Mission Possible:
Scholarship Edition

A student guide to scholarship search & application

Washington Apple Education Foundation

Session Outline

- Why Scholarships Matter
- Types of Scholarships
- Where to Find Scholarships
- Organization
- Eligibility & Fit & Avoiding Mistakes

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Scholarship Metrics

Over $100 million goes unawarded in the United States each year

$8.2 billion dollars of private scholarship money exist in the United States annually.**

Most students don’t apply because they incorrectly assume they are not eligible for scholarships.

WAEF has over 160 unique scholarships to students whose families are involved in the Tree Fruit industry.

Why Scholarships Matter

Did I hear the sound of free money?

Free money for college or other post-high school education you don't pay it back

Even many smaller scholarships add up and can reduce debt

Scholarships are available for lots of students, not just straight-A's or athletes

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How do we pay for College?

Need-based Grants	These awards help students whose families may not have the financial resources to cover college costs.
Merit-based Institutional Awards	These scholarships reward your hard work and accomplishments, like strong grades, leadership roles, or creative or academic achievements.
Private Scholarships	A private scholarship is money awarded by a business, nonprofit, or community charity. These scholarships have their own criteria and can usually be used at any college or training program.
Family Support	Family support includes money or resources that parents or relatives contribute toward college costs.
Loans	A loan is borrowed money that must be repaid with interest after you finish school. Unlike scholarships or grants, it's not free, so borrow only what you truly need.

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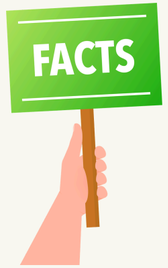
Myth & Facts

Let’s see what we THINK we know!

Myth - False information - STAND UP



Fact - True information - STAY SEATED

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Where & How to Find Scholarships

There are scholarships everywhere, you just need to know where to look! Start close to home with your school counselor, local organizations, and community foundations, then branch out to college websites and trusted scholarship search engines. The more places you look, the more chances you'll have to find opportunities that fit you.

- School counselor
- College & Career Center
- Online scholarship search engines
- Scholarships databases
- Colleges you apply to
- Local organizations
- Current Employer
- Businesses
- Foundations

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Organizing Your Scholarship Search & Applications

01 Use a tracking spreadsheet

02 Note eligibility requirements

03 Prioritize deadlines

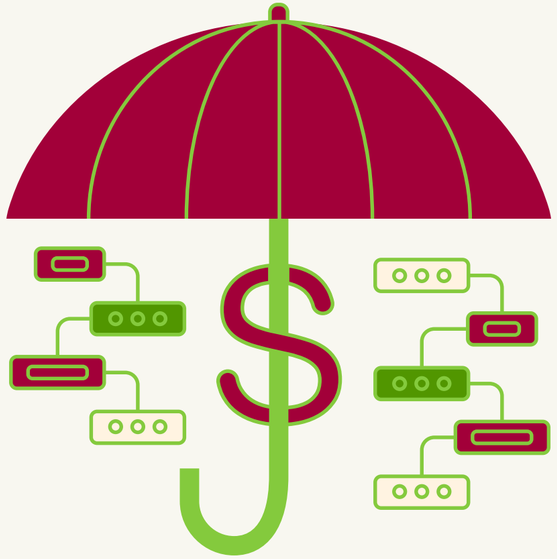
04 Upload tasks asap

05 Don’t ignore small awards

MATCHING YOUR PROFILE TO SCHOLARSHIPS

- Carefully read eligibility criteria and instructions
- Look for scholarships that align with your background, interests, strengths
- Avoid applying to those you clearly don’t qualify for

Building Your Materials



Create a “master” list of everything you’ve done: school, work, supporting your family, clubs, leadership, or community service

Then tailor to each scholarship: highlight the most relevant items

Get letters of recommendation: choose someone who knows you and can speak to your qualities

ACTIVITY

Peer Pitch: Why You Deserve It

Writing for the Scholarship

Personal Statements and essays often makes the difference when many applicants have similar grades.

1 START EARLY

Give yourself plenty of time, strong essays come from thinking through your ideas, writing drafts, and making improvements before the deadline.

2 READ PROMPT

Pay close attention to what the scholarship is asking for , every question, word limit, and instruction matters.

