



Scholarship Navigator

How Can You Get Scholarships?

Grants and scholarships can go a long way toward making a college education affordable. They are free to apply for, do not have to be repaid, and exist in large numbers. Awards can be as little as \$100 or as large as full tuition with all expenses covered. They are offered by private foundations, citizens groups, community associations, colleges and corporations, big and small.

And every scholarship is unique. They can be directed to a particular type of person, purpose, educational goal, future career choice or lifestyle. They can be won by nomination, competition, demonstration, audition or random drawing.

All you have to do is find the ones that fit you and apply.

Where to Look

The Internet is loaded with thousands of free search engines that can help you find scholarships (*see the list of sites, page 2*). You can also look close to home - where you or your parents work, where you worship or volunteer, the clubs or groups that you belong to, your after-school programs. Many of these places sponsor scholarships exclusively for members, and often have fewer applicants in the selection pool.

How to Choose

Scholarships are generally tailored to a specific audience. To narrow the choices, start with a personal inventory. Like a resume, list everything you know about yourself and what you want to do with your college education. Write down your talents, interests, academics, extra-curricular activities, your ethnic or national heritage, religion, family military status (or yours), employers, membership organizations, anything and everything you can think of about yourself.

Then take that list and use it to focus your search. Web-based scholarship list sites will usually ask for your input to help bring the number of opportunities down to a manageable level. Then refine that list to include the ones you best qualify for. Not a particularly good student? Knock off anything that needs a high GPA. Better performer than writer, give the audition-based applications priority. Work the list until you find the scholarships that match your abilities, desires and goals.

Apply

Nothing good comes without some effort. You still have to apply, and should apply to *all* the opportunities on your list.

Read directions carefully and follow instructions to the letter. Complete applications in the manner required - on-line or on paper, typed or hand written (as readable as possible with no errors or scratch outs). Respond to questions with explicit answers. Request supporting documents well ahead of deadlines. Spend time writing a good essay, crafting a performance or building a portfolio so that you only present your best work. Put the packet together exactly the way the committee wants it. And submit it on time.

Only by choosing the scholarships that match your personal inventory, following the requirements, presenting your information correctly and submitting all the documents in a timely manner, will you make it easy for the scholarship committee to say "Yes" to you.



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Internet Resources for Scholarships

www.FAFSA.ed.gov

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

www.MHEC.state.md.us

lists scholarships offered by the state of Maryland

www.collegeanswer.com

Sallie Mae page for college planning, scholarships, loans and more

www.ScholarshipExperts.com

free scholarship search engine,
also sponsors scholarship opportunities

www.fastweb.com

free scholarship search engine

www.uncf.org/forstudents/scholarship.asp

United Negro College Fund list of scholarships
for minority students

www.finaid.org

search for scholarships, loans, military aid and more

**FamilyConnection
at southriverhigh.org**

scholarship list compiled by the
SRHS Guidance Department

www.scholarships.com

free search engine for scholarships and financial aid

Writing a Scholarship Essay

Nearly all scholarship applications require some sort of personal essay. Scholarship committees, like college admissions counselors, want to know more about you than just your GPA and test scores. Topics can be generic ("Tell us about yourself") or very specific ("Compare and contrast one of the following pairs of characters...").

Writing an essay can be hard.

There are ways to make the scholarship essay process easier.

Don't be Intimidated

Scholarship committees only want to know you better - to get a feel for how you think and what kind of adult you may become. They want to be assured that their money will be well spent. Help them get comfortable by being YOU. Write in a voice that is all your own. Draw from personal experiences. Be Honest.

Stick to the Program

If the requirements say 250 words or less, your essay better be as close to 250 words as possible, without going over. The essay should be original, legible, neat, spelled correctly, utilize proper grammar and without slang. Keep to the subject and try not to ramble on. And, of course, never use obscene, pornographic or libelous material in your essay. You want the committee to read it, not chuck it in the trash.

Take your Time

Don't wait until two days before deadline to start on your essay. Give yourself plenty of time to get your thoughts in order. Do a couple of drafts. Let others critique your work and offer suggestions. And edit, edit, edit.



Scholarships Hot List

Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship

\$60,000 grand prize award
 deadline December 1, 2010
www.elks.org/enf/scholars
Applications in Guidance Only

Tribute to Women of Color (ATWOC) Future Leaders Award

young men and women with leadership skills
 \$12,000
 deadline December 1, 2010
By Nomination Only

Herff Jones Principal's Leadership Award

leadership, service, achievement
 \$12,000
 deadline December 3, 2010
By Nomination Only

AXA Achievement Community Scholarship

rewarding ambition and commitment
 deadline December 15, 2010
 \$25,000
www.axa-achievement.com

AFCEA Captain John Skinner Scholarship

science / engineering for national defense
 deadline December 18, 2010
 \$10,000
www.afceacmd.org

JFK Profiles in Courage

essay competition
 deadline January 8, 2011
 \$10,000
www.jfklibrary.org

Gates Millennium Scholars

minority students with financial need
 deadline January 10, 2011
www.gmsp.org

National Co-Op Scholarship

for enrollment in partner schools
 deadline February 15, 2011
 \$6,000
www.co-op.edu

PanHellenic of Annapolis Scholarship Award

npcwomen.org
 deadline February 28, 2011
Applications in Guidance Office Only

Masonic Educational Grants

local scholarship
 deadline March 30, 2011
Applications in Guidance Office Only

Baltimore Community Fund Christa McAuliffe Scholarship

teacher education
 deadline April 1, 2011
 \$1,000
www.bcf.org

Big Sun Scholarships

for sports involvement
 deadline June 23, 2011
 \$500
www.bigsunathletics.com

New This Year!

Gerry VanDagna Memorial Scholarship

in memory of a SRHS parent
 essay competition
 deadline May 2, 2011
 \$2,500
Applications in Guidance Office Only

South River High School

Guidance Department

201 East Central Avenue
Edgewater, MD 21037

Phone: 410-956-5600 x210
FAX: 410-956-5137



Guidance Department Staff

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The South River High School Mission

South River High School offers an enriching and rigorous academic program where students will become self-directed individuals able to thrive in an ever changing technological world. South river provides a safe and stimulating learning environment with opportunities to engage in school and community service. South River emphasizes integrity, respect for diversity and pride in education to prepare students for success in the 21st century.

Planning for the Future

Be a Smart Scholarship Hunter

As in every situation that involves large sums of money, there will be those who are looking for a way to take it from you. A smart scholarship hunter knows that:

You never have to pay to play.

- * Never give anyone your credit card or bank account number in order to apply for a scholarship.
- * Never pay someone to "hold" a scholarship for you. Free money should be Free.
- * Never pay for a scholarship search service. There are hundreds of free search engines on the Internet that make it easy for you to do your own searching.

There are no guarantees in life.

- * No one can ever guarantee that you will get a scholarship.

You can't be a winner unless you run the race.

- * Nearly all scholarship opportunities require that you do something - apply, be nominated or compete in some way. If they say they don't, don't trust them.

You have to be bold.

- * If the proposal sounds too good, too easy, too confident to be true, it probably is. Do your homework and check out their claims. Make sure the sponsoring organization is legitimate.



Suspect a scam? Report it! Contact your school, the Better Business Bureau, the Maryland State Consumer Protection Agency, the State's Attorney General's Office or report it to the National Fraud Information Center. Don't let others be victimized by scholarship predators!