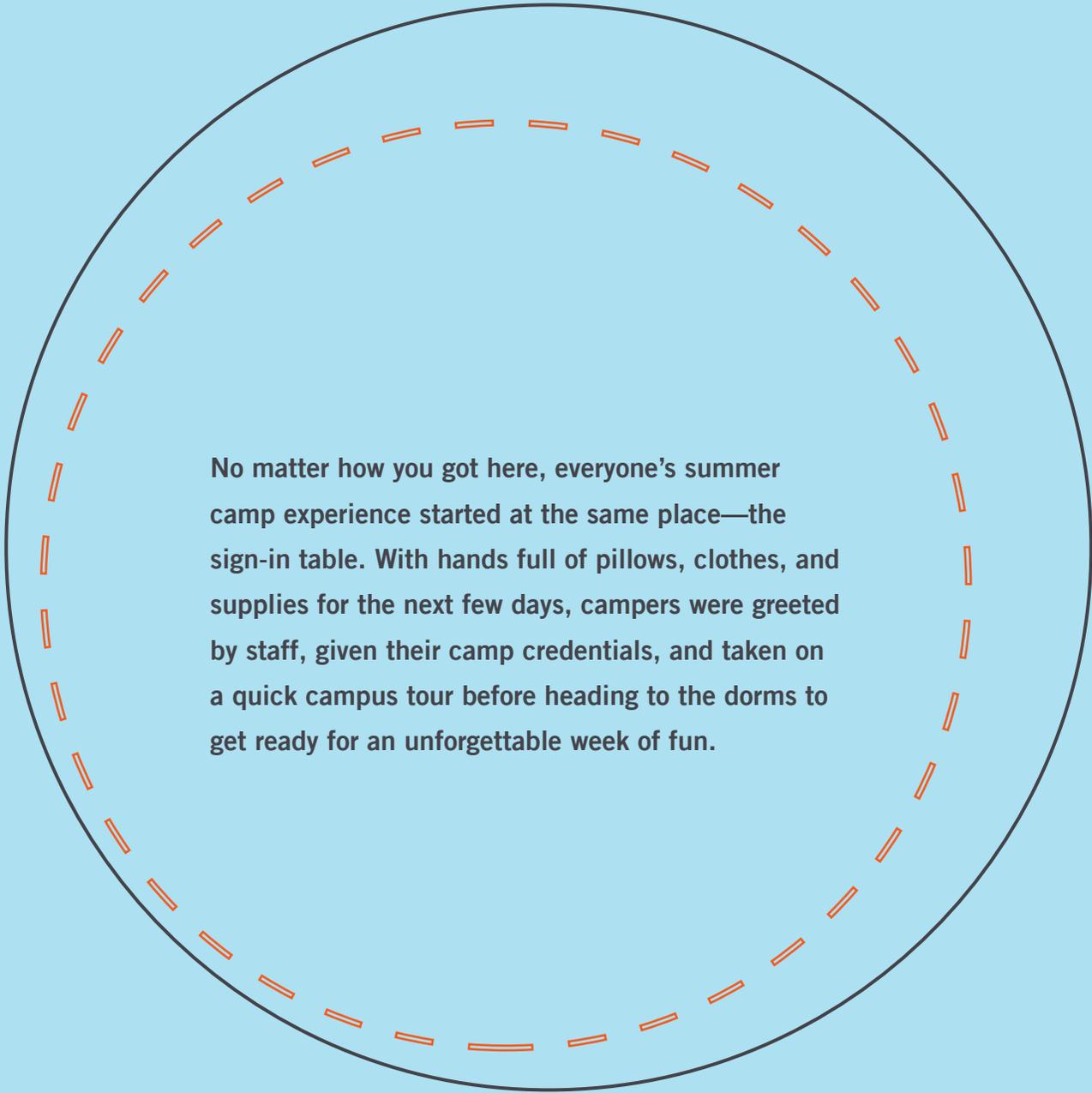
the inaugural Texas GEAR UP College Matters Summer Camp kicked off at the lovely St. Edward's University campus in the heart of Austin. Through a variety of activities and workshops, campers were given a sneak peek into the real lives of college students—and guess what? It was awesome. From staying in the dorms to attending class and everything in between, get ready to take a look back at all the fun, friends, and memories that were made at College Matters Summer Camp.



WELCOME TO CAMP!





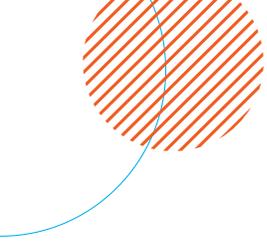


No matter how you got here, everyone's summer camp experience started at the same place—the sign-in table. With hands full of pillows, clothes, and supplies for the next few days, campers were greeted by staff, given their camp credentials, and taken on a quick campus tour before heading to the dorms to get ready for an unforgettable week of fun.







