

## SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH

### Prepare Yourself

- Often, college scholarships are awarded to students who are involved in activities both in school and out of school. Well-rounded students have the best chance of receiving college scholarships.
- Many clubs and organizations have scholarships associated with them. Doing your research in the beginning may help you obtain more scholarships.
- Some trade groups offer scholarships to encourage you to discover them as a career. Consider careers similar to what you want to do and research scholarships for those.

### Research Scholarship Opportunities

- Figure out what makes you a special individual. This may include academics, volunteer work, athletics or your family background.
- Consider unique circumstances or conditions that might make you eligible for gift aid, such as being a foster child, having asthma, being adopted, having a disability, being a descendent of a veteran...
- Meet with an admission counselor and ask about financial aid & scholarship opportunities.
- College scholarship opportunities can be found in many places including financial aid offices, libraries, local civic organizations, your (or your parents') employer, local businesses, your high school guidance office, or the Internet.
- Investigate ALL possible resources
  - Websites:
    - [www.Scholarships.com](http://www.Scholarships.com)
    - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
    - [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) -create a profile and receive information based on your profile.
    - [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com); [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
    - All scholarships Northwest receives locally are posted on Northwest's website: [www.lutherannorthwest.com](http://www.lutherannorthwest.com)
  - The college and programs where you have been accepted have numerous scholarships
  - The best and easiest scholarships to receive are those with which you have connections already. Check out your:
    - Parents' employers, bank, insurance companies (life, car, house), church
    - Organizations you or family members are involved in (Boy Scouts, VFW, Lion's Clubs, Club sports, etc.)
    - Alumni scholarships from schools that family members have attended
  - Financial aid: scholarships, grants, loans and work-study
  - Complete the FAFSA beginning in October. Many scholarships require a completed FAFSA as part of their application. <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>

### Apply

- Once you contact the organization to receive the scholarship application and understand all of the information that you are expected to send to the organization, you will need to apply for the scholarship.
- Many organizations require information such as a completed scholarship application, an essay, recommendations, and/or a resume from each applicant. Make sure you have given yourself plenty of time to gather all of the required information.
- Most college scholarships will have deadlines for applying. You may want to keep a calendar with all of the deadlines listed so that you do not let any expire.
- Before you send in your completed scholarship application, make sure to double-check the spelling and grammar. Nothing looks worse on a scholarship application than a common spelling error.
- Remember that the scholarship application process takes time, and it could be months before you are notified of any awards. Be aware that some organizations will not send any follow-up correspondence if you do not receive the award.
- Always put your best effort into each application. Be neat and organized. First impressions count.

- **Apply for at least one scholarship or complete a job shadow/ interview a career professional in a field you are interested in by Thursday, January 10. Turn a copy of the completed scholarship into Mrs. Fink with a note attached requesting transcripts to be sent or any other materials you need to complete the application.**