



Scholarship Navigator

South River High School

“Know Thy Self” Before Doing a Scholarship Search



The search for scholarships can be an overwhelming task. While there are literally thousands of opportunities out there, it would be fruitless to spend time working on application requirements if your qualifications don't match what the award demands. So what can you do to narrow the field and make your efforts more productive?

Get to know yourself.

Begin with a list of school-based activities and things you enjoy outside of school. Add your academic subjects, your grades and GPA. List hobbies and other areas of interest.

But don't stop there. What is your family heritage? Are you the first in your family to go to college? Do you have a parent in the Armed Forces? Is a parent fighting cancer? Are you?

Keep going! Dig for details!

Do you have a job? Or volunteer? Do you practice vegetarianism, hunt for wild game, or care for large animals? Which church do you belong to? Are you following politics during this election cycle? Do you build video games or just play them? Star Trek or Star Wars fan?

Need more suggestions? Do you write well? Or draw? Or cook? Are you into watching movies or making them? Have a favorite type of pet? Bike or Skateboard? Do you make videos of yourself eating home-made cookies while riding a customized skateboard with your pet bird?

It may seem silly, but for nearly any interest, characteristic, family situation, or life-style choice, there is a possible scholarship opportunity. Make your list, then check out page 2 for what to do next.

Financial Aid Information Night

Wednesday, January 6
6:30pm School Auditorium

This is a wonderful opportunity to find out how to get financial aid for college tuition using the Free Application for Financial Aid (FAFSA).



FAFSA Workshop
Wednesday, January 13
6:30 School Media Center

The workshop, presented by AACC Office of Financial Aid representative Emma Kamarah, gives parents the chance to work with the on-line FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form. Participants are encouraged to bring tax documents to practice with.

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Internet Resources for Scholarships

www.FAFSA.ed.gov

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

scholarshipamerica.org

free scholarship search engine

www.fastweb.com

free scholarship search engine

www.finaid.org

search for scholarships, loans, military aid and more

www.scholarships.com

free search engine for scholarships and financial aid

www.studentaid.ed.gov

federal student aid information

www.MHEC.state.md.us

lists scholarships offered by the state of Maryland

www.unigo.com/scholarships

free scholarship search engine,
also sponsors scholarship opportunities

www.uncf.org

United Negro College Fund list of scholarships
for minority students

Naviance/FamilyConnection

scholarship list compiled by the
SRHS Counseling Office

Searching for Scholarships Based on Your Profile

Scholarship search engines and Google are wonderful tools to help you find money for college. Once you have built your list (see page 1), you can use that information to whittle down the options to only those that meet your qualifications.



Most search engines will work without knowing anything about you, but for a more efficient process, you will need share some personal information. Using your list, build a profile that the system can use to target scholarship suggestions to your characteristics.

A good search engine will ask you lots of questions, some of which can seem quite personal. Be only as specific as you are comfortable with, using the menu prompts. When you are done, the system pulls tags and key words to locate good matches.

Google can work the same way. Create a search for any item from your list, with the word "scholarships" added. Be explicit in using key words for your search or use multiple qualifiers to reduce the number of hits for a more manageable list.

For example: If you did a **Google** search for *Merit Scholarships*, you will get back 68,100,000 results which includes dozens of links to more scholarship search sites. Build a profile in **FastWeb** and include "High School Senior," "Honor Roll," and "National Honor Society" with a 4.0 GPA, you get back 82 matches with a possible value of \$960,000.

Finding scholarships that fit can a bit like online dating. Good matches can only be made when you share information and ask the right questions.

Scholarships Now Available on FamilyConnection

Intel Science Talent Competition

science fair project
\$100,000 grand prize deadline Nov 11

Amazon Student Scholarship

merit scholarship and textbooks gift cards
\$5,000 grand prize deadline Nov 20

Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship

financial need, leadership
\$500 - \$1000 deadline Dec 4

Youth Free Expression Film Contest

promoting 1st Amendment rights
\$1,000 max award deadline Dec 14

AXA Achievement Community Scholarship

Ambition, drive & determination to reach goals
\$25,000 grand prize deadline Dec 15

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

excellence in art or writing
\$10,000 max award deadline Dec 17

Imagine America High School Scholarships

career training programs
deadline Dec 31

Maryland Pathways

supporting low income students at UMCP
deadline January 1

John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage Essay

essay competition - describe an act of courage
\$10,000 max award deadline Jan 6

GE Reagan Foundation Scholarships

leadership & citizenship
\$10,000 max award deadline Jan 6

Ron Brown Scholars

African American students with academic achievement
\$40,000 max award deadline Jan 9

SAE Engineering Scholarship

for engineering major at ABET accredited school
\$6,000 deadline Jan 15

Girls Impact the World Film Festival Scholarship

short film about global women's issues
\$5,000 and up deadline Jan 15

Scholarship for Scholars

academic excellence / community service
\$8,000 max award deadline Feb 2, 2016

Northrup Grumman Engineering Scholars

STEM fields of study, internship opportunities
\$10,000 max award deadline Feb 4



For a complete list of scholarships available to SRHS students, check out Naviance/FamilyConnection online

South River High School

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The South River High School Mission

South River High School offers an enriching and rigorous academic program where students will become self-directed individuals able to thrive in an ever changing technological world. South river provides a safe and stimulating learning environment with opportunities to engage in school and community service. South River emphasizes integrity, respect for diversity and pride in education to prepare students for success in the 21st century.

Planning for the Future

A Good Investment of Your Time

Applying to scholarships can seem like just another thing to put on the “To Do” list, along with homework, chores, practice. Most scholarships require an investment of time – to produce a piece of written or visual work, or participate in a competition or performance event, or demonstrate in some other way your interest or qualifications for the award.

You really should consider the effort to be time well spent.

First, competing for a scholarship can be good practice for when you start looking for a job. Most career opportunities have hundreds of people vying for the same positions. When you have the right credentials and an outstanding application, employers take notice. It works the same way with scholarship committees.

Second, the challenge of competition builds character. Athletes already know that participation in a sport is not just about winning. You will be working on a project of your choice, something that you believe strongly in, and will make the effort to do the absolutely best work you can.

Third, when you get it right, people give you money. In the real world, when you perform well, your employer rewards you. And if a scholarship committee sees what it is looking for, they help pay for your college expenses.

It will take persistence, stamina and the will to keep fighting to be a scholarship winner. Every dollar you are awarded moves you that much closer to the true ultimate goal - a debt-free college education.

