

YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM PROFILE

JACK KENT COOKE
FOUNDATION

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is dedicated to advancing the education of exceptionally promising students who have financial need. Since 2000, the Foundation has awarded \$304 million in scholarships to more than 3,400 students from 8th grade through graduate school, along with comprehensive academic advising, career pathway counseling and other support services. The Foundation has also provided \$136 million in grants to organizations that serve such students.

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. Cooke Educational Advisers help Young Scholars maximize the high school experience and prepare to thrive at the nation's top 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, plus two required Cooke Young Scholar events.
- » Year-round interaction and networking with a community of high-achieving peers.

APPLICATION OPEN
FEBRUARY 6–APRIL 30, 2025

APPLY ONLINE THROUGH OUR WEBSITE
JKCF.ORG/YSP

WHO WE SELECT

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

- » **Grade level**—Currently in seventh grade during the 2024–2025 academic year.
- » **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.
- » **Financial Need**—Demonstrate unmet financial need. We will consider applicants with maximum annual family gross income up to \$95,000. The 2024 cohort of Cooke Young Scholars had a median family income of approximately \$36,800. During the selection process, the Foundation will conduct a full financial review which will take into account all income and assets of the student and the student's parents.
- » **Location**—Currently attending middle school in the U.S. and planning to attend high school in the U.S.

Cooke Scholars come from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds and from rural, suburban, and urban communities. Many Scholars will be the first in their families to pursue higher education upon high school graduation.

2024 SELECTED YOUNG SCHOLARS

ABOUT THE 2024 SCHOLARS

COHORT SIZE

55

COMMUNITY TYPE

11% RURAL 47% SUBURBAN 42% URBAN

RACE/ETHNICITY

AFRICAN AMERICAN OR BLACK 16%

ASIAN OR ASIAN AMERICAN 18%

HISPANIC/LATINE OR SPANISH ORIGIN 5%

WHITE 22%

MULTIRACIAL 36%

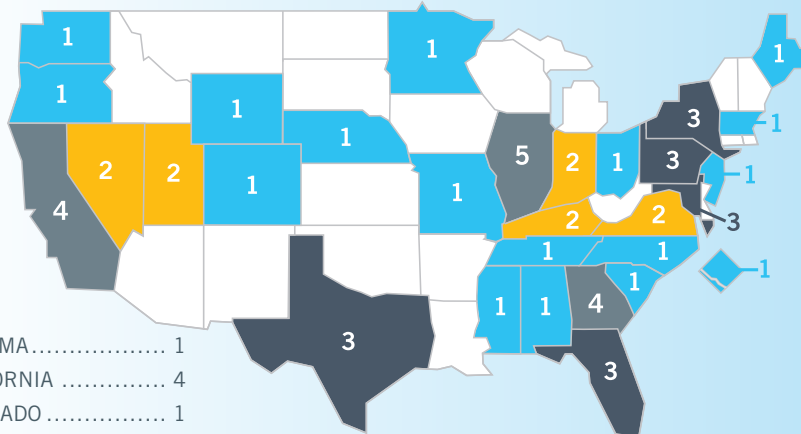
DID NOT DESIGNATE 2%



51% FEMALE 47% MALE 2% NON-BINARY

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

29 STATES + DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



ALABAMA..... 1	MINNESOTA 1	OREGON 1
CALIFORNIA 4	MISSISSIPPI 1	PENNSYLVANIA 3
COLORADO 1	MISSOURI 1	SOUTH CAROLINA 1
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 1	NEBRASKA 1	TENNESSEE..... 1
FLORIDA 3	NEVADA 2	TEXAS 3
GEORGIA..... 4	NEW JERSEY..... 1	UTAH 2
ILLINOIS 5	NEW YORK 3	VIRGINIA 2
INDIANA 2	NORTH CAROLINA 1	WASHINGTON 1
KENTUCKY 2	OHIO..... 1	WYOMING..... 1
MAINE..... 1		
MARYLAND..... 3		
MASSACHUSETTS 1		

\$36,800
MEDIAN FAMILY ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME

OUR SCHOLARS REPRESENT A WIDE ARRAY OF INTERESTS AND TALENTS AND HAVE ATTAINED IMPRESSIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING MIDDLE SCHOOL. THEY ARE ALREADY TAKING ACCELERATED COURSES IN STEM, HUMANITIES, AND LANGUAGES.

This data on our 55 Young Scholars is compiled from their applications, which they submit in the spring before enrolling in eighth grade.

Some percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.