3 YOUR STORY

Share the real you, connect your experiences, goals, and values to how this scholarship will help you move forward.

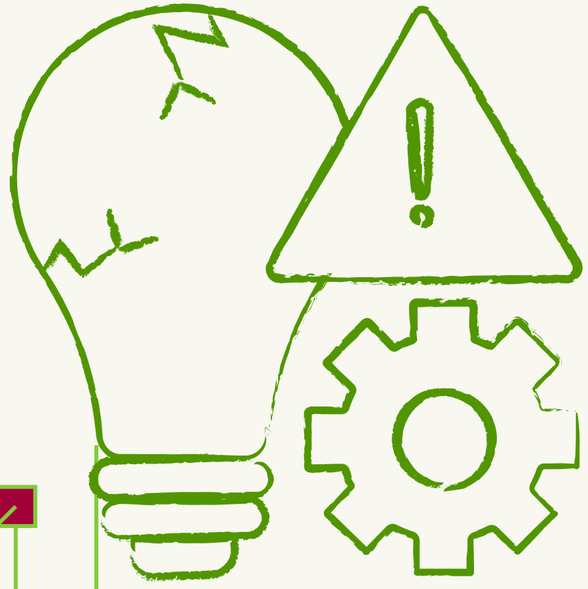
4 TAILOR

Show how your story aligns with what the scholarship organization cares about , make them see you're exactly who they're looking for.

5 GET FEEDBACK

Have someone else read your essay, fix small errors, and make sure your voice and message come through clearly.

Common Mistakes



01

Missing deadlines

→ Even the best application won't count if it's late. Keep a scholarship calendar or set reminders so you never miss a deadline. Organization pays off!!

02

Not following instructions or submitting messy work

→ Little details matter, from word limits to grammar. Double-check that you've included everything requested, stayed within limits, and proofread for typos or formatting errors.

03

Generic essays not tailored to the scholarship

→ If your essay could be sent to any scholarship, it's probably too general. Personalize it so it clearly connects to the organization's values or mission.

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What about WAEF?

01 Charity of Tree Fruit Industry

02 $1 million annually in Scholarships

03 Career Exploration Opportunities

04 Renewable

05 All post-secondary pathways are supported

Questions?

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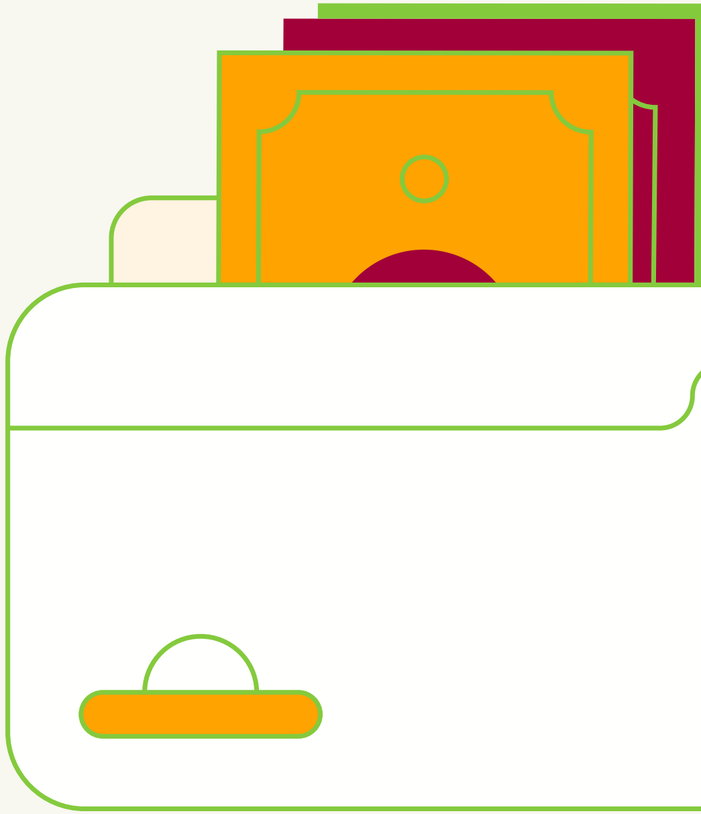

Let’s Take Action Today!

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