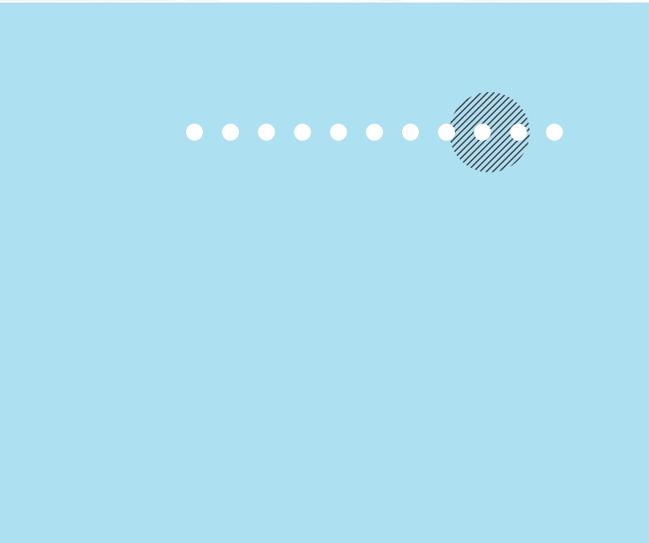
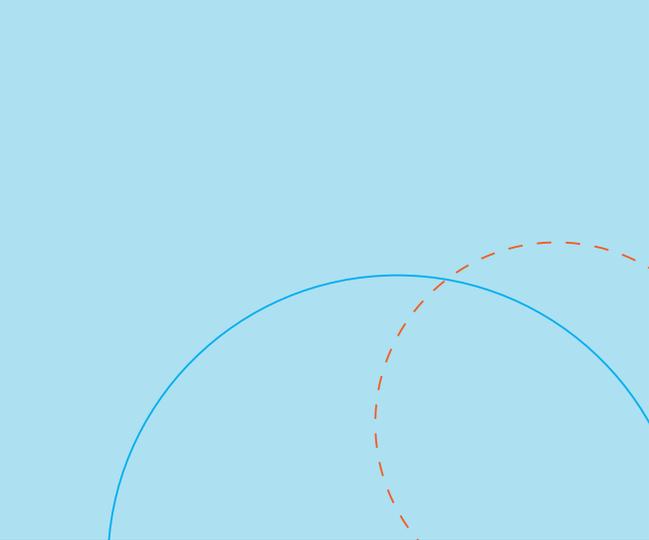


