

## Steps for Getting A Scholarship

### Start Early:

- ❖ Always remember that you will be applying for scholarships about a year before you will actually receive the aid.
- ❖ Get good grades—they will only help you and put you above the next applicant.

### Prepare Yourself:

- ❖ Often scholarships are awarded to students who are involved in activities both in school and out of school. Well-rounded students have the best chance of receiving scholarships.
- ❖ Many clubs, organizations, and places of employment have scholarships associated with them. Doing your research in the beginning may help you obtain more scholarships.

### Do Research:

- ❖ Figure out what makes you a special individual. This may include such things as academics, volunteer work, athletics, or your family background. Consider unique circumstances or conditions that might make you eligible for aid such as being a foster child, having asthma, being a single parent, or having a disability.
- ❖ Scholarship opportunities can be found in many places including financial aid offices, libraries, local civic organizations, your (or your parents') employer, local businesses, or the internet.

### Send Away for Applications and Information:

- ❖ After you collect all of the information about the scholarships for which you are interested in applying, you will need to contact the organization.
- ❖ Many organizations require that you contact them through the mail or email to request applications and other pertinent information. Give the organization ample time to send you the necessary paperwork. Be aware of all deadlines associated with applying.

### Apply:

- ❖ Once you receive the application and understand all of the information that you are expected to send the organization, you will need to apply for the scholarship.
- ❖ Many organizations require information such as a completed application, an essay, recommendations, and/or a resume from each applicant. Make sure you have given yourself plenty of time to gather all of the required information.
- ❖ Most scholarships will have deadlines for applying. You may want to keep a calendar with all of the deadlines listed so that none expire.
- ❖ Before you send in the completed application, make sure to double-check the spelling and grammar. Nothing looks worse on a scholarship application than a common spelling error. Always put your best effort into each application. First impressions count so be NEAT and ORGANIZED.
- ❖ Remember that the process takes time so it could be months before you are notified of any awards. Some organizations will not send follow-up information if you don't receive the award.