



# Acing Your Scholarship Search

- Today we will discuss:
  - Get In The Zone
  - Better Searches
  - Don't Go It Alone
  - Knowing Your Audience
  - Avoiding Common Mistakes



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# Get In The Zone

- Build A Resume
  - Join
  - Volunteer
  - Lead
  - Give Back
- Make A Plan
  - Do scholarship research early
  - Build a scholarship spreadsheet
  - Don't just take the time, make the time!
  - Stay Positive

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# Use Free Searches

- **FAMEMaine.com**
    - State and community specific scholarships
    - Fewer competitors means better odds for you
  - **CollegeBoard.com**
    - Also includes internships & specialized federal programs
    - Forces yearly updates of each scholarship
    - Lists award type
    - Fewest ads
    - Did not exclude some results not qualified for
  - **Fastweb.com**
    - Sends email updates with new scholarships
    - Original free scholarship search
    - Touchy, invasive application
    - Lots of ads as you move through the site
  - **Scholarship360**
    - Adds and highlights one new scholarship each day.
    - Easy search categories
    - Clean, clear site layout
  - **Zinch.com**
    - Connects to Facebook page and pulls from data for scholarship & college searches
    - Offers their own weekly Three Sentence Essay scholarship
- Other Places to Search**
- Employers
  - College websites
  - Military benefits
  - Google it!

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- Don't just visit scholarship sites – Like 'Em!
- Add the term “Scholarships” to the search field on Twitter
- One great site can lead to another

# Something for Everyone

- **Cappex GPA Isn't Everything** - This one is offered each month to anyone who plans to attend college in the next calendar year.
- **Beans For Brains** – For those with good grades and excellent knitting & crocheting skills.
- **Bruce Lee Scholarship** – students who understand, appreciate and exemplify Bruce Lee's passion for education as well as his qualities of honest expression, forward thought, self-exploration, and assertiveness. (And can demonstrate their Bruce Lee knowledge.)
- **Do Over Scholarship** - “If you could get one ‘do-over,’ in life, what would it be and why?”
- **I'm First Scholarship** -For students who are first in their immediate family to go to college and plan to attend a participating I'm First College. Colby, Bates & Thomas are on the list.

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# Make A Plan

Filing Date	Scholarship Name	Potential Award	Qualifications	Requirements
Feb 12	Courageous Persuaders	2000	Grades 9-12	30 sec commercial
March 4	A. Leigh Phillips	700	Maine Res. w/ Disability	100-150 personal profile , 3 ref., transcript
April 1	Maine Campground Owners	500	2 <sup>nd</sup> year student in outdoor recreation	Resume, transcript, Financial Statement
June 18	Abbott & Frenner	1000	HS Junior or Senior	500-1000 Essay on a personal hardship and a life change
June 25	Maine Difference Scholarship	1000 renewable	HS Senior or undergrad	300-600 essay Why Maine? , 1 rec, transcript

- Look for similar essay & recommendation opportunities
- Make folders for each scholarship
- Don't limit yourself

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# Small Awards = Big Rewards

Winning 4 \$250 awards = \$1,000

(If it took you 1 hour for each application = \$250/hour)

Borrowing \$1,000 each year of BS = \$4,000

\$4,000 at 6% over 10 years = \$5,280

**\$1,280 in interest!!!**



# Don't Go It Alone

Students should connect with a knowledgeable adult to help guide, proofread, encourage & empower.

- Teacher
- Parent
- Mentor
- Coach

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# Know Your Audience

- Know your application committee
  - Specific Scholarship = Knowledgeable Audience
  - General Scholarship = Teachable Audience
- Adapt essay to align with institutional missions

# Avoiding Common Mistakes

- Remember – Every free dollar is a good dollar
- Submit those applications
- Don't miss your deadlines
- Don't wait until spring of Senior year to get started
- Give yourself enough time
- Have your essays proofread
- File your FAFSA early (need based scholarships may require copies of FAFSA)

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- Apply for scholarships every year
- Graduate schools scholarships get even larger

\*If you receive an early scholarship award, mention it on your college applications.



# Questions?

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