



# Young Scholars Program

**Application Period**  
February 5, 2026-April 29, 2026

**Apply Online**  
<https://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/jack-kent-cooke-foundation-scholarships>

## 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 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.

To learn more information about the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation or the Young Scholars Program, please contact Tammie Stewart at [Tammie-stewart@northwestern.edu](mailto:Tammie-stewart@northwestern.edu).

## 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 2025-2026 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 are the first in their families to pursue higher education.