



Young Scholars Program

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The Program Experience

The Cooke Young Scholars Program is a selective five-year, pre-college scholarship for high-performing 7th grade students with financial need. Educational advisers help Cooke Young Scholars maximize the high school experience and prepare to thrive at the nation's top-performing colleges. Our programming and support includes:

- Identifying an appropriately rigorous high school.
- Engaging in four-year planning and goal-setting.
- Funding for academic and extracurricular opportunities, such as music and art lessons; supplemental academic classes; and technology.
- Annual summer programs, including two required Cooke Young Scholar events.
- Year-round interaction and networking with a community of high-achieving peers.

Who We Select

Young Scholars are selected from a nationwide applicant pool each year. Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- **Grade level** – Entering 8th grade in the fall of 2019.
- **Academics** – Since the beginning of 6th grade, earned grades of all or mostly A's in school with no C's or below in core academic subjects.
- **Testing** – We require the official score report from the applicant's state standardized testing and if available, SAT or ACT score reports.
- **Income** – Demonstrate unmet financial need. We will consider applicants with family income up to \$95,000. Last year's cohort of new Young Scholars had a median family income of approximately \$39,000.
- **Location** – Reside in the U.S. or a U.S. territory and plan to attend high school in the U.S. or a U.S. territory.

Cooke Scholars come from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds and from rural, suburban, and urban communities. Many scholars are the first in their families to pursue higher education.