

# Scholarship Tips

- **File a FAFSA as early as possible** (You may use estimated numbers and update the application after your taxes are filed. Be sure to check the “will file” box.)
- **Keep your grades up**
- **Don't pay for scholarship services**
- **Earn your **best** ACT/SAT score – practice, go to workshops, take more than once**
- **Get and stay organized – make copies of everything**
- **Check into other sources** (professional organizations, church groups, place of employment: student, parent, and grandparent, relatives, Chambers of Commerce, and newspapers/magazines.)
- **Meet with financial advisors at colleges where you might apply (**College affiliated scholarships** are funded by the sponsoring College, University, or Technical School. These scholarships are usually based on one or more of the following: academic achievement, athletic ability, career plans, or leadership ability. In order to apply for this type of scholarship, the student must first apply for admissions to the college. In addition to the admission application, most colleges required the completion of an additional scholarship application. In order to receive these funds, the student must attend the college offering the scholarship.)**
- **Note scholarship deadlines (submitted or postmarked) – they are DEADLINES**
- **Determine if you apply online, paper application, or writing own letter**
- **Complete entire application carefully and neatly (use black pen for written parts)**
- **Pay close attention to grammar and spelling – have others proofread**
- **Ask for references early** (teacher, coach, counselor, pastor, organization sponsor, employer)- if possible, have them create an editable document to customize.