

Application Guidelines

Think Big. Work Hard. Achieve.

► 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, participation in available honors or advanced courses, commitment to learning, and work ethic.
- **Significant 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 Young Scholars was approximately \$27,000.
- **Will to succeed:** 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 goals in the face of obstacles.
- **Leadership and public service:** Demonstrated leadership roles in volunteer, community, and school-related activities.
- **Critical-thinking ability:** Responses to application questions demonstrate ability to analyze and evaluate information.
- **Breadth of interests and activities:** Individuals with broad interests who excel in more than one area.

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 Profile**
6. **Language Arts Teacher Recommendation** (from a language arts or English teacher)
7. **Mathematics Teacher Recommendation**
8. **Personal Recommendation** (optional for all except home-schooled applicants)
9. **Survey Form**

► INSTRUCTIONS

- Ensure that the student meets the eligibility requirements.
- Follow directions carefully and complete ALL sections on each applicable 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). Students with a disability that prevents them from writing by hand should complete the online application.
- 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 Recommendation Forms to appropriate people, and inform them of your April 16, 2012 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.
- 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.

Applications MUST BE RECEIVED at the address below by APRIL 16, 2012 to be considered eligible.

Mail the complete application packet to:

**JKCF Young Scholars Program
c/o ISTS, 1321 Murfreesboro Road, Ste. 800
Nashville, TN 37217
800-310-4053 (for use on overnight delivery forms)**

► QUESTIONS

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 DC, WV, or US Territories)
phone: 410-735-6270; email: jkcfinfo@jhu.edu

Duke University Talent Identification Program

(AL, AR, FL, GA, IA, KS, KY, LA, MS, MO, NE, NC, OK, SC, TN, or TX)
phone: 919-668-9100; email: jkcf@tip.duke.edu

Northwestern University Center for Talent Development

(IL, IN, MI, MN, ND, OH, SD, or WI)
phone: 847-491-3782; email: ctd@northwestern.edu

Center for Bright Kids Regional Talent Center

(CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, or WY)
phone: 303-428-2634 email: cbk@centerforbrightkids.org

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.

► NOTIFICATION

All applicants will be notified confirming receipt of application. The Foundation notifies all applicants of final decisions by November 2012.

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