

YOUNG SCHOLARS PROFILE FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

NOVEMBER 2025

JACK KENT COOKE
FOUNDATION

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Scholars Program is a national scholarship for students in grades 8–12 who demonstrate exceptional academic abilities, unique talents, and persistence to achieve high aspirations. Students must also have financial need. The Young Scholars Program provides comprehensive educational advising, financial support, talent development opportunities, and a stimulating peer community. Since 2001, we have served over 1,300 Young Scholars, preparing them to thrive at our nation’s best colleges and make significant contributions to the world.

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2026

CLASS SIZE: 58

NUMBER OF APPLICANTS: 1,009



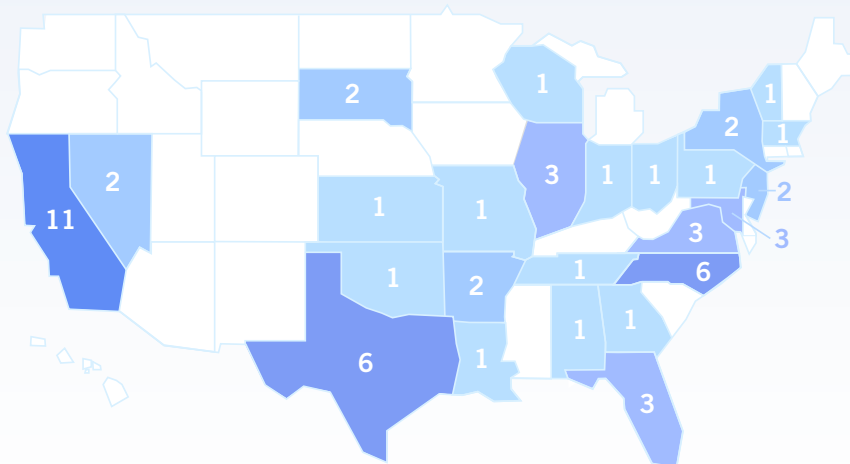
5.9% PROGRAM
ACCEPTANCE RATE



55% FIRST-GENERATION
COLLEGE GOERS

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

25 STATES



ALABAMA.....1	KANSAS1	NEW JERSEY2	SOUTH DAKOTA.....2
ARKANSAS.....2	LOUISIANA.....1	NEW YORK2	TENNESSEE.....1
CALIFORNIA.....11	MARYLAND3	NORTH CAROLINA6	TEXAS6
FLORIDA3	MASSACHUSETTS1	OHIO.....1	VERMONT1
GEORGIA.....1	MISSOURI1	OKLAHOMA1	VIRGINIA.....3
ILLINOIS3	NEVADA2	PENNSYLVANIA1	WISCONSIN.....1
INDIANA1			

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:

- AP Scholar with Distinction (Awardees)
- Conrad Spirit of Innovation Challenge (Finalist)
- First Place Academic All-State (Awardee)
- Harvard Model Congress (Delegate/Awardee)
- Hawaii State Science Fair, Entomology Award & 2nd Place in Category (Awardee)
- Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF Finalists)
- International Biology Olympiad (Finalist)
- International Climate Change Olympiad (Finalist)
- Japanese Prize Winner, 2025
- MITES Semester (Participant)
- National Achievement Scholar (Awardees)
- National African American Recognition (Awardees)
- National Center for Women & Information Technology (State Winner)
- National Hispanic Recognition Gold Medal (Awardee)
- New Hampshire Science and Engineering Fair (Awardee)
- Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS Finalist)
- Scholastic Art & Writing Awards (Awardees)

SENIOR SUMMIT RESEARCH PROJECTS:

- Adapting Commercial Toys to Enhance Accessibility for Children with Physical Disabilities
- Airtime Analytics: A Real Time Jump Estimator Built with Accessible Hardware
- Flow State in the Brain: High-Resolution EEG Meets fMRI
- The “Malaise” Speech: An Honest Politician’s Prophecy to America
- The Neural Code of Cancer: Linking Brain Activity to Tumor Progression
- Persuasion and “Philosophy of Atheism”
- State-Level Correlational Analysis of Food Insecurity and Mental Health
- StreetAware: A Vision for Better Roads

YOUNG SCHOLAR EXPERIENCE

Cooke Young Scholars know that being seen as smart is not as valuable as working hard to learn and grow every day. **Scholars own their learning.** They choose challenging courses and build a goal-oriented plan that stretch them outside of their comfort zone. Rising seniors conduct research with university faculty during our campus-based, residential Senior Summit experience, presenting their learning in a final showcase.

Young Scholars engage and lead purposefully. Almost a quarter of Scholars have founded an organization in their school or community, while the majority of them serve in distinctive leadership roles. In First Summer, rising ninth-grade Scholars hone their leadership skills to work together

on community-based problems that matter to them.

