

Application Guidelines

Think Big. Work Hard. Achieve.

► ELIGIBILITY

If you are able to answer “yes” to these four questions, you are eligible to apply to the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Scholars Program:

1. Will you enter 8th grade in fall of 2010?
2. Do you earn grades of all or mostly 'As' in school, with no 'Cs' or below in the past two years in your academic subjects?*
3. Does your family have demonstrated unmet financial need?***
4. Do you reside in the U.S. or a U.S. territory and plan to attend a high school in the U.S.?

*Exception: Students with unique talents or documented learning differences.

***While there is no formal cut-off, since inception, over 90% of Young Scholars chosen come from families with Adjusted Gross Incomes (AGI) below \$60,000. We take into consideration: high cost of living expenses in some areas, extraordinary medical expenses, number of dependents in college, number of dependents, and high cost of supporting children with learning differences.

► SELECTION CRITERIA

The Foundation reviews each application individually, with the assistance of a panel of national experts. Young Scholars are chosen based upon the criteria below. While all of these criteria are important, the Foundation pays particular attention to the first two.

- **Academic ability and high achievement:** Strong academic record, academic awards and honors, and substantive assessments by educators providing confidential letters of recommendation. We consider grades (typically a GPA above 3.65, or mostly 'As'), achievement test scores, commitment to learning, and work ethic.
- **Unmet financial need:** Limited family income and insufficient funds to cover most or all education-related expenses. The average family income of previous classes of Young Scholars has been \$25,000.
- **Will to succeed:** Determination and perseverance in the face of challenges, and success in other pursuits.
- **Leadership and public service:** Initiative on behalf of others, such as participation in volunteer, community, and school-related activities.
- **Critical-thinking ability:** Responses to application questions that demonstrate critical thinking.
- **Appreciation for or participation in the arts and humanities:** Appreciation of, involvement in, or study of music, art, literature, or similar fields.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, creed, color, sex, age, physical or mental disabilities, sexual orientation, or national origin. Foundation staff, board members, and their families are not eligible to apply.

► APPLICATION COMPONENTS

The Young Scholars Program application consists of the following forms:

1. **Application Checklist**
2. **Student Application**
3. **Parent/Guardian Form**
- 4a. **Custodial Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Financial Form and Tax Forms**
- 4b. **Noncustodial Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Financial Form and Tax Forms (if applicable)**
5. **School Report**
6. **Teacher Recommendation (from a language arts or math teacher only)**
7. **Personal Recommendation**
8. **Survey Form**

► INSTRUCTIONS

- Ensure that the student meets the eligibility requirements.
- Follow directions carefully and complete all appropriate sections on each form. Mark N/A where appropriate.
- Fill out all forms in legible handwriting using blue or black ink (with the exception of the student-typed essay). Only students with a disability that prevents them from writing by hand may submit a Student Application that is typed (such applicants should use the Student Application in Microsoft Word format found on the Foundation's website*).
- Use only the space provided on each form unless otherwise indicated.
- Write the student's name in the space provided at the top of each page of every form submitted.
- Include appropriate signature(s) on each page of every form submitted.

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► INSTRUCTIONS CONTINUED

- Include all tax forms, schedules, and attachments with the Custodial Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Financial Form. Include Supplemental Self-Employment Form if applicable.
- Provide the noncustodial parent(s)/guardian(s) with these Application Guidelines, the Noncustodial Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Financial Form, and Supplemental Self-Employment Form, if applicable. The same receipt deadline applies to this form, but it may be mailed separately to the address below.
- Sign the top of each Recommendation Form, provide the forms to appropriate people, and inform them of your April 26, 2010 receipt deadline. Ask that they return the completed forms to you in signed, sealed envelopes or that they mail the completed forms directly to the address below.
- Use the Application Checklist to ensure that the packet is complete before mailing. Please note the instructions on the Application Checklist that detail the number of copies of each form that need to be submitted.
- Submit all parts of the application together in the same package (with the exception of Recommendations sent directly by recommenders and the Noncustodial Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Financial Form, if applicable). Do not use staples or paper clips.
- Do not submit non-required materials (e.g., additional letters of recommendation or writing samples).
- Do not attempt to submit application materials via fax or email.
- If you have questions while completing the application, contact the talent center that serves your state:

Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (AK, AZ, CA, CT, DE, HI, ME, MA, MD, NH, NJ, NY, OR, PA, RI, VT, VA, WA, Washington, D.C., WV, or US Territories)
1-410-735-6270
email: jkc@jhu.edu

Duke University Talent Identification Program (AL, AR, FL, GA, IA, KS, KY, LA, MS, MO, NE, NC, OK, SC, TN, or TX)
1-919-668-9100
email: jkc@tip.duke.edu

Northwestern University Center for Talent Development (IL, IN, MI, MN, ND, OH, SD, or WI)
1-847-491-3782 ext. 8
email: ctd@northwestern.edu

Center for Bright Kids Regional Talent Center (CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, or WY)
1-303-428-2634
email: centerforbrightkids@gmail.com

The Foundation collaborates with the talent identification centers at Duke, Johns Hopkins, and Northwestern Universities, and the Center for Bright Kids. Please note that you need not be participating in the talent centers' programs to apply to the Young Scholars Program.

- **Applications MUST BE RECEIVED at the address below by APRIL 26, 2010 to be considered eligible.**
- **Mail the complete application packet to:**
Jack Kent Cooke Foundation
Young Scholars Program
301 ACT Drive, PO Box 4030
Iowa City, IA 52243
1-800-498-6478 (for use on overnight delivery forms)

► NOTIFICATION

All applicants will be mailed a postcard confirming receipt of application. The Foundation notifies all applicants of final decisions by November 2010.

For further information concerning the Young Scholars Program, please see the Foundation's website.*