

# The Senior Scoop

JANUARY, 2010

A Publication of the Department of Guidance and Student Support Services at Monson High School Just for Seniors



## The Scoop on Scholarships

Merit scholarships can be helpful in financing your college education. In contrast to need-based grants or scholarships, merit scholarships are awarded to students based on their grades, accomplishments or other personal characteristics rather than financial need. Few students receive merit scholarships out of the blue. Maximizing your chances of receiving a scholarship requires research to find the scholarships and work to complete the applications.

### Finding the Scholarships

In your search for possible scholarships, start with the obvious. Call the financial aid offices of the colleges that interest you and ask about their merit or non-need-based scholarships. Different colleges have differing amounts, types and requirements for merit scholarships. If you might be eligible for a scholarship available at the college, ask how you can apply.

Another common source of scholarships are organizations in which you or your family are involved. Ask about these common sources of scholarships. Many corporations award scholarships to children of employees, so ask your parents to check their place of work. Local volunteer organizations, like the Kiwanis or the Rotary Club, may offer scholarships to worthy applicants. Local or national religious organizations often have scholarships available to their members. Check with your clergy person. (Local scholarship applications will be available in late March.)

If you have a particular talent, like music or forensics, ask your advisor or teacher about national organizations relating to your talent that might offer scholarships. Check with your guidance counselor for more suggestions.

To research scholarships outside your local area or personal contacts, look for directories of scholarships in the library, bookstore, or guidance office. You can also look for scholarships on a variety of Web sites (try [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) or [www.finaid.org/scholarships/other.phtml](http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/other.phtml) for a start).

### Avoiding the Scams

Many students and parents receive mail from organizations with official-sounding names that offer to find merit scholarships for you for a fee. Unfortunately, many of these companies are scams whose only purpose is to take you or your parents' money. And with the help of free Internet scholarship search sites and a few trips to the library, you can find the same information that these companies offer.

For more signs that a company may not be on the level, visit the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's site, Six Signs That Your Scholarship Is Sunk, at [www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/edcams/scholarship/sixsigns.htm](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/edcams/scholarship/sixsigns.htm).

### Following Through

Once you find scholarships for which you might be eligible, contact the sponsoring organizations and request scholarship applications. Complete the applications to the best of your ability and send them in by the deadlines. If you don't have enough time to complete every application, choose the scholarships for which you are most qualified. You probably won't receive all the scholarships for which you apply, but the more you apply for, the better your chances of receiving some merit money. Good luck!

Written by Jennifer Gross, accessed from [http://www.nacac.com/p&cs\\_steps\\_0102schlrshps.html](http://www.nacac.com/p&cs_steps_0102schlrshps.html).



### Dual Enrollment Offers the Opportunity To Take College Courses

Do you want to take a college course at a community college this coming spring semester? There may be an option to take a free three-credit course at either Holyoke Community College or Springfield Technical Community College. If interested, see either Mr. Bardwell or Ms. Reed immediately for more information. There are a limited number of slots for these classes available, so it is vital that you do this right away.

# January Scholarship Listing



## **Walter S. Barr Scholarship**

January 10, 2010

These awards for undergraduate education are made annually by the Scholarship Committee to residents of the communities who are members of the senior classes in Hampden County Private or Public secondary records, college entrance examinations, general attainments and financial need. You may download an application or apply on-line by visiting [www.horacesmithfund.org](http://www.horacesmithfund.org).

## **The United State JCI Senate Foundation Scholarship Program**

January 12, 2010

Grants awarded to graduating high school seniors in the United States, who plan to continue their education at accredited post secondary colleges, universities or vocational schools. Please visit: <http://usjcisenate.org> to obtain an application.

## **Ithaca College's Martin Luther King Jr. Scholar Program**

January 15, 2010

Is offered to exceptional incoming freshman from ethnic or racial backgrounds. Must attend Ithaca College. Please see Guidance for more information.

## **Mensa Education and Research Foundation Scholarships**

January 15, 2010

The only eligibility requirements are that the applicant be enrolled, for the academic year following the award, in a degree program in an accredited American institute of post-secondary education, and be a resident of the area of a participating local group of Mensa. For the general awards, the applicant need not be a member of Mensa nor qualified for Mensa, and the general awards are unrestricted as to age, race, gender, level of post-secondary education and financial need. To download an application please visit: <http://www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships>.

## **Henry David Thoreau Scholarship**

February 1, 2010

Candidates must be Massachusetts residents. Students with strong academic qualifications and a commitment to the environmental field may apply for an undergraduate scholarship totaling up to \$30,000, usually distributed at \$7,500 per year for tuition use only, to the student's institution of choice.

