



FREE MONEY: Outside Scholarship FAQs

- ★ **What are “outside scholarships?”** Private sources of financial aid.
- ★ **How can I get one?** Most require an application – separate from FAFSA – and essay(s).
- ★ **Who gives them?** Offered by national corporations/institutions, local businesses, community-based organizations, and private foundations.
- ★ **When are they due?** Deadlines vary by scholarship – check early and often during your college-search process.
- ★ **Where can I use them?** Most can be applied to any school, *but* some can only be used for college(s) in a specific location (e.g. region, state)
- ★ **Why should I care?** Scholarships are an excellent supplemental source of aid to cover remaining costs after financial aid from your school.

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH TIPS

- ★ **Assemble the Pieces**
 - **Two or more recommendation letters:** ask adults (non-family) who know you well: teachers, counselors, coaches, program and work supervisors. **REMEMBER:** recommendations can typically be used for multiple scholarships.
 - **OFFICIAL high school transcript.**
 - **Print** scholarship applications as you find them – save time when you’re ready to apply.
- ★ **Search Local Scholarships First**
 - Find scholarships from your city, state or region.
 - **Ask around:** Your school, neighborhood, community organization, employer, or place of worship may have scholarships that they sponsor each year.
- ★ **Find Scholarships to Fit You**
 - **Do you qualify to apply:** Check requirements for GPA, ethnicity, neighborhood of residence, family income, and leadership or volunteer experience.
- ★ **Represent Yourself Well**
 - Highlight your strengths, achievements, goals, and challenges you have overcome.
 - Read scholarship directions **very carefully:** **Turn in everything ON TIME.**
 - Applications should be typed or very neatly written in pen – NOT crumpled, smudged, or food-stained.

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES:

Organization	Website	Helpful Tips
		★
		★
		★

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES:

Organization	Website	Helpful Tips
CollegeBoard	bigfuture.collegeboard.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ On the "Pay for College" tab, select "Scholarships and Grants" ★ Search for scholarships based upon eligibility criteria with "Scholarship Search"
Fast Web	www.fastweb.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Join to see your scholarship matches and receive emails with upcoming scholarships ★ Create or update your profile to be matched with scholarships
College Greenlight	www.collegegreenlight.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Under "Fund Your Education" tab, click on "My Scholarships" ★ Create an account to find scholarship matches

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES:

Hispanic/Latino Scholarships	
Hispanic Scholarship Fund	www.hsf.net
Latino College Dollars	www.latinocollegedollars.org
Black/African American Scholarships	
United Negro College Fund	www.uncf.org
NAACP	www.naacp.org
Asian American/Pacific Islander Scholarships	
APIASF Scholarship Fund	www.apiasf.org
USPAACC Scholarships	www.uspaacc.com
Native American/American Indian Scholarships	
National Indian Education Association	www.niea.org
American Indian College Fund	www.collegefund.org
Arab American/Middle Eastern Scholarships	
The Arab American Institute	www.aaiusa.org
LGBTQ Scholarships	
Human Rights Campaign	www.hrc.org/scholarship-database
Undocumented Student Scholarships & Support	
Educators for a Fair Consideration	www.e4fc.org/resources/scholarshiplists.html
TheDream.US	www.thedream.us/scholars/

“ABOUT ME”

Use this to help you identify scholarships that you may be eligible for based on certain characteristics. Refer back to this worksheet when completing scholarship applications since many questions will be related to these items.

GPA, SAT, ACT, etc.	
Ethnicity	
Your Neighborhood	
Field of Interest and Hobbies	
Honors, Awards, Recognition, or Achievements	
School Clubs, Activities, or Sports	
Volunteer Work or Community Service <i>(Short-term or long-term)</i>	
Work History*	
References <i>(List the name, how you know the reference (“relationship”), and their contact information)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.

**List date, job title, & employer. If lacking work, include what has been done around the house (babysitting, etc), community, church, neighbors (mowing the lawn, etc.).*

PROGRESS CHECKLIST

Keep track of the requirements and deadlines in the table.

Scholarship Name and Website:	Application Deadline	Application Requirements
Sample Scholarship www.scholarship.com	March 1 st	X Recommendations(s) _2_ <input type="checkbox"/> Essay(s) X Transcripts X Other docs: __SAR and Award Letter_____ X Other docs: __Taxes & W-2s_____
1.		<input type="checkbox"/> Rec(s) ___ <input type="checkbox"/> Essay(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Transcripts <input type="checkbox"/> Other docs: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other docs: _____
2.		<input type="checkbox"/> Rec(s) ___ <input type="checkbox"/> Essay(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Transcripts <input type="checkbox"/> Other docs: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other docs: _____
3.		<input type="checkbox"/> Rec(s) ___ <input type="checkbox"/> Essay(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Transcripts <input type="checkbox"/> Other docs: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other docs: _____
4.		<input type="checkbox"/> Rec(s) ___ <input type="checkbox"/> Essay(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Transcripts <input type="checkbox"/> Other docs: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other docs: _____
5.		<input type="checkbox"/> Rec(s) ___ <input type="checkbox"/> Essay(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Transcripts <input type="checkbox"/> Other docs: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other docs: _____
6.		<input type="checkbox"/> Rec(s) ___ <input type="checkbox"/> Essay(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Transcripts <input type="checkbox"/> Other docs: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other docs: _____
7.		<input type="checkbox"/> Rec(s) ___ <input type="checkbox"/> Essay(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Transcripts <input type="checkbox"/> Other docs: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other docs: _____
8.		<input type="checkbox"/> Rec(s) ___ <input type="checkbox"/> Essay(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Transcripts <input type="checkbox"/> Other docs: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other docs: _____
9.		<input type="checkbox"/> Rec(s) ___ <input type="checkbox"/> Essay(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Transcripts <input type="checkbox"/> Other docs: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other docs: _____
10.		<input type="checkbox"/> Rec(s) ___ <input type="checkbox"/> Essay(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Transcripts <input type="checkbox"/> Other docs: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other docs: _____

Keep your scholarship applications ORGANIZED! As the deadlines approach for each scholarship, keep track on the table above of which application requirements you have completed. **ORGANIZATION helps avoid missed opportunities and is a reminder to apply to scholarships that you are eligible for.**