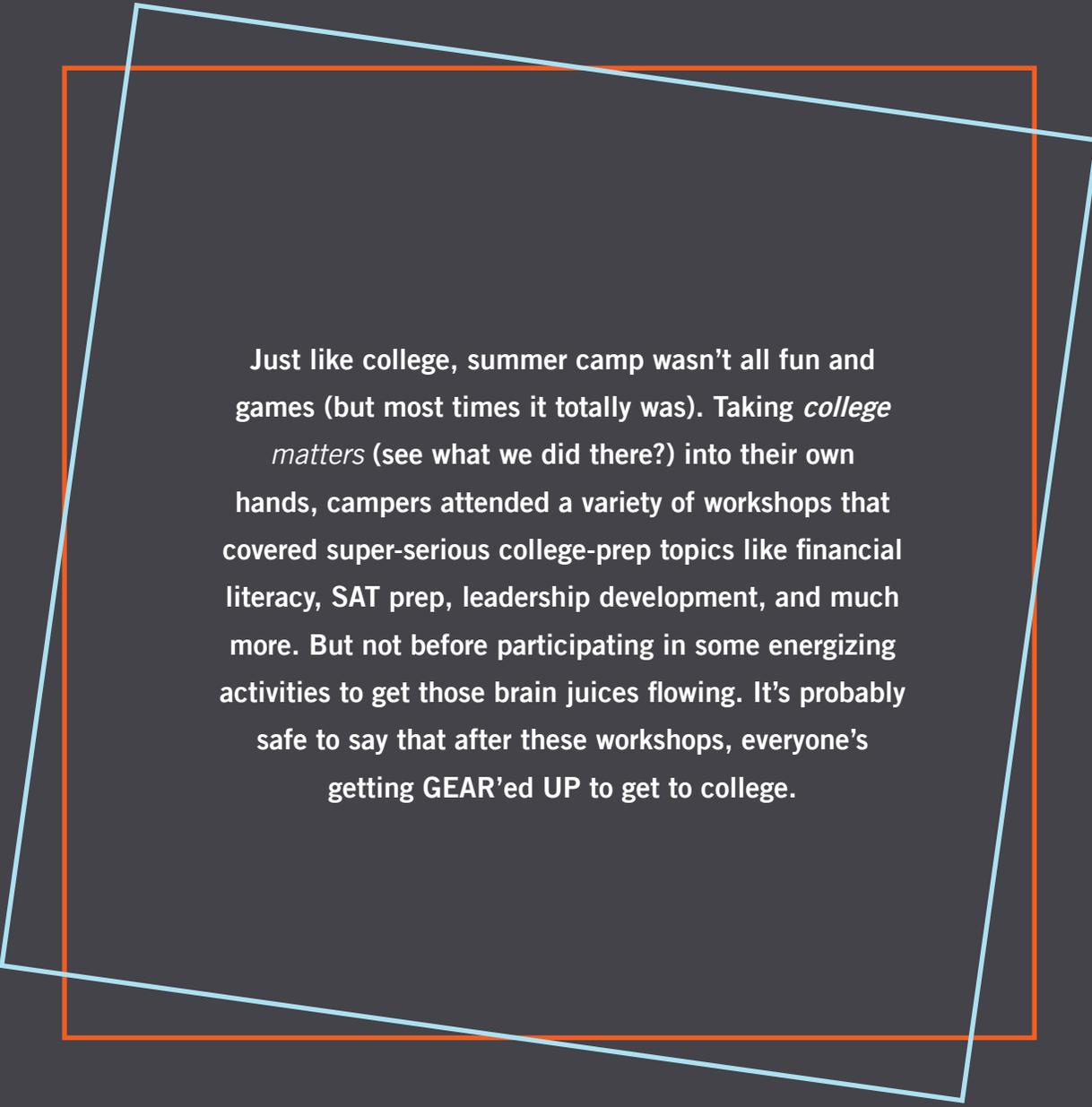
GEARING UP



for Greatness

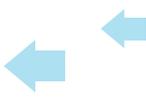
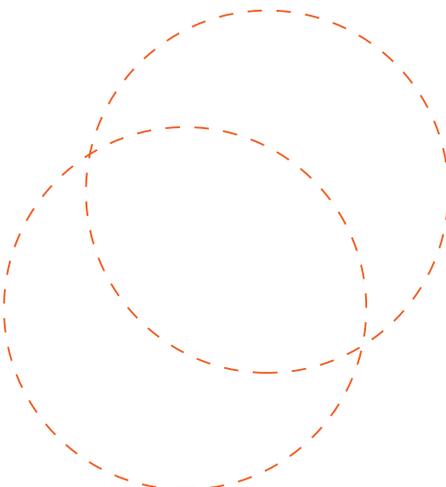






Just like college, summer camp wasn't all fun and games (but most times it totally was). Taking *college matters* (see what we did there?) into their own hands, campers attended a variety of workshops that covered super-serious college-prep topics like financial literacy, SAT prep, leadership development, and much more. But not before participating in some energizing activities to get those brain juices flowing. It's probably safe to say that after these workshops, everyone's getting GEAR'ed UP to get to college.





After long mornings of hard work and team-building during the workshops, it was finally time to eat! Campers in the dining hall got a chance to take a break, hang out with newly-made friends, and obviously take serious advantage of all the yummy food. This isn't your high school's cafeteria...

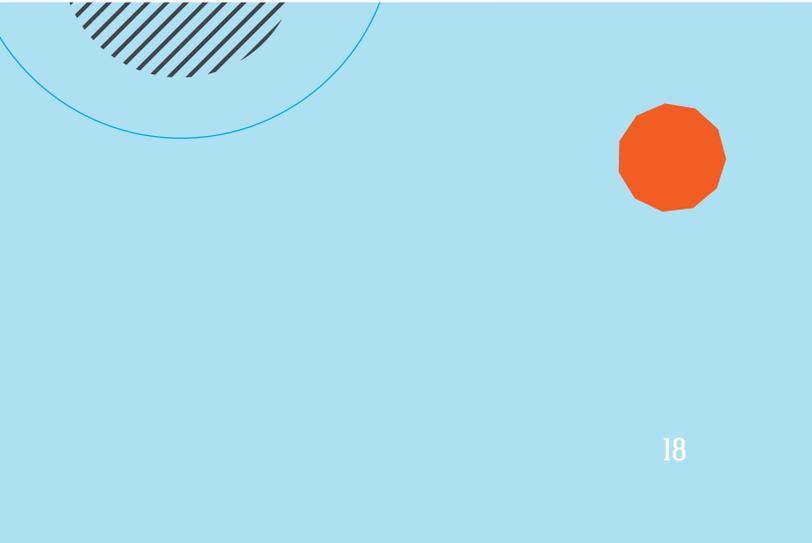
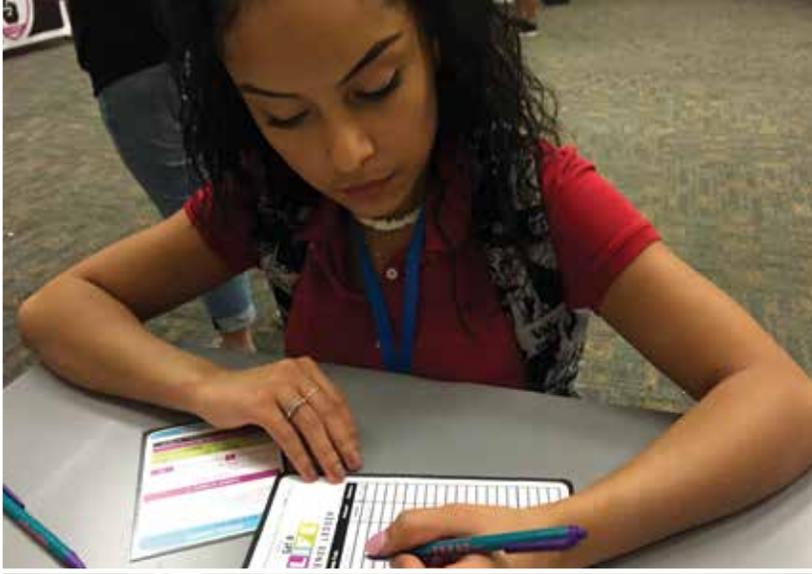
GRAB SOME GRUB

