



Winter 2025

The Cooke Young Scholars Program

Application Period: February 6 – April 30, 2025



JACK KENT COOKE
FOUNDATION

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Counselor, Academic
ALUMNI

MISSION STATEMENT

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is dedicated to advancing the education of exceptionally talented students who have financial need.

THREE UNIQUE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

YOUNG SCHOLARS

PROGRAM:

8th – 12th Grade

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

PROGRAM:

Four-year college
scholarship

UNDERGRADUATE TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIP:

Community college students
aiming to transfer to a
four-year college

3,400
SCHOLARS

\$304 MILLION
AWARDED IN SCHOLARSHIPS

\$133 MILLION
IN GRANTMAKING



COOKE YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM

TIMELINE: COOKE YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM



Link to application made public



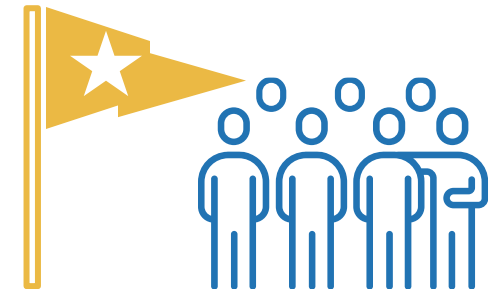
Application closes



Application review process



New cohort selected



Welcome Weekend in-person event with Scholars and families

WHO CAN APPLY



GRADE LEVEL:

Currently in 7th grade and/or entering 8th grade in fall 2025

ACADEMICS:

Earned mostly As in core academic subjects since 6th grade

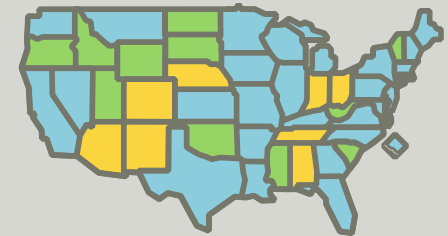


FINANCIAL

NEED: Median family income for last year's cohort was \$34,000

LOCATION:

Currently in middle school in the U.S. and planning to attend high school in the U.S.



YOUNG SCHOLAR EXPERIENCE



YOUNG SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT: PEPPER



A 2018 Cooke Young Scholar, Pepper is an astrophysics and mechanical engineering double-major at Rice University. As a Cooke Young Scholar, Pepper earned her private pilot license by the age of 17 years old and led a major initiative with Girl Scouts of America called “Girls Who Soar.” The project allowed girls to earn flight hours as part of an aviation badge that previously was only available for Boy Scouts. Pepper decided to become a pilot at the age of 10 years old and is thriving at Rice.

YOUNG SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT: BISHOP



Bishop, a 2018 Cooke Young Scholar, attends MIT as an engineering student. While in high school, despite having no prior experience with 3D printing or soldering, he designed and manufactured a portable phoropter from scratch, creating a device for determining glasses prescriptions that can be easily produced and distributed to low-income areas. Bishop also dedicated more than 80 hours to volunteering at food banks and soup kitchens.

