

TIPS FOR GETTING THE SCHOLARSHIPS YOU DESERVE

The scholarship search takes time, but it has the potential to be the best-paying job you'll ever have. You may earn \$1,000 in 100 hours at a regular part-time job, but a scholarship may earn you \$1,000 in just 5 hours.

- 1. Start locally.** It is easier to compete against your hometown for a scholarship than to compete at a national level. Your scholarship search should start with your guidance office or career center at your school (Homeschoolers, you still can and should take advantage of the resources at the local public school!).
- 2. Expand your search to the Internet.** At Northwestern, we recommend that families DO NOT pay for any scholarship search sites as there are plenty of great FREE sites! We suggest:
 - fastweb.com
 - scholarships.com
 - schoolsoup.com
 - go.salliemae.com/scholarship
- 3. Double your dollars with Zinch.** Zinch.com is a unique search engine that will double the scholarships you win if you apply through them. This is legitimate!

- 4. Make a list...then Google it!** Many scholarships WILL NOT be on the search engines, so make a list of:
 - EVERYTHING you're involved in
 - EVERYTHING you like
 - EVERYTHING you're good at
 - EVERYTHING that relates to you (as in, your hometown, religion, political party)
 - EVERYTHING that you want to do
 - EVERYTHING that you've won
 - EVERYTHING your parents AND grandparents have been involved in (e.g., American Legion, Navy, etc.)

Then, find all the synonyms you can think of for those things (e.g., instead of just "horse," one of our students used the following: equine, equestrian, horse training, stable, ranch, farm, animal, vet, veterinary, vet tech, horseback, horsemanship, agribusiness, agriculture, livestock, pony, ponies, horses, dressage, jumping, natural horsemanship, Tennessee walking Horses, etc).

Now Google every one of those words with the term scholarship, grant, fellowship, and award. This can take awhile, but these are the scholarships you're highly qualified to receive and that few people will apply for.

- 5. Know your WHAT and WHY.** Scholarship providers want to fund people who are going to do great things; therefore, you need to know:
 - 1) *What* you are passionate about doing
 - 2) *Why* it is going to change the world. Spend time in prayer over this. As Christians, we know that what God has called us to is life-changing—whether that is in the field of medicine, education, business, or the arts.
- 6. Choose wisely** which scholarships to apply for—if you are very specifically qualified for it, apply for the scholarship! If you are sort of qualified, consider it. If you are qualified and so are 15,000 other students, skip it.
- 7. Keep a master database** of all your awards, activities, honors, club positions, leadership activities, club involvements, community service/volunteer hours.
- 8. Keep track of expenses.** Expenses for scholarship applications (postage/envelopes/etc) are tax-deductible, so keep track of them!

Compiled by a Northwestern Honors Student graduating debt-free.



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