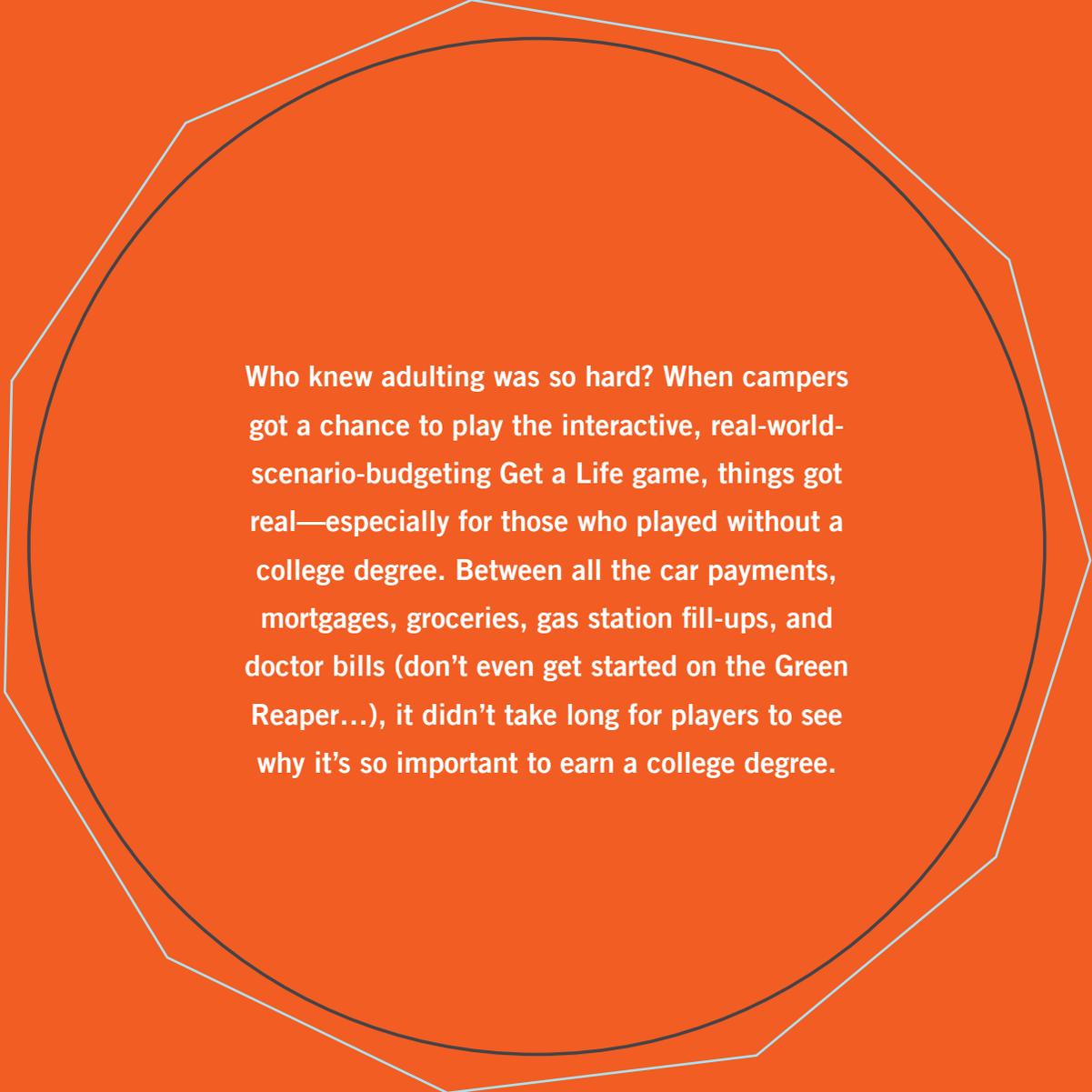






GAME ON





Who knew adulting was so hard? When campers got a chance to play the interactive, real-world-scenario-budgeting Get a Life game, things got real—especially for those who played without a college degree. Between all the car payments, mortgages, groceries, gas station fill-ups, and doctor bills (don't even get started on the Green Reaper...), it didn't take long for players to see why it's so important to earn a college degree.



