

The Senior Scoop

JANUARY, 2017

A Publication of the Counseling Department at Monson High School Just for Seniors

The Scoop on Scholarships



Most student aid comes in the form of federal education loans and grants from colleges. However, scholarships — which don't have to be paid back — get a huge amount of attention from students and their families. If you decide to invest your time in a search for scholarships, it's important to have an organized system to find, apply for, and win scholarship money. It's also best to start early.

Start With a Personal Inventory - Most of the information you are asked for on a scholarship search questionnaire is easy to come up with — year in school, citizenship, state of residence, religion, ethnic background, disability, military status, employer and membership organizations. Beyond those questions, you have to give some thought to your academic, extracurricular and career plans. You should ask yourself:

- Do I want to participate in a competition? If so, what are my talents and interests?
- What subject do I plan to major in?
- What career do I plan to pursue?
- Do I want to apply for all types of aid or only scholarships?

Your answers to these questions help determine your scholarship eligibility. Take your time brainstorming and don't overlook anything — the more personal characteristics you discover, the more scholarships you could potentially apply for.

Research Local Scholarships First - Begin with your high school counseling office. Your counselors know about scholarships for students graduating from your high school. Your next stop should be the college aid section of your public library. Most libraries have a number of books about financial aid, including scholarship guides.

Check Membership Organizations and Employers - Organizations of all types and sizes sponsor scholarships — leave no stone unturned. Explore categories you might not have considered, such as religious, community service, fraternal, military, union and professional. And don't forget your parents. Many large companies offer scholarships or tuition programs for children of employees. If you are uncertain, ask your parents to check with their human resources departments. Don't overlook student jobs. Employers such as fast food chains, department stores and supermarkets often give scholarships. Awards related to student employment can come from unexpected sources. For example, there are a number of scholarships for golf caddies.

Use a Free Scholarship Search Service - You should never have to pay for scholarship information. If you're asked to pay a fee for "exclusive" scholarship leads, there's a good chance your scholarship service is really a scholarship scam. A scholarship search company collects information on hundreds of awards and compares your student characteristics with scholarship restrictions. Based on your answers to a questionnaire, you receive a list of possible scholarships. It is up to you to decide which ones to try for.

Research Institutional Scholarships - Since the vast majority of all scholarship money is disbursed by colleges, it makes sense to research what kinds of scholarships are available at the colleges that interest you. Check out college websites, catalogs and financial aid offices for this information. Institutional awards can be offered on a university-wide basis, or within a particular college or major. Eligibility for such awards can be based on merit, financial need, intended major, ethnicity or a variety of other factors. Here are some questions you might want to ask about these awards:

- Are scholarships awarded automatically if a student matches certain criteria, such as grade point average or SAT score?
- What is the application procedure? What materials are required?
- Is the award renewable? What are the requirements to maintain the award?



January Scholarship Listing



The Massachusetts JCI Senate Scholarship

January 17, 2017

The Massachusetts JCI Senate will award two (2) \$1,000.00 scholarships to graduating students in Massachusetts. The State winners will be forwarded to the National JCI Senate and will be eligible for additional \$1,000.00 scholarships. Application is at <http://majcisenate.weebly.com>.

The National MS Society Scholarship

January 18, 2017

Individuals who have MS or have a parent with MS are eligible to apply as long as they meet all of the eligibility criteria found at: www.nationalmssociety.org/scholarship.

Walter S. Barr Scholarships

February 1, 2017

These awards for undergraduate education are made annually to graduating high school seniors. They must be residents attending public or private secondary schools in Hampden County, MA. The awards are given based on school records, college entrance examinations, general accomplishments, recommendations and financial need. The annual award is \$2,500 for a maximum of four years. **The William R. Rooney Award** is awarded to a graduating high school senior who is currently on and has been on an IEP or a 504 Plan for a minimum of two years. Please visit www.HoraceSmithFund.org to complete and submit an application.

Massachusetts Elks Scholarship, INC. Major Project

February 1, 2017

The program offers grants to students demonstrating financial need, scholarship aptitude, and good citizenship. Please see Guidance to obtain an application.

Henry David Thoreau Scholarship

February 1, 2017

The Henry David Thoreau Foundation selects Massachusetts' high school seniors interested in environmental studies to receive up to \$20,000 for tuition to the college of their choice. Please visit: www.thoreauscholar.org for more information and to submit your application.

Big Y Scholarship

February 1, 2017

All Big Y scholarships recognize **academic merit and achievement**. They are awarded to the most academically outstanding students in the **Big Y market area**. Applications can be printed from the Big Y website: www.bigy.com. Under the Services then the community tab. The scholarships are located at the bottom of the page.

Order Sons of Italy in America Grand Lodge of Massachusetts

February 1, 2017

Scholarship awards are limited to members of the Senior Class of any secondary school and shall be awarded on the following basis: Scholastic Ability; Character; Activities. Please visit www.osiama.org to obtain more information and an application.