Coached to craft annual individualized learning plans, Scholars intentionally develop their talents. Our financial support enables each Scholar to pursue extracurricular and academic interests to reach their unique goals. We have supported Scholars to develop their talents as a professional yo-yoer, composers, published writers, slam poets, mathematicians, and scientific researchers, among many other emerging experts.

We believe that the real magic in learning comes when Scholars connect with others and care for themselves. Young Scholars and their families build strong relationships with their Cooke Educational Advisers

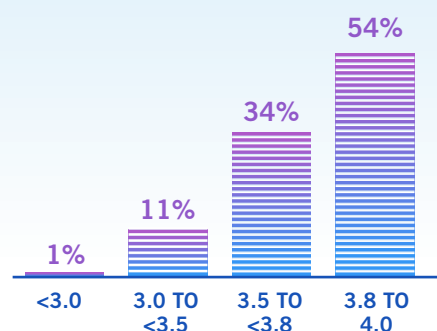
over the five years. Through in-person and virtual activities, advisers foster a peer community grounded in a commitment to wellbeing where Scholars give and get meaningful support. In grades 10–11, Scholars participate together in Cooke Community Summer Programs on college campuses or study abroad.

Cooke Young Scholars contribute to the world through significant achievements and everyday actions. We encourage Scholars to think big and act in service of their aspirations. What is the mark they will leave on their school? The influence they wish to have in their community? We mentor Young Scholars to use their efforts and talents to benefit others, solve challenges, and creatively produce. Our legacy is our Scholars' legacies.

ABOUT THE GRADUATING CLASSES OF 2023–2025

TOTAL SCHOLAR COUNT: 152

GRADE DISTRIBUTION RANGE
(BASED ON CUMULATIVE GPA)



NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS 10
NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS 25

HIGH SCHOOL TYPE

HOMESCHOOL..... 1%
PRIVATE..... 45%
PUBLIC..... 55%

** Please note that some percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.*

CONTACT US

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Giuseppe Basili

VICE PRESIDENTS

Natalie Rodriguez Jansorn

Dana O'Neill

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

June Folliard

TELEPHONE: (703) 723-8000

EMAIL: youngscholarsprogram@jkcf.org

WWW.JKCF.ORG

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT AND PERFORMANCE

99% OF YOUNG SCHOLARS MATRICULATED TO COLLEGE WITH A COOKE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP IN THE PAST THREE YEARS

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY	1
AUBURN UNIVERSITY	1
AUGUSTANA COLLEGE	1
BENNINGTON COLLEGE	1
BOSTON COLLEGE	2
BOWDOIN COLLEGE	1
BROWN UNIVERSITY	6
BRYN MAWR COLLEGE	1
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	1
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY	1
CARLETON COLLEGE	1
CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY	2
CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY	1
COLBURN SCHOOL	1
COLORADO COLLEGE	1
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY	6
COOPER UNION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AND ART	1
CORNELL UNIVERSITY	1

DAVIDSON COLLEGE	1
DUKE UNIVERSITY	6
EMORY UNIVERSITY	1
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY ..	1
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY	1
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY	1
GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	3
GOUCHER COLLEGE	1
HAMPTON UNIVERSITY	1
HARVARD UNIVERSITY	6
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY	2
LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE	1
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY	1
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY	1
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO	1
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	9
MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY	1
MOREHOUSE COLLEGE	1
NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY	1
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY	1
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY	1
POMONA COLLEGE	1
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY	2
PURDUE UNIVERSITY	3
RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN	1
RICE UNIVERSITY	3
ROLLINS COLLEGE	1
SMITH COLLEGE	1
STANFORD UNIVERSITY	7
STEPHENS COLLEGE	1
STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY .	1
SWARTHMORE COLLEGE	1
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY	1
TUFTS UNIVERSITY	1
TULANE UNIVERSITY	1

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY	1
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY	1
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT LOS ANGELES	2
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SAN DIEGO	1
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SANTA BARBARA	1
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO	7
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER	1
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	2
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA	1
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON	1
UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS	1
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN	3
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL	4
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA	2
UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO	1
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AT COLUMBIA	1
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	2
UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS	1
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT KNOXVILLE	1
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN	1
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA	2
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY	1
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY	1
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY	2
WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY	2
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS	1
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY	1
YALE UNIVERSITY	8
TOTAL	150

3.64

Average Cumulative
College GPA*

*GPA reported is for graduating College Scholar
classes of 2023-2025.

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 \$332 million in scholarships to nearly 3,900 students from 8th grade through graduate school, along with comprehensive educational advising, career counseling, and other support services. The Foundation has also provided \$144 million in grants to organizations that serve such students.



JACK KENT COOKE
FOUNDATION

www.JKCF.org