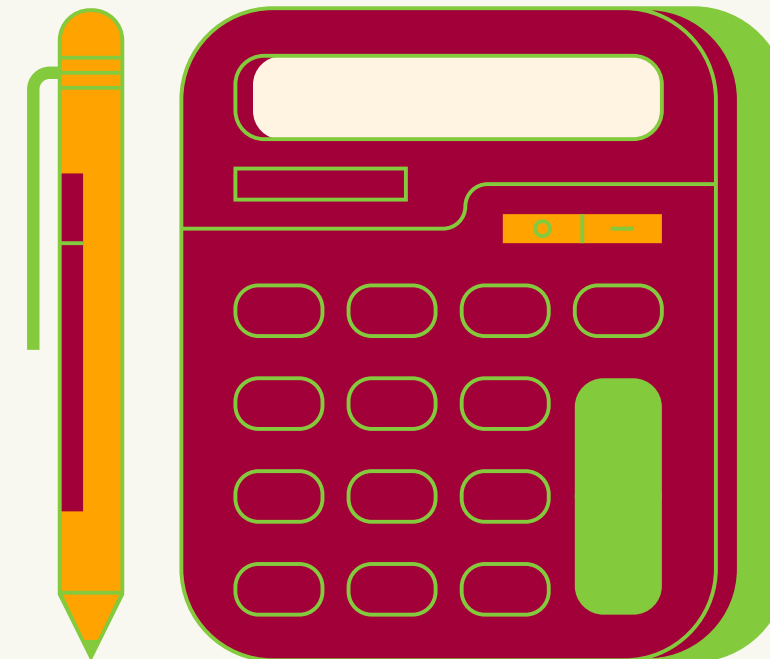
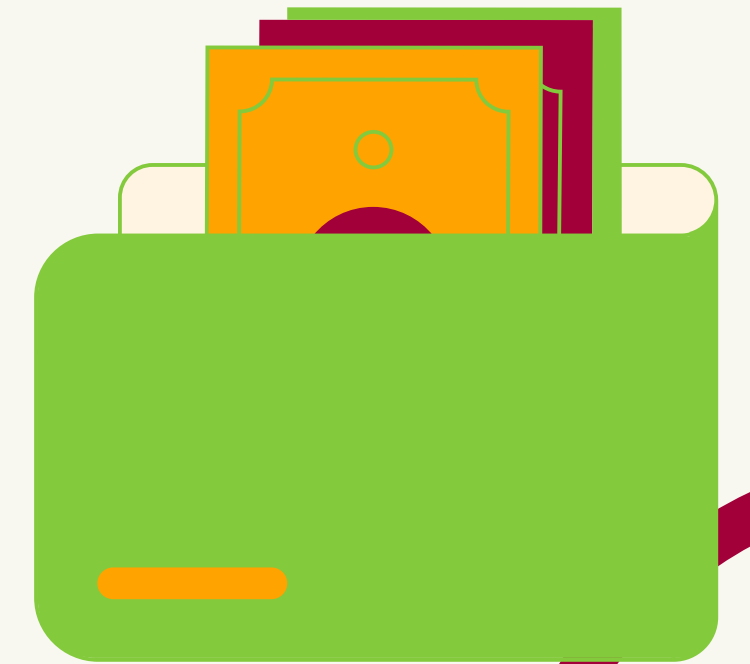


Mission Possible: Scholarship Edition

A student guide to scholarship search & application





Session Outline



Why Scholarships Matter

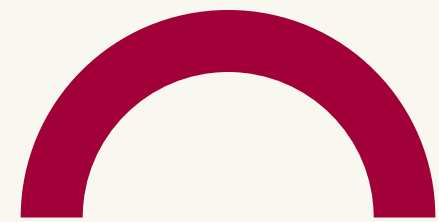
Types of Scholarships

Where to Find Scholarships

Organization

Eligibility & Fit & Avoiding Mistakes

Scholarship Metrics



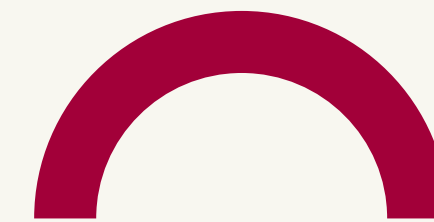
Over \$100 million goes unawarded in the United States each year



