

kids and company of linn county



KIDCO HEAD START

strong children. strong families. strong communities.

KIDCO SCHOLARSHIP TIPS

1. Read the Scholarship instructions thoroughly and carefully

- This will ensure that you . . .
 - i. Include all of the required documentation
 - ii. Provide 3 copies of your packet for review (The original and 2 photo copies)
 - iii. Have your Program Manager's signature

2. Brainstorm!

- Introspectively ponder on the ways Head Start has effectively and positively changed you personally, your family relationships, etc.
 - i. Pin point those experiences that might set you apart from other applicants
- Gain further insight about yourself from people that know you best
 - ii. They will be able to remind you of the emotions you felt during those life altering circumstances and/or situations, or
 - iii. They will be able to remind you of other circumstances or situations that might be more effective in setting you apart from other applicants

3. Maintain clarity throughout each essay

- Use your essay to highlight *the most important points* about each question
 - i. Think about condensing sentences that are too wordy – can you say the same thing with fewer words?
 - ii. Make sure you describe future goals that are attainable
 - iii. Be clear as to how you will accomplish those goals

4. Have MULTIPLE sets of eyes read and proof each essay

- Make multiple hard copies to give to people or send multiple emails
 - i. Collect all proofed essays and combined all the corrections that most suitably communicate your personal intent and focus for the essay (that you found when you did your brainstorming)
- People you ask should know you well –
 - ii. They might be able to help you better describe experiences contently and concisely
 - iii. Ask them to assess the clarity and flow of the essay as well as spelling and grammar

5. Have your Program's Scholarship Committee review your entire packet

- This will be your check and balance to ensure you haven't missed anything in the instructions

Tip 1: Give concrete examples.

If your answer to an essay question is abstract, support it with a concrete example that illustrates your point. The scholarship sponsor wants to see evidence that you satisfy their criteria, not just unsupported statements.

Tip 2: Apply only if you are eligible.

Read all the scholarship requirements and directions carefully, and make sure that you are eligible before you send in your application. Your application will not be considered if you are not qualified to apply.

Tip 3: Identify the sponsor's goals.

Try to understand the sponsor's motivation in offering the award. Do they want to promote interest in their field? Do they want to identify promising future researchers and business leaders? If you can identify their goals, you can direct your application toward satisfying those goals, increasing your chances of winning the award.

Tip 4: Complete the application in full and follow directions.

Many students fail to follow directions. You can give yourself a competitive advantage by reading the directions carefully. Provide everything that is required. But do not supply things that are not requested. You will not impress and you might be disqualified. Be sure to complete the entire application. If a question does not apply, note that on the application. Do not just leave it blank.

Tip 5: Neatness counts.

Make several photocopies of all the forms you receive. Use the copies as working drafts as you develop your application packet. It is always best to type the application. If you must print, do so neatly and legibly. Proofread the entire application carefully. Nothing is less impressive than an application with misspelled words or grammar errors. Ask a friend, teacher or parent to proofread it as well.

Tip 6: Write an accomplishments resume.

Compile a list of all your accomplishments. This will help you identify your strengths and prepare a better application. Give a copy of the resume to the people who are writing letters of recommendation for you. They will be able to work some of the tidbits into their letters, making it seem like they know you better.

Tip 7: Watch all deadlines.

Impose a deadline for yourself that is at least two weeks before the stated deadline. Use this 'buffer time' to proofread your application before you send it off. YOU are responsible for making sure all parts of the application arrive on time. This includes supporting materials, such as letters of recommendation and transcripts. So make sure everyone who is contributing to your application has ample lead-time. If worse comes to worst, call the scholarship provider in advance and ask if it is possible to receive an extension. Do not just send the materials in late; many committees will refuse late applications. But do not rely on extensions - very few scholarship providers allow them at all.

Tip 8: Take steps to make sure your application gets where it needs to go.