Country Bank for Higher Education Scholarship

April 3, 2017

High school graduating seniors from public, private, parochial and charter schools within in the Country Bank market area who plan to attend a two or four year college or university are eligible to apply. Home-schooled students are also eligible to apply by providing documentation of high school equivalency and college eligibility as an incoming freshman in 2017. Applicants must also be a Country Bank customer for at least 6 months. Applications may be downloaded by visiting www.countrybank.com/about-us/community-scholarship-program.

Wace National CO-OP Scholarship Program

February 15, 2017

To qualify for this scholarship, students must: Have a high school GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale or better; Apply and be accepted for the 2017-2018 academic year at one of the WACE Partner Institutes. Please see application for participating Colleges & Universities. To obtain an application, please visit www.waceinc.org.

Red Pine Scholarship

February 15, 2017

The Red Pine Scholarship is seeking its next class of students from low- to middle- income families in Massachusetts who have demonstrated academic excellence and are planning to attend competitive colleges as freshmen in the fall of 2016. Please visit <http://www.tpi.org/scholarship/red-pine-scholarship> for more information and to obtain an application.

Yawkey Foundation Scholarship

February 15, 2017

Scholarship opportunity for graduating high school students entering private colleges in Massachusetts in 2017-18. This program is designed to make college affordable for talented, motivated, low-income students from Massachusetts. For more information and application instructions, go to: <http://www.tpi.org/scholarship/yawkey-scholars-program>.

January Scholarships continued

Hood Good Sport Scholarship

March 6, 2017

For high school seniors who participated in a varsity sport and who will be furthering their education by attending a two- or four-year accredited college or university next year. Students must have earned a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher and performed volunteer work in the community to be eligible. Students must apply online at www.Hood.com/scholarship.

The Rebekah Assembly of Massachusetts

March 15, 2017

Offers a scholarship of \$500.00 to qualified seniors who plan to further their education by attending two or four year college programs. Please see Guidance to obtain an application.

Professional Women in Construction

March 15, 2017

Awarded to any student (male or female) enrolled in a study leading to an undergraduate degree in Construction, Construction Management, Interior Design, Architecture, or Civil, Mechanical, Structural, or Electrical Engineering. To obtain an application, please visit: www.pwcusa.org/ct.

Zonta International Young Women in Public Affairs

March 17, 2017

A \$1000 scholarship opportunity to a young woman between the ages of 16 and 20 as of April 1st, and who lives in the Quaboag Valley. This scholarship seeks to recognize a student who demonstrates a commitment to her community, exhibits leadership ability, and shows global awareness. You may download an application at <http://www.zontaqv.org>.

The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund

April 3, 2017

The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund offers renewable, 4-year scholarships to student with financial need who display academic excellence, a desire to make a meaningful contribution to society, and strong citizenship and character. Download the 2017 at www.phillips-scholarship.org

New England Association for College Admission Counseling

April 8, 2017

High School juniors and seniors from NEACAC-member high schools in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont are invited to submit a 500-word essay. For the essay topic and more information please visit: <http://www.neacac.org/essay-contest-information-application>.

The Ann and Tony Odierna Community Service Award

April 15, 2017

All students from any middle school through high school or Grades 6-12 (public or private) in Hampden County of Western MA are eligible. Information and directions about this scholarship are available at www.tonyahockey.com by clicking on **Community Service Award** (please examine all four headings).

Marine Corp League Scholarship

April 30, 2017

Must have a relative who has served in the United States Marine Corps or as a Navy Corpsman with a Marine Unit for more than 90 days. Please see Guidance to obtain an application.

The William B. Menard Memorial Scholarship Program

May 1, 2017

This scholarship is open to current high school seniors through college juniors entering or continuing at a four-year college or university, with home addresses in the states of MA or CT, who are interested in studying gold management and/or pursuing a career in the golf industry. Please see Guidance to obtain an application.

B. Davis Scholarship

May 22, 2017

This Scholarship is available to all high school juniors and seniors as well as all students currently registered in any post-secondary institution. For more information please visit <http://www.studentawardsearch.com/scholarships.htm>.

Abbot and Fenner Scholarship Program

June 12, 2017

The A&F Scholarships are available to all high school juniors and seniors as well as all students currently registered in any accredited post secondary institution. Various scholarships are available. Visit <http://www.abbottandfenner.com/scholarships.htm>.

The 2017 Aspiring Nurse Scholarship

June 30, 2017

This scholarship competition is open to all U.S. high school seniors who plan to pursue college education in nursing, including LPN/LVN, AND, and BSN programs. Application and more information is available by going to: <http://www.nursingschoolsalmanac.com/articles/2017-aspiring-nurse-scholarship>.