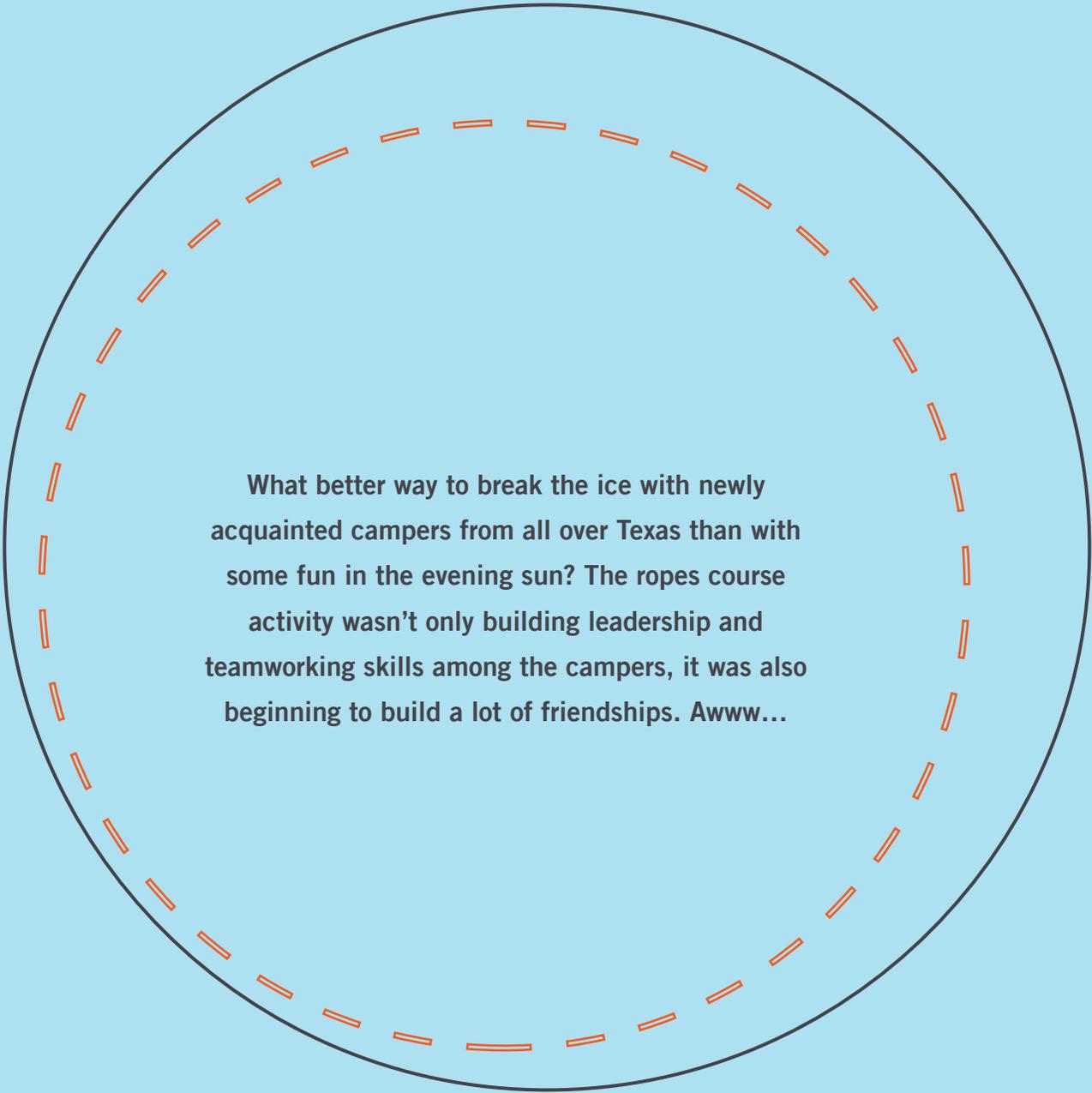




LEARNING THE ROPES







What better way to break the ice with newly acquainted campers from all over Texas than with some fun in the evening sun? The ropes course activity wasn't only building leadership and teamworking skills among the campers, it was also beginning to build a lot of friendships. Awww...