You may download an application from [www.thoreauscholar.org](http://www.thoreauscholar.org).

## **Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce**

February 1, 2010

Please see Guidance for more information and to obtain an application.

## **Big Y Scholarship**

February 1, 2010

All Big Y scholarships recognize **academic merit and achievement**. They are awarded to the most academically outstanding students in the **Big Y market area**. Please see Guidance for an application.

## **KFC Colonel's Scholars Program**

February 10, 2010

The KFC Colonel's Scholars Program was created in 2006 and is dedicated to assisting students with financial need who plan to pursue a bachelor's degree at a public institution within their legal state of residence. For more information please visit [www.kfcscholars.org](http://www.kfcscholars.org).

## **Proton Energy Scholarship**

February 10, 2010

The Proton Energy Scholarship will recognize and award high school seniors who demonstrate outstanding achievement, excellence and promise in the field of science or technology, and who plan to pursue higher education in this field. For more information and to obtain an application please visit: [www.ProtonEnergyScholarship.org](http://www.ProtonEnergyScholarship.org).

## **Best Buy@15 Scholarship Program**

February 15, 2010

Students who have solid grades and who have been involved in volunteer community service or work experience are eligible to apply. 1,000 scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded. Apply at [www.bestbuy.com/scholarships](http://www.bestbuy.com/scholarships) or [www.at15.com](http://www.at15.com)

# January Scholarship's continued

## **The National CO-OP Scholarship Program**

**February 15, 2010**

Must have a high school GPA of 3.5 (B+) or better. Please see application for participating Colleges & Universities.  
[www.co-op.edu](http://www.co-op.edu) .

## **Oh, the Places You'll Go Scholarship**

**February 15, 2010**

This scholarship recognizes a high school senior who understands and values the limitless possibilities that education can offer with a scholarship award. For more information please visit [www.ohtheplaces.org](http://www.ohtheplaces.org) .

## **Ronald McDonald House Charities**

**February 16, 2010**

Students of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Scholarships will be awarded to students who have demonstrated academic achievement, financial need and community involvement. Please apply at [www.rmhc.org/programs/](http://www.rmhc.org/programs/) . Scroll down to bottom of page and click on RMHC Scholarship Program

## **SAMMY 2009 Award Program**

**March 5, 2010**

The SAMMY Award Program recognizes outstanding scholar athletes in grade 12 from high schools throughout the contiguous United States. Applications will only be accepted online at [www.bodybymilk.com](http://www.bodybymilk.com)

## **Order Sons of Italy in America Grand Lodge of Massachusetts**

**March 15, 2010**

Applicants should be college-bound high school seniors with high academic averages, high SAT scores, involvement in extracurricular activities and financial need. We are also seeking students who have studied the Italian language, intend to study Italian in college, or wish to spend their junior year abroad in Italy. Please visit [www.osiama.org](http://www.osiama.org) to obtain more information and an application.

## **The Rebekah Assembly of Massachusetts**

**March 15, 2010**

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.

## **Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts**

**March 31, 2010**

Various criteria. *Encouraged to apply early.* Please apply on-line at [www.communityfoundation.org](http://www.communityfoundation.org) .

## **Valley Press Club**

**April 1, 2010**

At the end of the school year, the **Valley Press Club** will award five scholarships of \$1,000 each to students planning careers in journalism. They are available to high school seniors in western Massachusetts and northern Connecticut who are planning to attend accredited institutions of higher education. An electronic version of the application, which can be filed by e-mail, is available at [www.valleypressclub.com](http://www.valleypressclub.com) .

## **The Ann and Tony Odierna Community Service Award**

**May 1, 2010**

Community service for this award must be performed for no money, gift, promise, reward, credit, etc. of any kind – exclusive of this award. For example, a student may not submit any involvement in this award for a religious or school requirement. Please see Guidance for more information.

## **The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund**

**May 1, 2010**

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. Awards are limited to residents of New England or mid-Atlantic states.

**Download the 2009 New Application from the website after January 1<sup>st</sup>.** [www.phillips-scholarship.org](http://www.phillips-scholarship.org).

## **AEMP Foundation Scholarships**

**May 1, 2010**

The Association of Equipment Management Professionals Foundation offers thousands of dollars to students attending qualified schools offering a two year, diesel technician program. For more information or to obtain an application please visit: [www.aemp.org/](http://www.aemp.org/).