

College Scholarships for Kids Under 13

Please note: This information has been compiled from sources on the web.

Note: Every database does not contain the same information on scholarships. Below is information from 3 such databases. Students who are not yet eligible for some scholarships may have time to do certain activities and then apply. (Therefore, fifth graders may also want to search online for "scholarships for middle school students.")

Source: <http://mycollegeguide.org/blog/05/2013/college-scholarships-kids-age-13/>

College Scholarships for Kids Under 13

[Christopher Columbus Community Service Awards](#) — Students in grades 6-8 can get a head start on paying for college with unique college scholarship opportunities like this one! Grab your pals, though, because this scholarship prize is open to teams. Solve real world community problems with technology and science, and maybe you'll win a \$2000 scholarship prize in the process!

[Girls Going Places Entrepreneurship Award Program](#) — How do you make a difference in your community? Girls that have made valuable changes to their community are eligible for a \$10,000 first place prize.

[Letters About Literature](#) — Choose an author, living or dead, and write an honest letter detailing how his or her work changed your way of thinking or your life! There are different age levels and multiple winners for each level.

[Davidson Fellows](#) — Have you already accomplished something phenomenal? Have you made a significant contribution toward the betterment of society in fields like math, science, philosophy, music, or literature (among others)? This scholarship hands out a fantastic prize (\$50,000 for first place) to match!

[Doodle 4 Google](#) — You are probably already familiar with the Google Doodles. How about creating one of your own? Not only is it fun, but you can also win a large grant for your school. That will look exceptionally nice on your future college application!

<http://bonniecabbageprogram.com/participate/> This is open only to third graders in the late winter and spring of their year in 3rd grade.

<http://www.jkcf.org/scholarship-programs/> Students must apply in 7th grade only.

Paying for College

Your child has got plenty of time to figure out how to [pay for college](#), but don't forget about the more traditional methods of payment for the future, either.

Financial aid, student loans — there are a lot of options. When your child hits high school? We'll be here with the information you need to make informed decisions.

Image Credit: Flickr, [Martijn Nijenhuis](#)

Who We Are: Information you can trust. For 20 years [My College Guide](#) has produced an annual magazine chock full of free college info for high-achieving high school sophomores and another edition just for high-achieving juniors! Check out our participating colleges.

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<http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/age13.phtml>

Source: <http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/age13.phtml>

Scholarships for Children Under Age 13

None of the online scholarship databases includes information about college scholarships that are available only to children under age 13 because of federal privacy laws. The [Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 \(COPPA\)](#), 15 USC 6501, and the [Children's Privacy Protection Final Rule](#), require web sites to obtain "verifiable parental consent" before collecting, using or disclosing individually identifiable information from children under age 13. This effectively prevents online scholarship databases from matching students under age 13 with college scholarships. Because of the difficulties in obtaining consent, all of the scholarship databases avoid the problem by omitting scholarships for underage children from their databases and refusing to register users under age 13.

Unfortunately, this makes it difficult for parents of younger students to find information about scholarships available to students under age 13. [Early awareness programs](#) try to encourage families to start searching for scholarships and saving for college early, yet are unable to help them find the scholarships. (Some early awareness programs such as GEAR UP offer their own college scholarships to encourage participation.)

Because FinAid does not require registration and does not collect personally identifiable information from children under age 13, we are able to include a comprehensive list of awards available to students under age 13 and in grades 8 and below. This list is directed at parents of younger students, and is intended to emphasize that students of all ages can pursue scholarships. This list is devoted to college scholarships that can be won by elementary and middle school students.

Some of the scholarships listed below are also available to students over age 13. To find additional scholarships for students who are over age 13, see the [FastWeb scholarship database](#).