Before sending the application, make a copy of the entire packet and keep it on file. If your application goes astray, you can always reproduce it quickly. Make sure your name (and social security number, if applicable) appears on all pages of the application. Pieces of your application may get lost unless they are clearly identified.

Tip 9: Ask for help if you need it.

If you have problems with the application, do not hesitate to call the sponsor. But do not expect anyone to do the work for you. Completing the application is your job.

Check out: <https://www.linnbenton.edu/current-students/money-matters/scholarships/tips-and-advice-forscholarship-applications>

Tip 10: Remember - your scholarship application represents YOU!

Your ability to submit a neat, timely, complete application reflects on you. It is the face you present to the sponsoring organization. Take pride in yourself by submitting the best application you can

Resources: <http://www.studentscholarshipsearch.com/tips/>

Personal/Professional Goals: I have worked in a leadership role in Head Start as a Health Services Manager and now as the Assistant Director for our agency since 2004. I am a member of the National Association of School Nurses. I am now in a position that will allow me to continue my professional development through the University of Oregon accelerated BA ECE program. The BA ECE will enhance my current skill level and afford me the ability to move forward within the early childhood education administrative and leadership field.

Personal/Professional Goals: I have worked in a leadership role in Head Start for our agency since 2004. I am a member of National Head Start Association have represented Region X Head Start as a board member in 2012-13 and currently maintain a position on the Oregon Head Start Association Board as the Past President. I am now in a position that will allow me to continue my professional development through Walden University's online program. The MS Leadership and Management Degree will enhance my current skill level and afford me the ability to move forward with our agency in a greater role.

Personal/Professional Goals: I am a past parent of three Head Start children and one who is currently enrolled. I have represented parents of Sutherlin through my elected position of Policy Council member for three of four of my children. I have volunteered throughout the years both in the classroom and in the administrative office. I am now in a position to begin my path to success as an Early Childhood Educator. My short term goal is to enroll at my local community college; as I have already completed the placement tests and have received my letter of acceptance. My degree will be an Oregon transfer degree that will allow me to apply to an Oregon University that has a strong early childhood education program where I can earn a BA. My long term goals are to teach young children to prepare them for school, and to continue to advance my own education in my pursuit to be a lifelong learner.

Personal/Professional Goals: I am a single father raising 2 children currently enrolled in Head Start. I have 2 years of college credits in general studies, and am preparing to enroll in an online BS program for Medical Imaging to become a sonographer. My youngest child was born with amniotic band syndrome that was diagnosed through ultrasound technology in the first trimester of my daughter's life. I knew right then that I could give back to others as this individual had for me. Knowing and being able to prepare for my child's birth with limb differentiation was immensely helpful. I have been accepted into this program at the Oregon Technical Institute University in Klamath Falls Oregon for this coming fall. My long term goal is to work in a hospital or clinical setting serving pregnant women, infants and toddlers.

Completing your scholarship application, complete the application exactly as guided, provide only the number of copies of each document that is asked for (more is not better). Having each packet organized in the order listed on the application is extremely helpful. Please have several people in your HS organization go through your application packet with you and provide you feedback before it is turned in. Apply for as many scholarships as you think are applicable to you; many times national or regional scholarships have only one application at the regional level that is advanced to the national level.

Guidance on Letters of reference:

Ask individuals who can provide specific details about your skills or personal attributes that relate to your educational goal. Ask them to identify how they know you: example (as supervisor, professor, family service advocate, child's teacher, Director of Head Start Program or Former/current employer) Provide them with the specific rules, if the rule says one page, double spaced, do not turn in a single spaced one page reference. If Letterhead is available ask them to please use it for that added professional touch. Have print their title and sign name especially if it is different from the HOW they know you part. Don't use family members, co-workers or anyone who might appear bias. Follow the guidance to a T. Have several people check your papers for grammatical errors, such as spelling or incomplete sentences. Ask the Director if they would review your packet and give you feedback. Remember that anyone offering advice, wants you to be successful!