

SCHOLARSHIPS

THE CITADEL OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS

THE SCOOP ON OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS

Possible with some effort — Students frequently ask our financial aid counselors questions about how to win scholarships from sources outside The Citadel. Our cadets have secured close to \$400,000 in private scholarships, so we know for certain that the possibility for success exists. While applications for scholarships listed on reputable national search sites should be pursued (see links below), the vast majority of private scholarships are won from your community and county of residence. The very best approach is to be persistent and to “explore local, apply local!”



Scholarship criteria — Award criteria can be based on merit, need, or a mixture of both. Merit covers the obvious, such as academics, athletics, leadership, and community service. However, most don’t realize that merit also includes “odd” criteria, such as “a red-haired owner of an appaloosa from Aiken” or “an average student from Orangeburg” or “the child of an employee of XYZ Corporation.”

Identify local scholarships — To locate local scholarships, set aside time for research on your next break at home. Search online community newspapers and organizations for scholarship ads to identify awards; even if application dates are expired, the award will probably be offered next year. Using local phone books, local government websites, the high school guidance office, and the internet, compile contact names, numbers, and email addresses for churches, museums, rotaries, festivals and fairs, professional associations, small and large companies, agencies, local governments, professional sports teams, historical societies, parent’s work/union, organizations, and clubs. Call each on your list and ask if they offer scholarships and if so, about their award timeline and process. Contact your local library as well for information about area scholarships. It is never too late to begin to apply for scholarships, but you need to invest some time; develop an application calendar and a solid plan. Be sure to re-apply each year!

SCHOLARSHIP INTERNET

Scholarship match opportunities

fastWEB	Fastweb.com
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS	studentscholarships.org
MILITARY SCHOLARSHIPS	Military.com/education

MATCH SERVICES

Scholarship match opportunities

SUPER COLLEGE	Supercollege.com
TG SEARCH	aie.org/scholarships
COLLEGE BOARD	bigfuture.collegeboard.org
SALLIE MAE	go.salliemae.com/scholarship/

OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

According to *The Ultimate Scholarship Book* by Gen and Kelly Tanabe (available in the financial aid office) there are five steps to attacking a scholarship application: 1). Strategically choose what to list on your application; 2). List important accomplishments first; 3). Spin

your application to impress the judges; 4). Write to impress; 5). When it comes to writing your scholarship essay, it’s important to separate yourself from the competition with the right topic and approach, to share a slice of your life, be yourself, and personalize the essay. Be certain

to include an introduction and conclusion, have a main point with examples, and highlight your personal growth and activity. Once you have a really sound essay, you can tweak it to fit each scholarship competition. Be persistent and be sure to re-apply for scholarships each year.