YOUNG SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT: MICHELLE



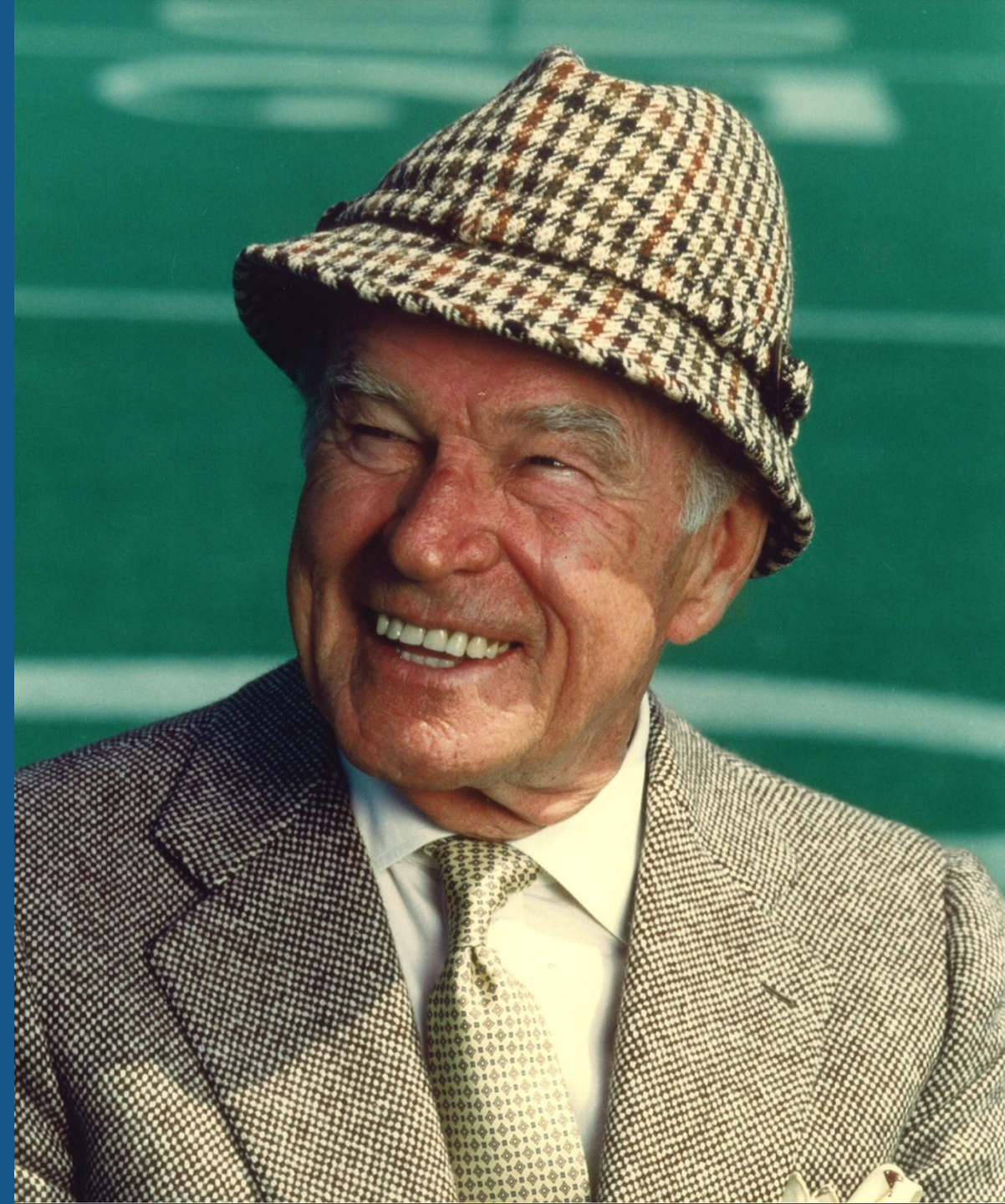
Michelle, a 2018 Cooke Young Scholar, currently attends Stanford University as a biochemistry student. Her Chinese- and Vietnamese-American identity and the obstacles she's observed among her family and in her neighborhood (the Bay Area in California) have guided her through her high school journey. As a Young Scholar, Michelle created a small nonprofit that organized educational opportunities for youth in her community. She also published a cookbook of cultural family recipes with members of her community to share the importance of passing down family traditions through food.

YOUNG SCHOLAR COMMUNITY



MR. COOKE'S LEGACY

- Mr. Cooke believed education was a life-long pursuit despite not being able to pursue a formal education himself.
- He was a passionate student his entire life and was knowledgeable in fields as diverse as literature, music, sports, and architecture.
- When he died in 1997, Mr. Cooke left the bulk of his fortune to establish the Cooke Foundation and provide remarkable students with the chance to soar.
- Every year on October 25, the Cooke Scholar community celebrates Mr. Cooke's birthday and the opportunities his generosity has made possible.



QUESTIONS?





THANK YOU!