

Scholarship Application Tips

1. NEATNESS COUNTS! Type it; scan it into your computer, type, and reprint; or PRINT extremely neatly. You are asking for money, so whatever way you choose to fill out the application, make it look like you care! A neat, properly filled-out, application will stand out among many.
2. Be sure to fill in all information requested! When pieces are missing, the application automatically gets reduced points and is sometime rejected completely.
3. Honors and Awards: Academic awards (Solanco Scholars, etc.), Honor Society, Athletic awards, Student-of-the-month, Employee-of-the-month, Music or Art awards, are all Honors/Awards. Being nominated for NHS is NOT an honor/award!
4. School Activities: Being involved in a club or activity for only one year holds very little value on a scholarship application. One activity for all 4 years of high school is better than 4 activities in which the involvement was only 1 year for each of them.
5. Community Service: This is time spent serving the community without being reimbursed for your time. Taking dance is NOT a community activity; teaching dance is as long as you are doing it as a volunteer and not being paid. If the activities are through a school organization, such as NHS, this should be noted. The organization offering the scholarship will usually ask for the amount of hours involved in the volunteer activity – FILL IN THIS SECTION!! Again, working a chicken bbq for a few hours will not count nearly as strongly as volunteering somewhere weekly or bi-weekly.
6. Leadership: When listing leadership activities, please list the office held, etc. Do not just list the name of the organization.
7. Essay: Be sure you understand what the organization is asking you to write your essay about and then write to answer their question. This sounds like common sense, but you would be amazed! Pay attention to essay length and spacing requests and please have someone edit and critique your essay. Do not rely on “spell check,” as it will not pick up a misspelled word if the misspelled word is a real word. It doesn’t make sense to have valuable points deducted from your application for simple spelling mistakes.
8. Letters of recommendation: Ask people who know you well and give them ample notice so they have plenty of time to write your recommendation. Send them a Thank-you note afterwards, especially if you receive the scholarship! Also, note how many letters are requested and make sure you have that amount.
9. Be sure to include any other items that are requested such as a transcript, etc. Compile your application in the order specified.
10. REVIEW, REVIEW, REVIEW!!! Check several times that all areas are filled out and the application is complete. Have someone else check as well, as sometimes the application becomes so familiar that it is easy to miss something. Fresh eyes can be a great help!