SURVIVE THE FUTURE

START HERE

ONE STEP AT A TIME
You don't have to know the exact outcome for your future as soon as you cross the auditorium stage to accept your diploma, but our Survive the Future game may help. Starting at the arrow above and answering the questions may put you on an unexpected path or confirm one your heart may have started you on long ago. All you need to do is take the first step!

Has college always been in your game plan?
- YES → Does a Florida college or university fit the bill?
  - YES → If you are a true Floridian, the land of flowers is sure to have something for you. → Keep Going! → Do you see yourself on a campus with lots of activities, big-time sports and Greek life?
    - YES → You're in good company. Consider one of the "big name" public and private schools. → Proceed! → Have you been saving for college since you set up your first lemonade stand?
    - NO → I'd like a smaller campus environment. Check out enrollment numbers in our Get Smart Guide on page 60.
  - NO → Start checking out what the other 49 states have to offer. → Advance to How Will I Pay?
- NO → Do you need to earn money immediately?
  - YES → Does getting a job after high school graduation suit your needs best?
    - YES → Get your resume together and start looking for companies that offer benefits and a chance for promotion. → You're Doing Great! → Have you always wanted to be a (fill in the blank) but don't have the work skills or training you need to get hired?
      - YES → Job certification programs or classes in (fill in the blank) may be just right for you. Or look for jobs with companies that offer training. → HELP WANTED
      - NO → Take a self-assessment quiz, visit workplaces, ask around!
  - NO → Is traveling to an exotic place your dream?
    - NO → Nice dream, but I've got to start bringing in some cash. → Cha-Ching! → Get your resume together and start looking for companies that offer benefits and a chance for promotion.
    - YES → A gap year between high school and college could be the ticket – if you have the funds and support. Research your options.
- NO → Do you want to serve your country?
  - NO → Is traveling to an exotic place your dream?
  - YES → Do you like the idea of the structure of ROTC in college?
    - YES → Talk with your guidance counselor and recruiter about colleges with ROTC programs. Seek out someone who has chosen this path.
    - NO → Talk with a recruiter about options, including eligibility for having college paid for by the military after your service. → MILITARY
    - YES → Rethink the military; the U.S. Army offers training in more than 150 careers. → CAREER TECHNICAL TRAINING

Do you see yourself on a campus with lots of activities, big-time sports and Greek life?
- NO → I'd like a smaller campus environment. Check out enrollment numbers in our Get Smart Guide on page 60.
  - YES → STATE COLLEGE / PRIVATE COLLEGE UNIVERSITY / FLORIDA PUBLIC UNIVERSITY

ALL IN GOOD TIME
COLLEGE APPS
Are you stressed out because some of your friends have already applied — and bought the sweatshirt — for their dream schools? Well good for them, but it's okay if you decide to forgo the early admission process. Application dates vary.

FREE $$
SCHOLARSHIPS
Don't underestimate the power of scholarships, even smaller ones, which can add up to big bucks. Dig under rocks for ones that fit your special interests; maybe there's one for tall, red-haired basket weavers! See page 32.

REFOCUS
TEST SCORES
The best advice on this fairly stressful topic: Don't take the SAT and ACT lightly, but don't let them freak you out, either. You can get into many great schools without perfect test scores. Know your strengths. Bad test taker? Bring up your GPA. Is that "C" in Algebra bringing you down? Focus on extracurricular activities and writing an awesome admissions essay. Very few students are perfect in all three areas, and you don't need to be, either.

HOW WILL I PAY?

Have you been saving for college since you set up your first lemonade stand?
- YES → Every little bit helps, but keep playing. → Don't Stop Now! → Are your parents rich?
- NO → Are your parents rich?
  - YES → You better be nice to them. → Choices, Choices
  - NO → Is money so scarce you have no clue how you'll pay for college?
    - NO → Choices, Choices
    - YES → Don't freak out! Apply for scholarships and financial aid. FAFSA should be your friend! See page 29. → Keep Going! → Does letting the military pay for your education sound like a really good deal?
      - YES → Consider thoughtfully whether enlisting is the right thing for you. It could be.
      - NO → Are your grades good enough to qualify for scholarships?
        - YES → Good for you, but make sure you have other pluses on your resume, like community service.
        - NO → Grades aren't the only factor considered for scholarships. Wow 'em with your extracurriculars or some other asset that makes you stand out.

Choices, Choices → Even if money is not tight, make sure you have a clue about how you're going to pay for college. Read the Money section in *NEXT*.

GOT GRADES?

SURVIVE THE FUTURE was adapted from a game created by Michelle Stark, a University of South Florida grad who is now the food editor of the *Tampa Bay Times*. *NEXT* has updated the game to include more options, and it's good no matter what year of high school you're in.