Scholarships for Children Who Are Under Age 13

[Action For Nature Eco-Hero Award](#)

[Action for Nature](#) sponsors the International Young Eco-Hero Awards to recognize youth aged 8 to 16 who have completed environmental projects focused on environmental advocacy, environmental health, research or protection of the natural world. Cash prizes of up to \$500 will be awarded. The deadline is February 28. For more information, call 1-415-421-2640, fax 1-415-922-5717, write to Action For Nature, 2269 Chestnut Street, #263, San Francisco, CA 94123, or send email to awards@actionfornature.org.

[Angela Award](#)

The Angela Award recognizes a female student in grades 5-8 who is involved in science. It is open to US and Canadian students. The award is a \$1,000 US EE Savings Bond or Canadian Savings Bond. The award was established in honor of Gerry Wheeler, Executive Director Emeritus of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA).

[BattleBots IQ](#)

BattleBots IQ is a robot-building contest for teams of middle and high school students and college students. See the [rules](#) for more information, or send email to info@battlebots.com.

[The Do Something Awards](#)

The BRICK Awards by Do Something provide community grants and scholarships to "change-makers" age 25 and under who work with Do Something to improve their communities. The competition is open to US and Canadian citizens and permanent residents. Five Do Something Award nominees will receive at least \$10,000 in community grants and scholarships. Of the five winners, one grand prize winner will receive a total of \$100,000 in community grants. The nominees also participate in a live VH1 TV show and will receive continued support from DoSomething.org. (The community grants are paid to the nominee's organization or a not-for-profit organization of the nominee's choice. All winners have the option of receiving \$5,000 of the total award in the form of a college scholarship.) The deadline is March 1. For more information, send email to dsawards@dosomething.org.

[Christopher Columbus Community Service Awards](#)

The Christopher Columbus Community Service Awards are open to teams of students in grades 6-8. The competition focuses on using science and technology to solve real-world community problems. Each member of the winning teams receives a \$2,000 US Savings Bond. Winners also receive a trip to the National Championship Week at Walt Disney World. The competition is sponsored by the [Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation](#) in cooperation with the National Science Foundation. The deadline is the second Monday in February. For more information, call 1-800-291-6020, write to Christopher Columbus Awards, 105 Terry Drive, Suite 120, Newtown, PA 18940-3425, or send email to success@edumedia.com.

[Courage in Student Journalism Awards](#)

The Courage in Student Journalism Awards are sponsored by the Newseum, the Student Press Law Center, and the National

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Advertisement

Scholastic Press Association. A \$5,000 award is granted each year to a middle or high school journalist who lawfully exercised his or her First Amendment press rights despite difficulty or resistance. The deadline is July 1 (postmark). For more information, call 1-703-284-3775, fax 1-703-284-3535, write to Barbara McCormack, NEWSEUM, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22209 or send email to bmccormack@freedomforum.org.

Davidson Fellows

Davidson Fellowships are awarded by the Davidson Institute for Talent Development to US students under age 18 who have completed a significant piece of work in the fields of Mathematics, Science, Technology, Music, Literature, Philosophy or Outside the Box. The significant piece of work should have the potential to benefit society. The focus of the program is on gifted and talented students. There is no minimum age for eligibility. Four \$50,000 scholarships, seven \$25,000 scholarships, and five \$10,000 scholarships are awarded each year. The deadline is March 31 (receipt); there are earlier deadlines for some forms. For more information, write to The Davidson Institute for Talent Development, Attn: Davidson Fellows Coordinators, 9665 Gateway Drive, Suite B, Reno, NV 89521 or send email to davidsonfellows@ditd.org.

Dick Blick Linoleum Block Print Contest

Dick Blick sponsors an annual contest for block prints made from linoleum. There are three divisions: grades 4-6, grades 7-9, and grades 10-12. Within each division there is one first prize of \$400, one second prize of \$250, one third prize of \$150, and two honorable mentions of \$50. The prizes are in the form of art materials chosen by the winner's teacher from Dick Blick's catalog for use in the winner's art class. The deadline is March 15. For more information, call 1-800-828-4548, fax 1-800-621-8293, write to Artsonia, ATTN: Linoleum Contest, 3166 North Lincoln Avenue, Suite 416, Chicago, IL 60657, or send email to info@dickblick.com.

