1. **Apply only if you're eligible!** Read all of the scholarship requirements and directions carefully to make sure you're eligible before you send in your application. Your application won't win if you're not eligible for the scholarship.

2. Complete the application in full. If a question doesn't apply, note that on the application. Don't just leave it blank.

3. Follow directions. Provide everything that is required, but don't supply things that aren't requested - you could be disqualified.

4. Neatness counts. Make several photocopies of all the forms you receive. Use the copies as working drafts to develop your application packet. Always type your application. If you must print, do so neatly and legibly.

5. Make sure your essay makes an impression. The key to writing a strong essay is to be personal and specific. Include concrete details to make your experience come alive: who, what, when, where and why.

6. Watch out for deadlines. To help keep yourself on track, impose a deadline on yourself that is at least two weeks before the stated deadline. Use this time to proofread your application before you send it off.

7. Make copies before sending. Before sending your application, make a copy of the entire packet and keep it on file in case your application goes astray. Make sure your name (and social security number, if applicable) appears on each page of your application to ensure that nothing is lost.

8. Give it a final "once-over." Proofread the entire application carefully. Be on the lookout for misspelled words or grammatical errors. Ask a friend, teacher or parent to proofread it as well.

9. Ask for help if you need it. If you have problems with the application, call the funding organization and ask questions.

10. Remember - your scholarship application represents you! Your ability to submit a neat, timely, complete application reflects on you. It's your face to this organization. Take pride in yourself by submitting your best application.

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