The Young Scholars Program

Sponsored by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation

WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM DO?

Exceptional students thrive when they are valued for their particular gifts, talents, and interests and when they are supported in various ways by nurturing relationships. The Young Scholars Program of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is one of the most personalized and generous scholarship programs in the United States that serves students who show potential through academic excellence and extracurricular involvement.

Students apply for the program in 7th grade, and upon acceptance, begin participation in the 8th grade. The Foundation continues to work closely with the student and his/her family throughout high school, college, and beyond to develop a tailored educational program for the student which could include summer enrichment programs, distance learning courses, and music and art instruction.

Young Scholars are chosen based upon the criteria below with particular attention to the first two.

* High academic ability and achievement: Strong academic record, academic awards and honors, and substantive assessments by educators providing confidential letters of recommendation. We consider grades (typically mostly 'As'), achievement test scores, participation in available honors or advanced courses, commitment to learning, and work ethic.
* 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 $25,000.
* Persistence: 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 those goals in the face of obstacles.
* Desire to help others: Purposeful and meaningful commitment to others which may be evidenced by participation in volunteer/community service activities.

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.

WHAT ARE THE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS?

Minimum Eligibility:

* The student must be entering 8th grade in the fall of the upcoming school year.
* Since the beginning of 6th grade, the student has earned grades of all or mostly A’s in school with no C’s in the core academic subjects (English/language arts, math, science, and social studies).
* The student’s family adjusted gross income must be less than $95,000.

NOTE: The average family income of previous classes of Young Scholars was approximately $25,000.

Two-Phase Application Process

Phase One Requirements

* Short application including information about the student and his/her family, GPA, and other basic information
* School Profile Form to be completed by the student’s principal or guidance counselor
* Financial information including the last three years’ AGI for the student’s household
* Teacher Recommendation Form from the student’s English/Language Arts or Mathematics teacher

If the student is selected as a semifinalist based on the Phase One Application, the student will be invited to submit additional information in Phase Two.

Phase Two Requirements

* Continuation of student application
* Parent short answer questions
* Financial Form, including a copy of most recent Federal Tax Return
* Teacher Recommendation Form from the student’s English/Language Arts or Mathematics teacher
* Personal Recommendation Form from a coach, mentor, etc.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

More information and an application form can be accessed at

http://www.jkcf.org/scholarships/young-scholars-program/