

High School Freshmen

Hello, freshmen! Congratulations on starting high school. Freshman year offers the opportunity to delve into clubs and activities that interest you. Select activities that you have an interest in as that will lead to a more authentic college application in the coming years. Many available activities can also lead to future national and local scholarship opportunities.

Many scholarships are focused on authentic and consistent volunteerism. The key is to identify a passion and fold in volunteerism as part of your demonstrated interest in that passion. An example might be using your interest in coding to create a mini-hackathon for elementary-aged girls. If you are a musician, arrange a monthly performance at a retirement community. Start a dog-walking or lawn-mowing service for the elderly people in your neighborhood. Make sure you pick activities that you enjoy rather than just “checking a box” for volunteerism.

Many high schools will have clubs that focus on volunteerism, too. Local rotary clubs work in tandem with “Interact Clubs” in high schools. Often these clubs create scholarship opportunities for students who have contributed their time over the course of their high school career.

It is never too early to start searching for opportunities to apply for scholarships, even as a freshman. The American Legion has scholarships for students grades 9-12 through their “Americanism Essay Contest.” If you love science, enter the Breakthrough Junior Challenge (ages 13-18). The grand prize is \$250,000! Plan to submit an entry every year of high school for that one if it is of interest to you (unless you win the first year!).

A last piece of advice is to look ahead at some of the very generous scholarships for students at the junior or senior high school level. Read the biographies of past winners and think about an interest that you have that might align with that particular scholarship. Some examples of generous scholarships for the future include:



Guide to College Scholarships

[Cameron Impact Scholarship](#) for juniors

[Davidson Fellow Scholarship](#) for anyone under 18

[Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship](#) for seniors (must caddie three summers)

[Coolidge Scholarship](#) for juniors

[Science Ambassador Scholarship](#) for senior women

Looking for expert assistance? Through our Scholarship Search and Guidance Package, one of our knowledgeable educational consultants assists families with the development of a curated list of 60+ potential scholarship opportunities, customized to each student. Contact us for more information!

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