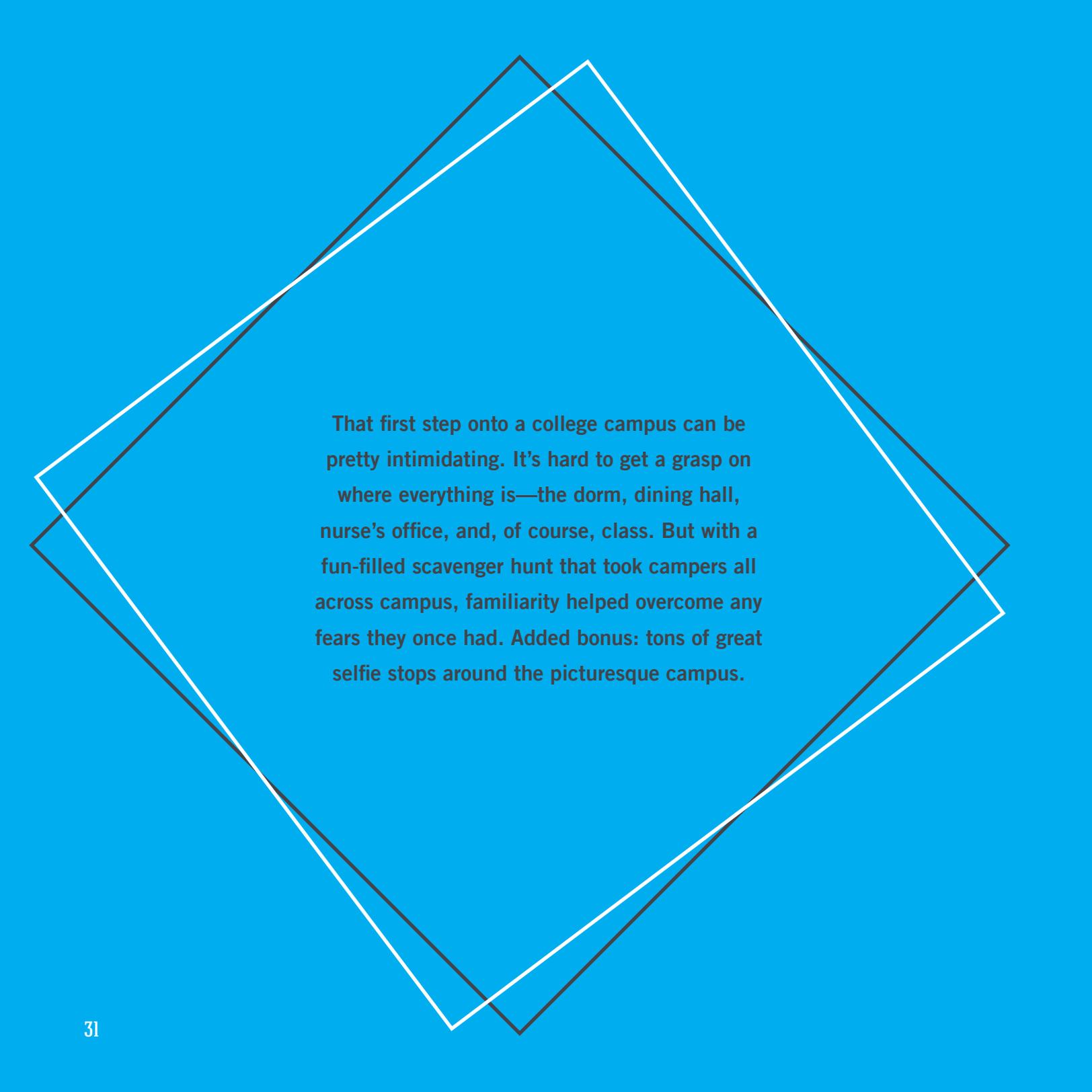




ON THE HUNT







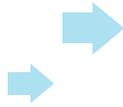
That first step onto a college campus can be pretty intimidating. It's hard to get a grasp on where everything is—the dorm, dining hall, nurse's office, and, of course, class. But with a fun-filled scavenger hunt that took campers all across campus, familiarity helped overcome any fears they once had. Added bonus: tons of great selfie stops around the picturesque campus.

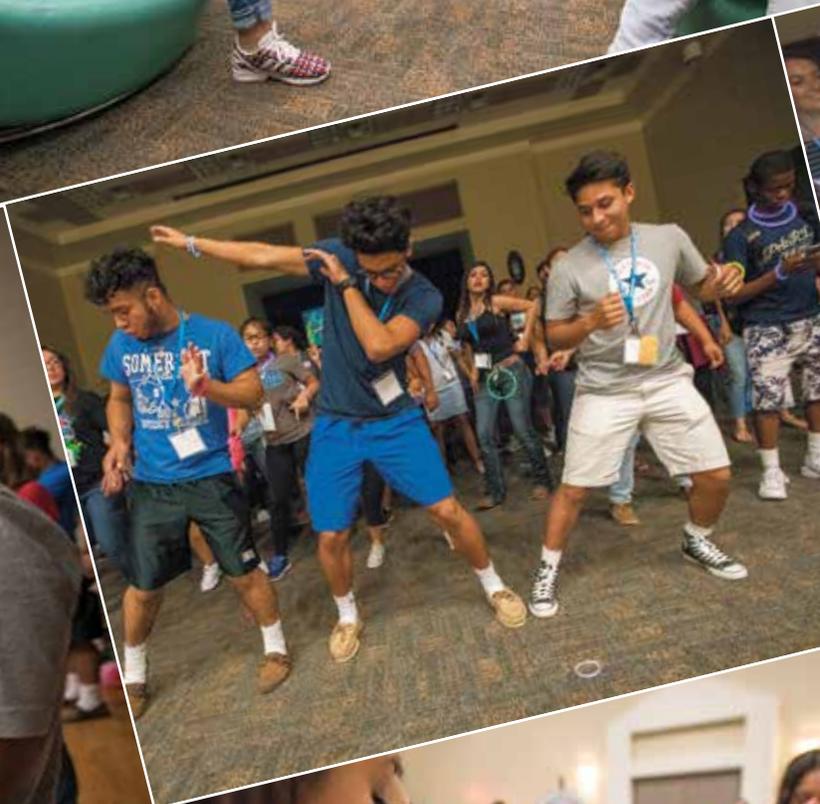






¡FIESTA, FIESTA!







It's probably safe to say that this epic celebration was everyone's favorite part of camp. As a reward for all the hard work put in over the week, campers commemorated with a party that pulled out all the stops. Part dance, part fun zone—complete with a money-grabbing machine, trivia wheel, photo booth, swag, giant Jenga, popcorn, and drinks—the last night of camp couldn't have ended on a better note.