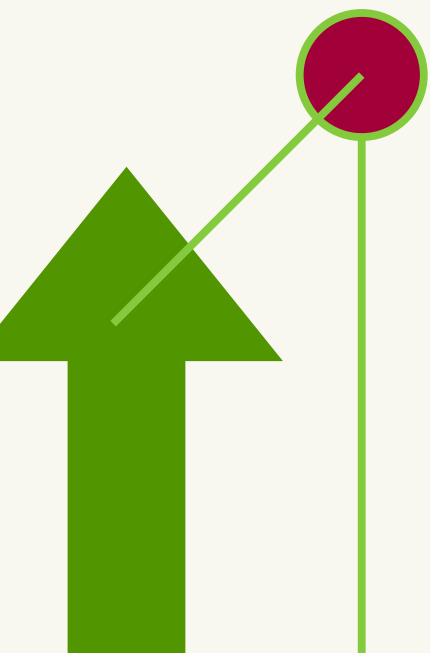
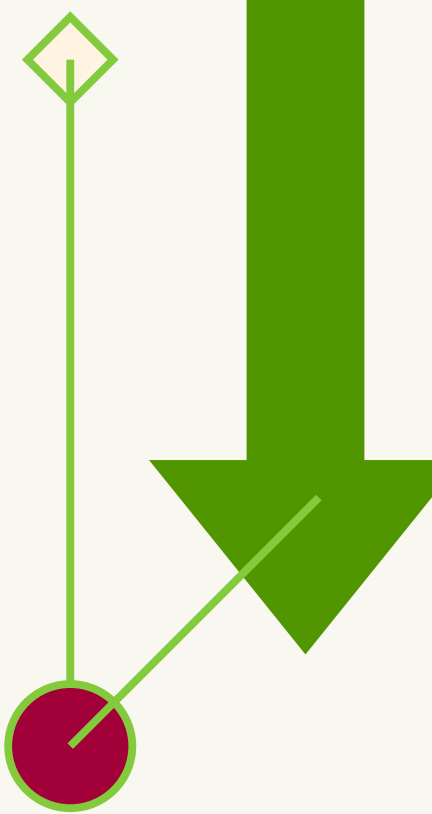
\$8.2 billion dollars of private scholarship money exist in the United States annually.**



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

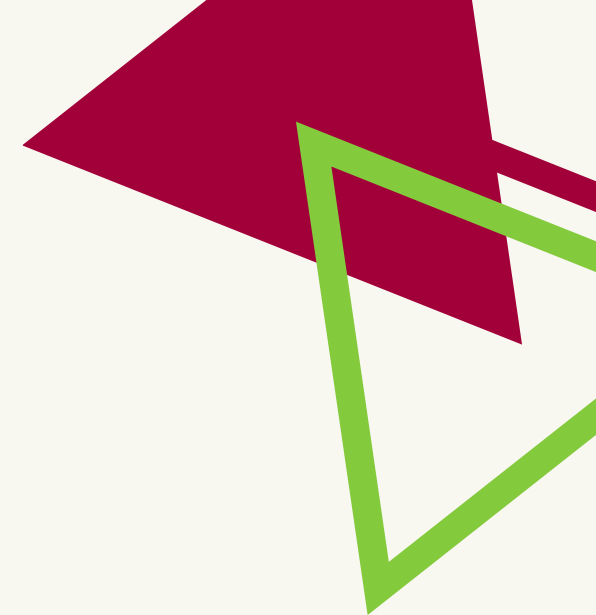


WAEF has over 160 unique scholarships to students whose families are involved in the Tree Fruit industry.





