

# Searching for Scholarships

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# Some Key Points

- You have to apply to win
- Chances of winning depend on you
  - Your effort
  - Your academic profile
    - Curriculum
    - Grades
  - Your extracurricular profile
  - Your applications – how well you prepare them
  - Your choice of future college major
  - Your community involvement

# Types of Scholarships – College Based

- Applicable only as specific college
- May or may not be renewable
- May or may not require a nomination
- May have GPA requirements for renewal
- Awarded for:
  - Academic merit
  - Talent or special skills
  - Community service involvement
  - Leadership

# Types of Scholarships - Generic

- May be used at any college or university
- May or may not be renewable
- Awarded for a wide variety of reasons
  - Talent
  - Community involvement
  - Academic merit
  - Leadership

# Where to Find Scholarships

- Check out college websites for college based scholarship
- Use one or more scholarship search engines/web pages
  - Fastweb – one of most comprehensive and easy to use
    - [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
  - Mach 25 – search by scholarship name or profile yourself
    - <http://www.collegenet.com/mach25/app>
  - Merit Aid – merit and academic scholarships from colleges
    - <http://www.meritaid.com>
- Take advantage of FCPS Family Connection Scholarship Database
- Look in the local community
- Use Google for key word search
  - Search on “scholarships for high school juniors” or similar phrases

# Making Yourself Competitive

- Know the criteria – are you a strong candidate?
- Develop a professional looking resume or activities sheet
- Read the directions and follow them
- Write a strong essay that can be adapted
- Tailor your application to the scholarship criteria
- Line up possible recommenders early
- Proofread applications
  - Know your grammar
  - Spelling counts
- Practice for interviews, if applicable

# Scholarship Myths

- Only the top academic students win scholarships
- Only the big, name-brand scholarships are worth considering
- You need to be a senior to apply
- You need to know where you are applying/attending college before looking for scholarship
- Nobody ever wins so why apply?

# Things to Consider

- Do your homework
  - Research , research, research
  - Prioritize which scholarships to consider
- Don't skip the small stuff
  - Lesser value scholarships may be easier to win
- Don't get scammed in the scholarship search
  - No need to pay for resources
  - Never provide your credit card or bank account information
- Don't procrastinate – apply early!