GRADUATION

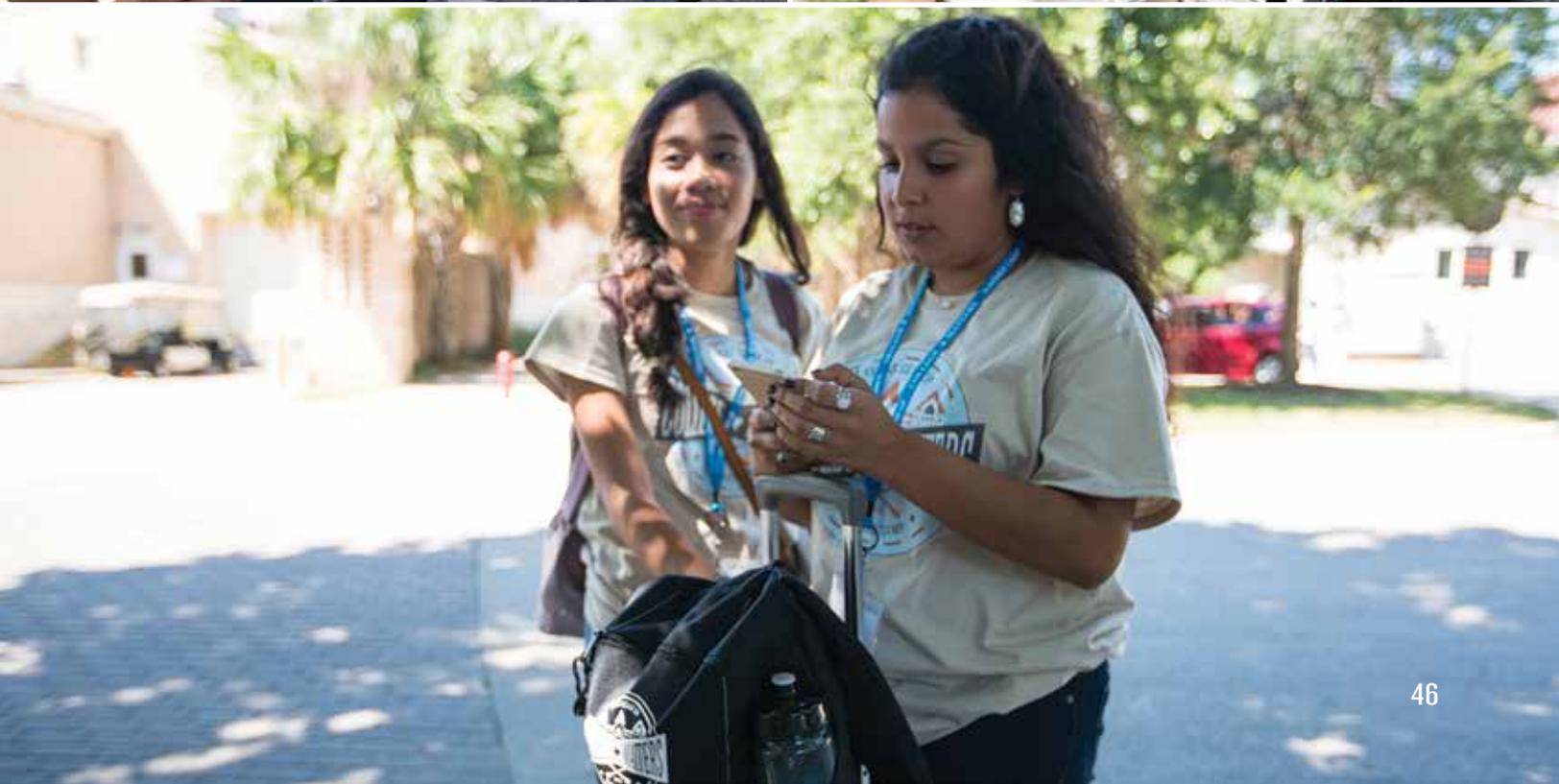




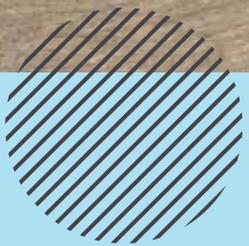
It was official—Texas GEAR UP College Matters Summer Camp was coming to an end with an actual graduation ceremony. But not before future-college-plan presentations from the students and a mock college fair to help campers understand what questions to ask and what info to get when going to the real thing. It was definitely hard to say goodbye, but everyone felt good knowing they left camp with the knowledge and power to make the very best future for themselves by rocking it on their own college journeys.





