What is a scholarship?
Funds donated by
- individuals
- corporations
- small businesses
- churches
- community organizations
- clubs
- colleges

Money that does not have to be paid back

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AWARDED FOR
- Religious affiliations
- Talents
- Artistic abilities
- Environmental causes
- Ethnic background
- Athletic abilities
- Grades and test scores
- Community service
- Financial need
- Hobbies and interests
LOOK LOCALLY

- Check with your church, service organizations, and community foundations
- Contact local businesses, your employer, or your parent’s employer
- Check your guidance office

CHECK WITH COLLEGES

- Contact the financial aid offices of the colleges you are interested in
- Search college websites

SEARCH ONLINE

- CollegeGreenlight.com
- Fastweb.com
- Niche.com
- Petersons.com
- Scholarships.com
- Unigo.com

FREE!
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS MAY REQUIRE

- Essay
- Letters of Recommendation
- Interview
- High School Transcript

TIPS

Applications
- Watch deadlines
- Follow all instructions
- Submit all required documents
- Have another person review your application
- Confirm your application was received
TIPS

Essays
- Type your essay
- Ask someone to proofread
- Add style and personality
- Reuse essays by tailoring them for each new application

Letters of recommendation
- Consider asking your teacher, coach, counselor or pastor
- Give letter writers enough time
- Send a thank you note to letter writers

High school transcripts
- Ask your counselor what the process is for your high school
  - Parchment
  - Naviance
COMMON MISTAKES
- Failing to follow directions
- Applying for scholarships you are not eligible for
- Writing a boring essay
- Not applying for scholarships you are eligible for

BEWARE of scholarship scams
- Never pay money to get money
- Nobody can guarantee that you’ll win a scholarship
- Do not give out personal information
  - Bank account numbers
  - Credit card numbers
  - Social security numbers

Students studying STEM majors tend to win more scholarships
Two $1,000 scholarships won
Total received $2,000
÷ 5 hours spent applying
= $400 per hour!

WORTH YOUR TIME

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TAKE ACTION

1. Get organized
   - Make a list of the scholarships you are eligible for and their requirements
   - Note the application due date

TAKE ACTION

2. Pull together and request information
   - Personal information
   - List of activities
   - List of jobs
   - List of community/volunteer service
   - Personal essay
   - Letters of recommendation
   - High school transcript
TAKE ACTION

3

START APPLYING!

REVIEW

- Make searching and applying for scholarships an ongoing commitment
- Carefully follow application instructions and avoid missing deadlines
- Beware of scams
- To win more, you need to apply for more—it’s worth your time

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING