

Some important scholarship application tips:

1. Apply early! Please try to avoid submitting applications on the due date, as you may encounter unexpected problems with getting a document you need or some other emergency.
2. Request recommendation letters **NOW!** Doing so allows your recommenders adequate time to write your letter. Most scholarships require 1 to 3 recommendation letters. Consider asking teachers, coaches, bosses, or activity advisors. Be sure to let your recommenders know a date by which you want your letter.
3. Work on your essays, and **SAVE THEM!** You may be able to use the same essay, or a modified version of one you have saved, for multiple scholarships. Be sure to carefully read essay instructions and prompts to be sure that you follow directions and that you actually answer the essay prompt. If you want someone to review your essay, please allow them ample time to read it rather than the day that it's due.

For essays, get personal. Talk about **WHY** something is important to you, and cite examples. Remember, your essay is your chance for the scholarship committee to get to know you and for you to express yourself. If you're too vague or general, you may not stand out as much as if you cite examples or specifics.

4. **APPLY FOR EVERYTHING THAT YOU CAN!** Some scholarships, especially local ones, do not get a large number of applications so yours could be only one of a few, or maybe the only one!
5. Check your parents' employers, your employers, your churches, and any other organizations through which you or your parents are involved. Many of these organizations offer scholarships.
6. **TYPE INFORMATION ON APPLICATIONS WHEN POSSIBLE, OR USE A PEN WITH BLUE OR BLACK INK!** Please try to avoid submitting applications that are filled out in pencil or different ink colors. Ink is more professional-looking. Further, a scholarship committee may copy your application and pencil does not copy well.
7. Let us know if you need help! We want you to win as much money as possible!