

YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM

2017 Application Guidelines

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Scholars Program is designed to nurture exceptional students who have demonstrated, through academic excellence and extracurricular activities, that they have the potential to excel. Students apply for the program in 7th grade, enter the program in 8th grade, and continue through high school.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the Cooke Foundation Young Scholars Program:

- **Grade level:** Entering 8th grade in the fall of 2017.
- **Academics:** Since the beginning of 6th grade, have earned grades of all or mostly A's in school with no C's or below in core academic subjects (English/language arts, math, science, social studies/history).
- **Testing:** The official score report from the applicant's state standardized testing. If the applicant has taken the SAT or ACT through a regional talent center, they should also submit those score reports.
- **Income:** Family income does not exceed \$95,000. The average family income of entering Cooke Young Scholars is approximately \$25,000. In recent years nearly all Cooke Young Scholars have come from families with incomes below \$60,000.
- **Location:** Reside in the U.S. or a U.S. territory and plan to attend high school in the U.S.

The Cooke Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, creed, color, sex, age, physical or mental disabilities, sexual orientation, or national origin. Citizenship or permanent residency for the applicant or parents/guardians is NOT required. Foundation staff, board members, and their families are not eligible to apply.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The Young Scholars Program application consists of online application forms completed by the applicant as well as online forms completed by other individuals. All required forms must be completed and submitted for an application to be eligible for review.

- **Student Application:** Including information about you, your classes and grades, your activities and awards, short answers and essays, 6th and 7th transcripts, and official test score reports.
- **Parent Form:** Including information about your biological or adoptive parent(s)/guardian(s), other household members, the last three years' Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), and a copy of your Federal Tax Return from the past three years.
- **English/Language Arts Teacher Recommendation:** To be completed by your 6th or 7th grade English/Language Arts teacher.
- **Math Teacher Recommendation:** To be completed by your 6th or 7th grade Mathematics teacher.
- **Personal Recommendation:** From an adult who knows you personally (not a parent or relative), such as a mentor, coach, extracurricular instructor, teacher (past or present), scout leader, pastor or church leader, or camp counselor.

If you are selected as a semifinalist based on your application, you will be invited to submit additional information.



Competitive candidates meet or exceed the Foundation's eligibility requirements.

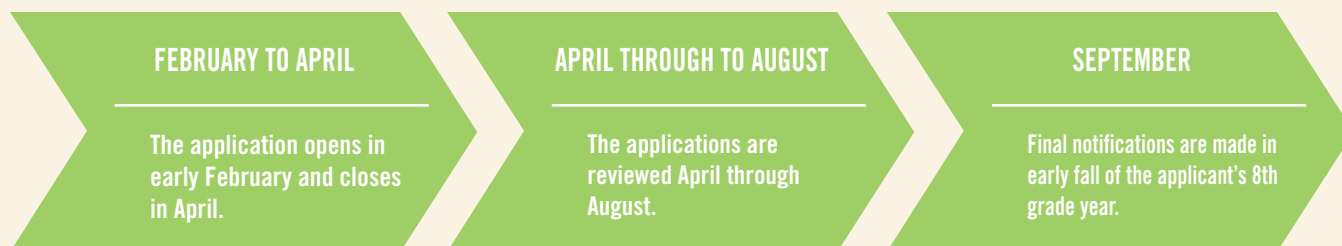
The applicant is responsible for ensuring that all additional forms are completed by the deadline.

Do not wait until the last minute to submit your application. **Deadline extensions will not be granted.**

TIMELINE AND NOTIFICATION

The Young Scholars Program application is available to students only during their 7th grade year. The application opens in early February and closes in April. The applications are reviewed April through August, and final notifications are made in early fall of the applicant's 8th grade year.

The application is entirely online. The link to the application is available during the application period on the main Young Scholars Program website: www.jkcf.org/ysp



SELECTION CRITERIA

The Cooke Foundation reviews each Young Scholars Program application individually with the assistance of a panel of national education experts. Among the criteria used in the selection process are:

- **High Academic Ability and Achievement:** Strong academic record, academic awards and honors, and substantive assessments by educators providing confidential recommendations. We consider grades, achievement test scores, participation in available honors or advanced courses, commitment to learning, and work ethic.
- **Unmet Financial Need:** Limited family income and insufficient funds to cover significant out-of-pocket education-related expenses. The average family income of our previous class of Cooke Young Scholars was approximately \$25,000.
- **Persistence:** Determination and perseverance in the face of challenges, ability to set and remain focused on goals and to put in the effort needed to meet those goals in the face of obstacles.
- **Leadership:** Able to positively influence others and take initiative in various circumstances (family, community, school, church, etc.).
- **Service to Others:** Purposeful and meaningful commitment to others which may be evidenced by participation in volunteer/community service activities.

QUESTIONS/TALENT CENTERS

Regional talent centers assist the foundation in conducting outreach and providing above-level testing. To learn more, please visit www.jkcf.org/talentcenters

For additional support, you can contact the Talent Center that serves your state:

- **East and West Coast:** *Center for Talented Youth*
http://cty.jhu.edu/scholarships/jack_kent_cooke/
- **South:** *Talent Identification Program*
<http://tip.duke.edu/resources/scholarships>
- **Mid-West:** *Center for Talent Development*
<http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/jkc/>
- **Rocky Mountain:** *Center for Bright Kids*
https://www.centerforbrightkids.org/scholarship_programs.php