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

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

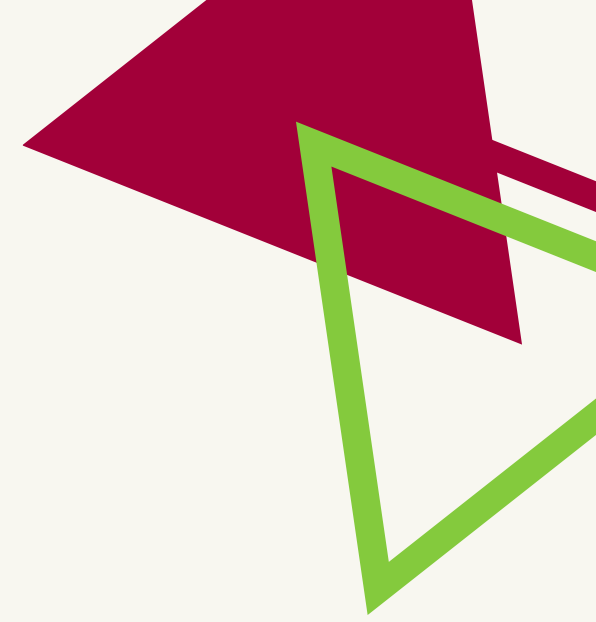
A private scholarship is money awarded by a business, nonprofit, or community charity. These scholarships have their own criteria and can usually be used at any college or training program.

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.

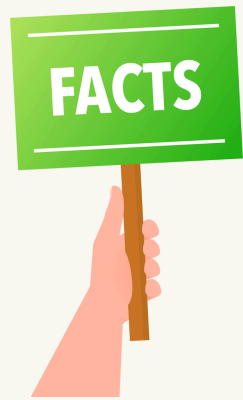


Myth & Facts

Let's see what we **THINK** we know!



Myth - False information - **STAND UP**



Fact - True information - **STAY SEATED**



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

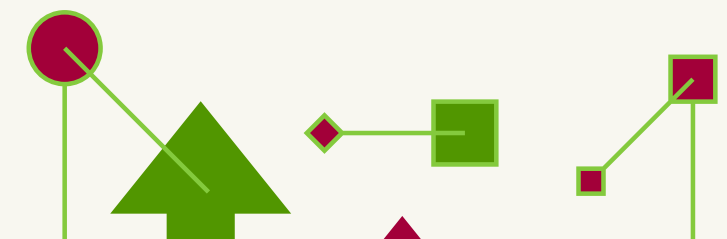
Colleges you apply to

Local organizations

Current Employer

Businesses

Foundations

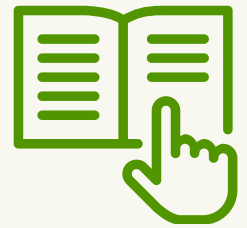




Organizing Your Scholarship Search & Applications

- 01 Use a tracking spreadsheet
- 02 Note eligibility requirements
- 03 **Prioritize deadlines**
- 04 Upload tasks asap
- 05 Use a tracking spreadsheet

MATCHING YOUR PROFILE TO SCHOLARSHIPS



Carefully read eligibility criteria and instructions



Look for scholarships that align with your background, interests, strengths



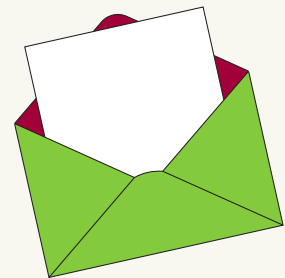
Avoid applying to those you clearly don't qualify for