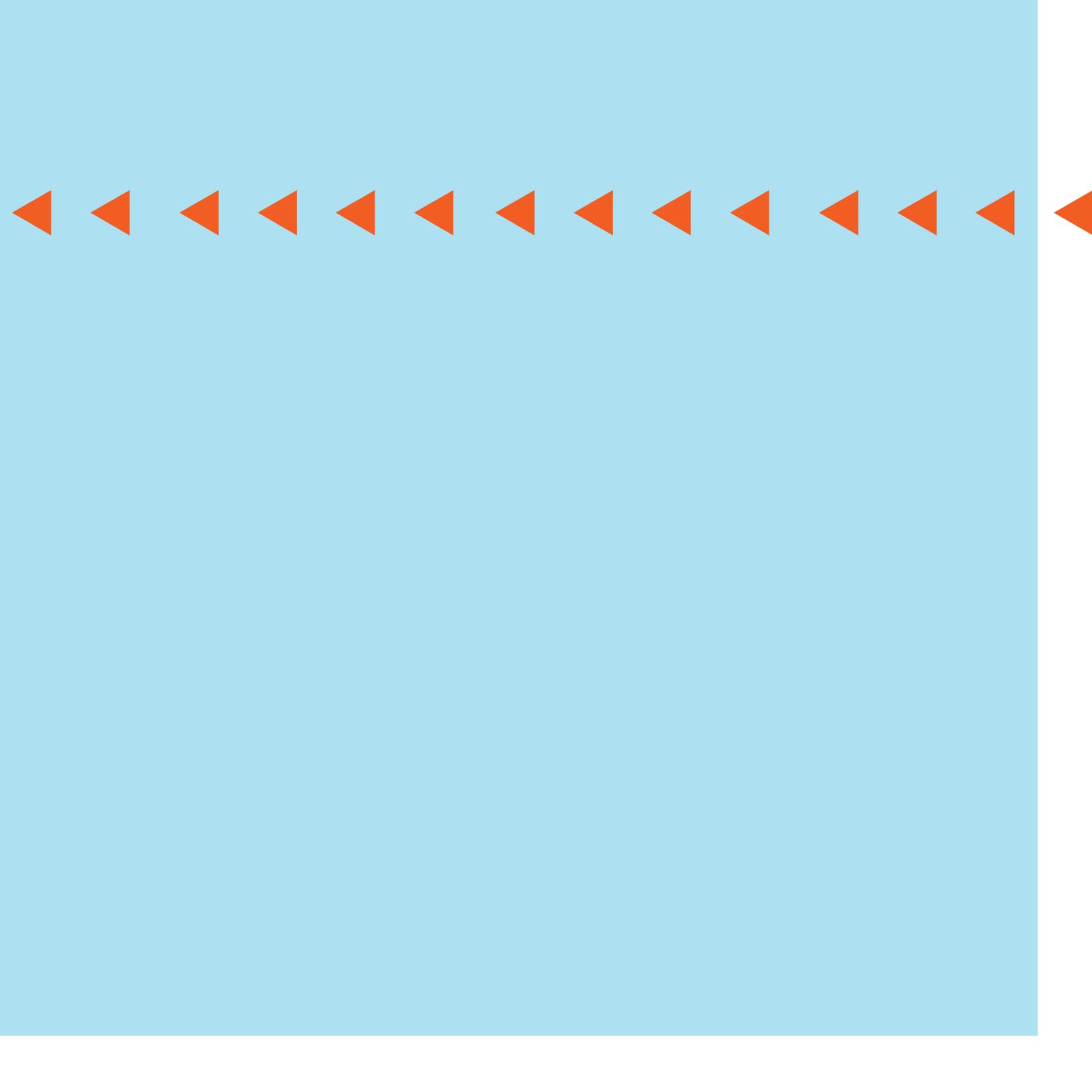


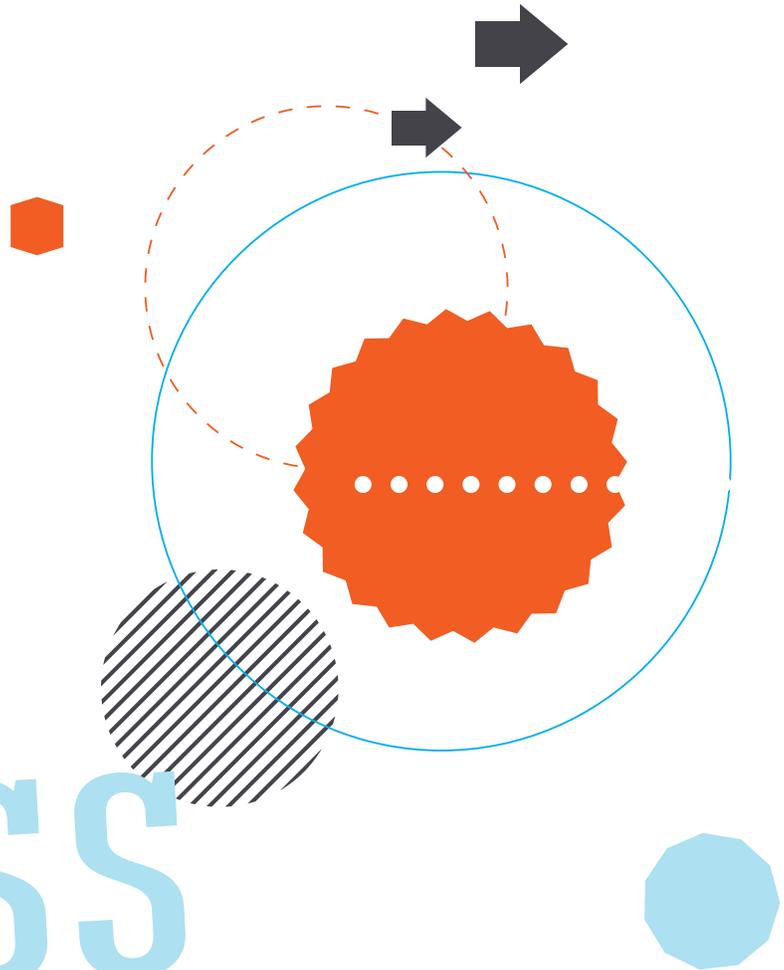
TEXAS GEAR UP COLLEGE MATTERS





SUMMER CAMP CLASS OF 2016





CLASS OF 2016

TEXAS GEAR UP COLLEGE MATTERS SUMMER CAMP