

# The Senior Scoop

JANUARY, 2018

*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



## 2017 GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program

January 4, 2018

This national program awards college scholarships to high school seniors who embody the characteristics of President Ronald Reagan at school, in the community, in the workplace, and at home. Apply online through [www.reaganfoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.reaganfoundation.org/scholarships).

## The Filene Music Scholarship Competition at Skidmore

January 15, 2018

Must attend Skidmore College. More information is available at [www.SKIDMO.RE/MERIT](http://www.SKIDMO.RE/MERIT).

## The Massachusetts JCI Senate Scholarship

January 20, 2018

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. To obtain an application please visit <http://majcisenate.weebly.com>.

## College Raptor Scholarship Program

January 31, 2018

College Raptor is pleased to announce a new \$2,500 scholarship opportunity for students and families. More information about how to apply and details can be found at [www.CollegeRaptor.com/2500Scholarship](http://www.CollegeRaptor.com/2500Scholarship)

## Wace National CO-OP Scholarship Program

February 15, 2018

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](http://www.waceinc.org).

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

February 1, 2018

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](http://www.osiama.org) to obtain more information and an application.

## Big Y Scholarship

February 1, 2018

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](http://www.bigy.com). Under the Services then the community tab. The scholarships are located at the bottom of the page.

## Henry David Thoreau Scholarship

February 1, 2018

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](http://www.thoreauscholar.org) for more information and to submit your application.

## National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Essay Scholarship February 14, 2018

In accordance with National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's (NIAAA) purpose to promote, facilitate, and increase the knowledge and understanding of the vital role of interscholastic athletics in the educational system, this scholarship program will foster and acknowledge the partnership between the NIAAA and secondary education. The scholarships will recognize the distinguished scholastic, leadership, and citizenship attributes of high school student athletes, and the importance of high school athletics in each

## January Scholarships continued

student's life. Please visit: <http://www.niaaa.org/niaaa-awards/niaaa-student-athlete-scholarship> for more information and the application.

### **Walter S. Barr Scholarships**

**March 1, 2018**

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](http://www.HoraceSmithFund.org) to complete and submit an application.

### **The Rebekah Assembly of Massachusetts**

**March 15, 2018**

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.

### **Zonta International Young Women in Public Affairs**

**March 16, 2018**

A \$1000 scholarship opportunity to a young woman between the ages of 16 and 19 as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 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>.

### **Professional Women in Construction**

**March 21, 2018**

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

### **Lighthouse Guild Scholarship**

**March 31, 2018**

Annual scholarship program for college-bound high school and graduate students who are legally blind. For more information and an application please visit [www.lighthouseguild.org/scholarships](http://www.lighthouseguild.org/scholarships).

### **The Stephen Philips Memorial Scholarship Fund**

**April 3, 2018/May 1, 2018**

The Stephen Philips Memorial Scholarship Fund is pleased to announce the creation of the Western Massachusetts Scholarship Program. This program offers renewable college scholarships ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 per year to students from Western Massachusetts who have financial need, display academic achievement, and have demonstrated through their activities in high school and/or choice of college major a commitment to social justice and/or environmental concerns. Please visit [www.phillips-scholarship.org](http://www.phillips-scholarship.org) for more information and to obtain an application.

### **AES Scholarship**

**October 6, 2018**

The consulting firm of AES Engineers is committed to continuing its support of higher education by providing scholarships to deserving students. This award is available to all students, regardless of their field of study. To be eligible the student needs to answer one of the essay questions that they will find on our site at <http://www.aesengineers.com/scholarships.htm>. We are offering a scholarship that will be awarded on the basis of character, as determined by evaluating the essays that are submitted. Amount of award: **\$500.00**