Building Your Materials

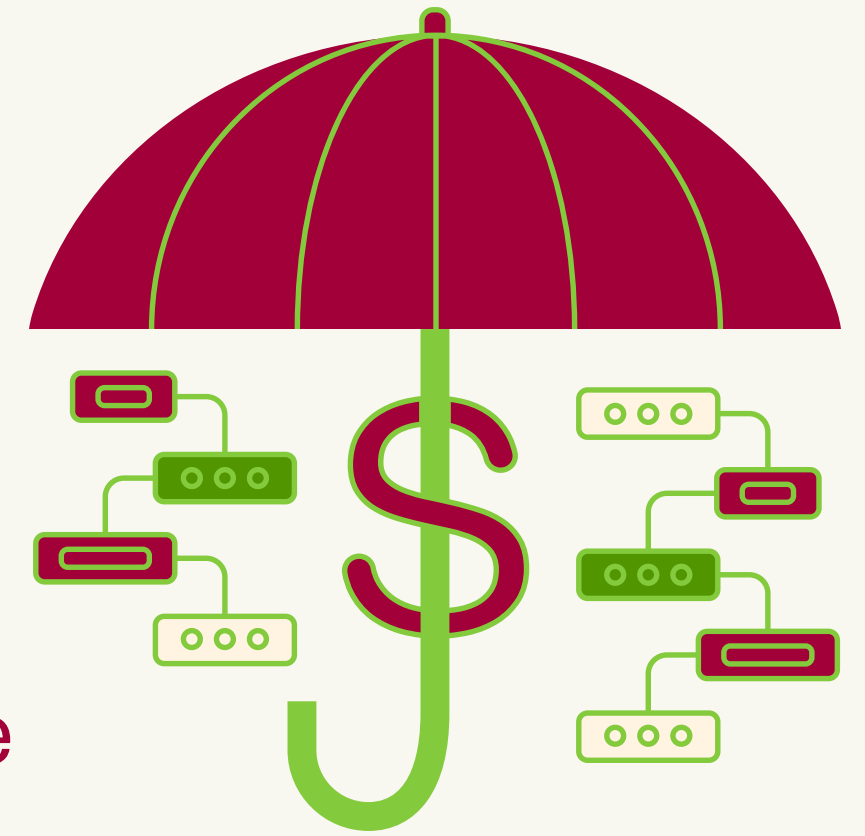


Create a “master” list of everything you’ve done: school, work, supporting your family, clubs, leadership, or community service

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.

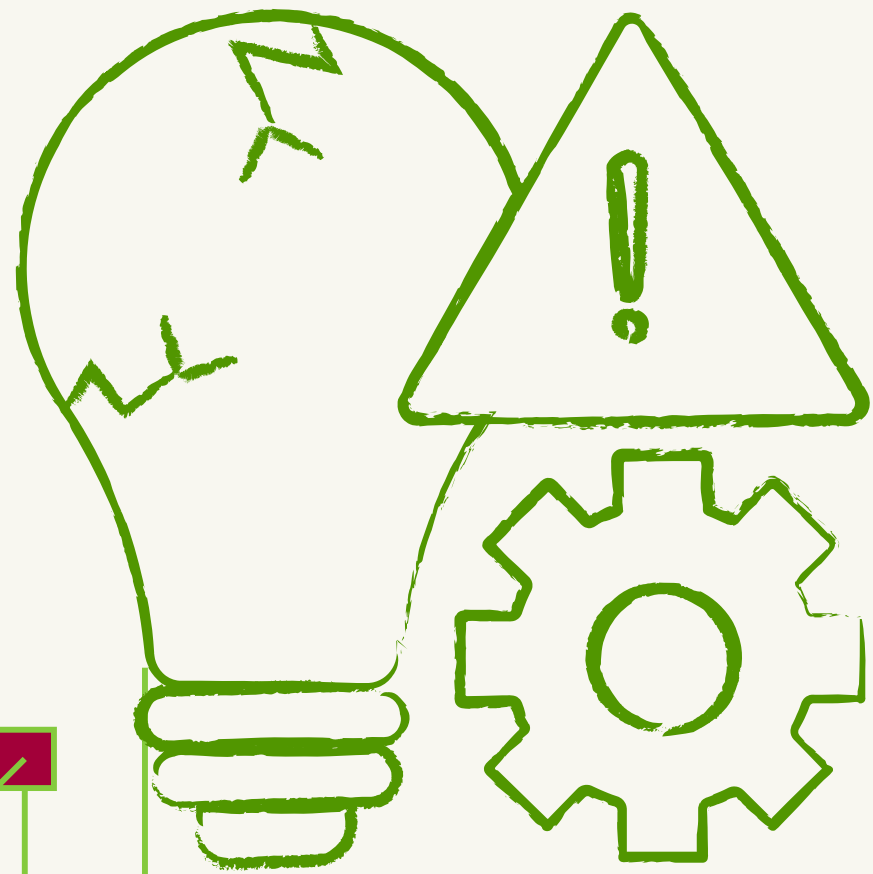
5

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.



