

Island Scholars Parent Newsletter



Expanded Geiger Scholarship Application

Does your child go to summer camp? Is your high school student planning to attend a semester educational program? Is your college student planning to take a gap year or study abroad within the next year?

The Geiger Scholarship serves students in middle school through college from year-round, un-bridged islands in Casco Bay, Down East, and Penobscot Bay who want to broaden their educational horizons with enrichment and travel experiences. Between 5-10 scholarships will be given a year to:



- Middle or High School students attending summer camps, travel, or enrichment programs
- High School Students participating in semester enrichment programs or travel experiences
- College Students participating in a semester or summer study abroad or a gap year program

Scholarships will range from \$5,000- \$10,000 for semester programs and from \$2,500-\$6,000 for summer programs and are paid directly towards tuition costs/program fees. These scholarships are specifically intended for students who may not have these experiences otherwise. If this description fits your student, encourage them to apply by the November 30th deadline! To receive an application, or for questions, contact Caroline Moore, the new Community Development Associate, at cmoore@islandinstitute.org or 594-9209 ext. 159

Maine Island Scholarship– Save the Date – Application Opens January 1st

The Maine Island Scholarship seeks to support and strengthen Maine's year-round island communities by providing scholarships to island residents pursuing post-secondary education at a two- or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical institution. Applications can be found on the Maine Community Foundation website beginning January 1st. For more information, see the Island Institute's website. As always, we accept new and renewal applications, so if your student has already received this award, encourage him/her to reapply!



Summer Internship Planning

Dreaming of summer already? Yes, it seems that summer just left us, but it's never too early to encourage your student to start thinking about his/her plans for next summer!

This winter, the Island Institute will be revamping our summer internship program, working with local colleges and businesses to help your student gain experience relevant to his/her field and possibly earn college credit in the process. If this is something your student may be interested in, we'd love to hear any and all thoughts and feedback on ideas for internships and how this program can best meet his/her needs. Contact Caroline Moore, Community Development Associate, at cmoore@islandinstitute.org or 594-9209 ext. 159

Fall College Timeline

Navigating the college application process sometimes seems daunting and overwhelming, but with some forethought and organization, you and your student can stay sane, organized, and have time for some fun this fall!

Here are a few October/November “to do” highlights to share with your student:

- *Letters of Recommendation* – ask teachers and adults who know you well, being sure to give them plenty of notice
 - *Transcripts* – ask your school counselor to send these to colleges you are applying to
 - *Essays* – this is how admissions counselors get to know **YOU** - ask someone who knows you well to proofread your essay to make sure it's true to who you are!
 - *Applications* – APPLY! Keep track of deadlines, which may vary from school to school
 - *Scholarships* – see below for ideas – remember the Maine Island Scholarship Application goes live January 1st. If you are planning on taking a gap year or studying abroad in the next year, the Geiger Scholarship is due November 30.
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Sending a Student off to College – Care Packages 101

Did you send a student off to college this year? By now it's been a few months, which is a great time to show your support. Whether it's their first year or their last, one thing students love receiving is mail. Especially fun mail, that may contain something edible. So how do you build a good care package? First of all, make sure you have the correct address – be warned, they sometimes change from year to year! Next, add some food or snack items, ideally things that won't be crushed. If you're including homemade cookies (always a favorite), pack them in a plastic bag and fold a paper plate in half around the bag to prevent them from becoming cookie crumbles.

As it gets colder, tea and hot chocolate packets are always welcome. Energy bars, pictures from home, or articles from the local newspaper are always fun and a nice personal touch. And lastly, if your student forgot anything at home, that's always a nice thing to include. Really, anything you send is sure to be appreciated!



Scholarships, Scholarships, Scholarships!

Keep an eye out in coming issues for upcoming scholarship deadlines and helpful college planning events! Have an event or scholarship you'd like to see here? Contact Caroline Moore at cmoore@islandinstitute.org or 594-9209 ext. 159 to add it to the list.

The Mitchell Scholarship
Maine Education Services (multiple scholarships)
FAME Scholarship Search
Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship
Maine Community Foundation (multiple scholarships, including the Maine Islands Scholarship)

Helpful Link of the Week: Things to consider in choosing a college
<http://www.famemaine.com/education/topics/choosing-a-college/>