



SCHOLARSHIPS

Guess what? There are scholarships out there for EVERYONE!

ADVICE FOR SUCCESS:

Edit, edit, edit

Ask people you know and trust to edit your applications. Typos and errors are often automatic disqualifiers!

Medium for medium

Look for scholarships that offer a medium amount of money for a medium amount of work.

- Most people apply for scholarships that require little or no effort (ex. "Type in your name and you'll be entered into a scholarship drawing!"). The odds are slim that you'll win.
- Most people apply for scholarships with large dollar amounts (even if they require some effort). The odds are slim that you'll win.
- Most people ignore scholarships that require SOME effort (ex. Write an essay) for SOME money (ex. \$500, \$2,000, etc.).

By applying for scholarships that require a medium amount of work for a medium amount of money, you increase your chances of winning because there's much less competition!

Apply widely

The more scholarship applications you submit the more scholarships you are likely to earn. It's that simple!

Cut, paste, tweak!

You do NOT need to write new essays for every scholarship! Once you have a solid essay or two, you can cut, paste, and tweak them as needed to re-use for most scholarship applications.

*Example: Let's say you wrote an awesome essay for class about your **soccer team**. You could cut, paste, and tweak that essay to use it for scholarships that ask...*

- ...about a time when you experienced **true teamwork** (talk about how your teammates support one another on and off the field)
- ...about a time when you were **a leader** (talk about how you helped your team)
- ...about a time when you **overcame a challenge** (talk about any game or personal things you helped each other with)
- ...about one of your **biggest passions** (talk about why you love soccer)
- ...about **someone you look up to** (talk about any of your teammates or your coach)
- AND SO ON!

Search regularly

New scholarships pop up on search engines every day!

- Use multiple websites to maximize your results
- Use websites that do the searching for you (ex. FastWeb)

Deadlines and directions matter

Most scholarships automatically deny your application if you a) submit late, or b) don't follow their instructions EXACTLY.

- If a scholarship is due on September 30, turn it in no later than September 29. Technical glitches, website portal errors, etc., happen, but it's no excuse, so play it safe and submit early.
- If a scholarship says 12-point font with 1-inch margins, you'll be disqualified if you write in 11-point font, even if you write the best essay in the world.

Apply early

If you are a student, you are eligible to apply for scholarships NOW! (Grade level doesn't always matter...check the application requirements.)

RESOURCES:

No single scholarship website contains all of the scholarships available in the world. Search as many sites as possible to ensure that you don't miss out on opportunities!

Many local businesses and organizations offer scholarships for local students. Wilkes County Schools maintains a scholarship and financial aid website to help put opportunities and information specifically for Wilkes County students in one place. Check it out by clicking on this link: <http://wilkescountyschoolsscholarships.weebly.com/> Bookmark it for frequent use! Talk with your teachers, counselors, family, and other people you know to find out what's available!

<http://www.fastweb.com>
<http://www.collegegreenlight.com>
<http://www.chegg.com>
<http://www.petersons.com>
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>
<http://www.scholarships.com>
<http://www.imfirst.org>
<http://www.finaid.org>
<http://studentaid.ed.gov>
<https://www.unigo.com>
<https://www.cfnc.org>
<http://www.nccommunityfoundation.org>