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?



509.663.7713



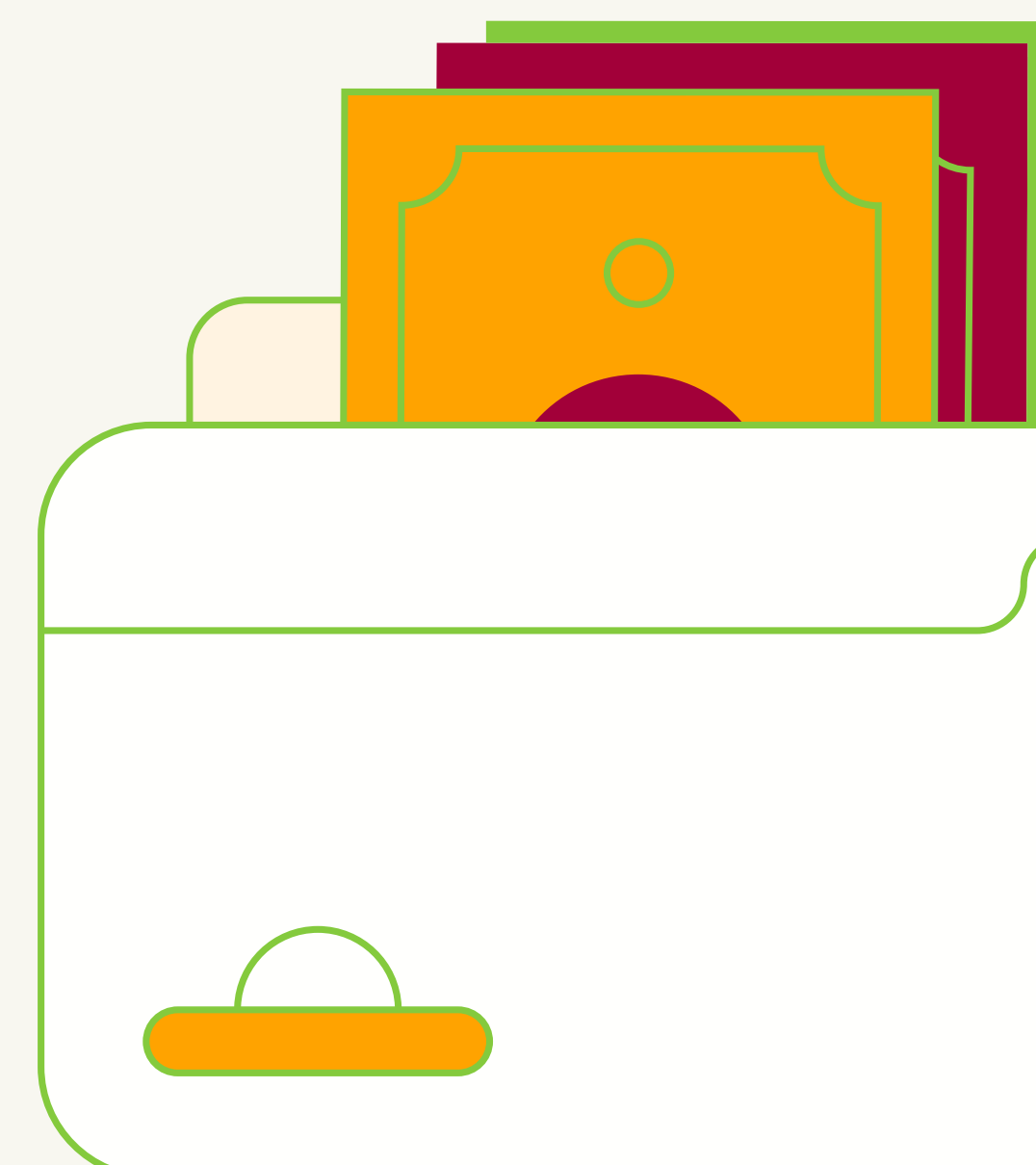
Scholarships@waef.org



www.waef.org



scholarshipresources.org



Let's Take Action Today!



Washington Apple
Education Foundation