

SCHOLARSHIP TIPS

AS RECOMMENDED BY GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

- 1) Begin The Search Process Early - Allow enough time to complete the necessary steps, which may include getting references.
- 2) Get Organized - Use a calendar to determine when you began your search and keep track of deadlines.
- 3) Expand Your Search - Searching for scholarships can include local businesses, community and civic organizations, such as the Kiwanis or Rotary clubs, places of worship, the local library, and on the Internet. Some services on the Internet are free, while others may have a fee. Reputable organizations offering scholarships DON'T charge you a fee for applying. You should NEVER have to pay any money to apply for scholarships.
- 4) Let Your Personality Shine Through - In your essay present your ideas in a focused, thoughtful, and meaningful manner. Support your ideas with specific examples.
- 5) Follow Instructions - Carefully read all instructions. If the application asks for an essay with a word limit, do not exceed the limit. It is important to proofread the application for grammar and spelling errors. Try to send the application early and make sure it is neat. It is best to type the information.
- 6) Observe Deadlines - Adhere to all deadlines and make sure you have sent the necessary documents that were requested.
- 7) Do Not Apply Unless You Are Qualified - Read the criteria for each scholarship and make sure that you meet the qualifications. Do not waste time on scholarships you are not eligible to receive.
- 8) Send A Thank You Note - If receive a scholarship, always thank the donor and explain how the scholarship has helped you. It is also important to send a thank-you note to the individuals who write references for you.
- 9) Do Not Fall Prey to SCHOLARSHIP SCAMS- Do your homework, for more information, visit the Federal Trade Commission at Scholarship Scams - www.ftc.gov/scholarshipcams. And be aware that if you have to pay money for a scholarship it's probably a scam.