

YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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, begin the program in 8th grade, and continue until high school graduation.

ELIGIBILITY

- **Grade level:** Currently in 7th grade
- **Grades:** Mostly As with no Cs in 6th and 7th grade
- **Testing:** Official score report from state standardized testing, SAT or ACT score reports (if applicable)
- **Income:** Less than \$95,000 annually
- **Location:** Reside in the U.S. or a U.S. territory and will attend high school in the U.S.

The Cooke Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race or ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexuality, or disabilities. 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 COMPONENTS

The Young Scholars Program application is completed entirely online, including components submitted by other individuals than the applicant. All required forms must be completed and submitted for an application to be eligible for review.

- **Student Application:** Includes your profile information, grades from 6th and 7th grade, honors and awards, activities, and written short answers and essays
- **Parent Form:** Includes custodial information, information about your household, and financial information that includes a copy of recent tax returns (if applicable)
- **English/Language Arts Teacher Recommendation:** Completed by your 6th or 7th grade level teacher in this subject
- **Math Teacher Recommendation:** Completed by your 6th or 7th grade level teacher in this subject
- **Personal Recommendation:** Completed by an adult who knows you personally (not a parent or relative), such as a mentor, coach, instructor, past or present teacher, scout leader, pastor, or camp counselor

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

Deadline extensions will not be granted. Applicants selected as semifinalists may be invited to submit additional information after the application closes.

TIMELINE AND NOTIFICATION

JANUARY TO MARCH

The application is open and all materials must be submitted.

APRIL TO AUGUST

The applications are reviewed and semifinalists are notified.

SEPTEMBER

Finalists will receive notification of acceptance.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Cooke Foundation reviews applications in-staff and with the assistance of a panel of admissions experts. Applications are reviewed based on the following criteria:

- **Academic Ability:** Strong academic record, honors and awards, strong teacher recommendations
- **Unmet Need:** financial ability, consideration of environmental context
- **Persistence:** Determination and perseverance in the face of challenges
- **Leadership:** Ability to positively influence others, in and/or outside of school
- **Service to Others:** Purposeful and meaningful commitment to others through service

QUESTIONS?

Regional talent centers assist the foundation in conducting outreach and providing above-level testing for students with financial need. To learn more, visit www.jkcf.org/talentcenters. For additional support, 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:** *Duke 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

JACK KENT COOKE

FOUNDATION

www.JKCF.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM VISIT WWW.JKCF.ORG/YSP