

Top 10 Scholarship Tips

Deseret News, Classroom Connections, February 26, 2013

1. Apply only if you are eligible! Read all of the scholarship requirements and directions carefully to make sure you're eligible before you send in an application. Your application can't win if you're not eligible for the scholarship.
2. Complete the application if full. If a question doesn't apply, note that on the application. Don't just leave it blank.
3. Follow directions. Provide everything that is required. Don't supply things that are not requested – you could be disqualified.
4. Neatness counts. Make several photocopies of all the forms you receive. Use the copies as working drafts to develop your application packet. Always type your application. If you must print, do so neatly and legibly.
5. Make sure your essay makes an impression. The key to writing a strong essay is to be personal and specific. Include concrete details to make your experience come alive; who, what, where and when.
6. Watch out for deadlines. To help keep on track, impose a deadline on yourself that is at least two weeks before the stated deadline. Use this time to proofread your application before you send it off.
7. Before sending your application packet, make a copy of the entire packet and keep it on file in case your application goes astray. Make sure your name (and social security number, if applicable) appears on each page of your application to ensure that nothing is lost.
8. Give it a final "once-over." Proofread the entire application carefully. Be on the lookout for misspelled words or grammatical errors that can give a bad impression. Ask a friend, teacher or parent to proofread it as well.
9. Ask for help if you need it. If you have a problem with the application, call the funding organization and ask questions.
10. Remember, your scholarship application represents you. Your ability to submit a neat, timely, complete application reflects on you. It's the face you're showing to this organization. Take pride in yourself by submitting your best application.