Doodle 4 Google

Google is famous for the doodles that occasionally replace the Google logo. The Doodle 4 Google competition challenges children in grades K-12 to create their own play on Google's logo. Doodles are judged in four grade groups: K-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. There is one national finalist in each grade group. One national winner receives a \$15,000 college scholarship, a trip to the Google New York office, a laptop computer, a digital tablet and a t-shirt with his or her doodle. (The winner's school or after-school program also receives a \$25,000 technology grant.) The other three national finalists receive a \$5,000 scholarship, a trip to the Google New York office, a digital tablet and a t-shirt with his or her doodle. The registration deadline is in early March and the doodle entry deadline is in mid-March.

DuPont Challenge Science Essay Competition

The DuPont Challenge Science Essay Competition is sponsored by the DuPont Center for Collaborative Research & Education in cooperation with General Learning Communications. The competition is open to US and Canadian students in grades 7-12 inclusive. The competition involves writing a 700 to 1,000 word essay about a scientific or technological development, event, or theory chosen by the student. Topic areas include chemical sciences, life sciences, physical sciences, earth sciences, environmental sciences and space technology. There are two divisions: grades 7-9 and grades 10-12. Within each division there is one first place prize of a \$5,000 US Savings Bond, one second place prize of a \$3,000 US Savings Bond, one third place prize of a \$2,000 US Savings Bond, and several honorable mention prizes of a \$200 US Savings Bond. The first through third place winners also receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Space Center Houston with a parent and the sponsoring Science and English teachers. The deadline is in mid-January. For more information, call 1-847-205-3000 or write to The DuPont Challenge, Science Essay Awards Program, c/o General Learning Communications, 900 Skokie Blvd., Suite 200, Northbrook, IL 60062-4028.

Girls Going Places Entrepreneurship Award Program

The Girls Going Places Entrepreneurship Award Program is open to girls age 12 to 18 who demonstrate entrepreneurship and make a difference in their schools and communities. The first prize winner receives \$10,000, the second prize winner receives \$5,000, the third prize winner receives \$3,000, and the 12 finalists receive \$1,000 each. The award program is sponsored by [Guardian Life Insurance Company of America](#). The deadline (receipt) is March 1.

Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes is awarded annually to ten US and Canadian students, aged 8-18, who have developed an extraordinary service project that helped people and the planet. Half of the winners are focused on helping their communities and people, and half are focused on protecting the environment. Winners receive a \$2,500 scholarship. For more information, write to The Barron Prize, PO Box 17, Boulder, CO 80306-0017.

Jif Most Creative Peanut Butter Sandwich Contest

The Jif Most Creative Peanut Butter Sandwich Contest is open to children who are age 6 to 12. The grand prize is a \$25,000 scholarship fund. The four runners up receive a \$2,500 scholarship fund. The deadline is mid-November. The contest is sponsored by the J.M. Smucker Company.

Kohl's Kids Who Care Program

The Kohl's Kids Who Care Program (www.kohlkids.com) honors students age 6-18 who are involved in community service. Candidates enter by being nominated by an adult age 21 years or older. Nominees are considered in two age groups, 6-12 and 13-18, with three prize levels within each group. More than 2,000 children will receive a total of more than \$350,000 in scholarships and prizes. More than 2,000 store winners each receive a \$50 Kohl's gift card, 194 regional winners each receive a \$1,000 scholarship,

and 10 national winners each receive a \$5,000 scholarship. The deadline is March 15.

[Letters About Literature](#)

Letters About Literature is a national reading/writing contest sponsored by the Center for the Book in the US Library of Congress in partnership with Target Stores. The contest is open to US students in grades 4-12. Entries consist of a personal letter to an author, living or dead, from any genre, explaining how the author's work changed the student's way of thinking about the world or themselves. There are three competition levels: grades 4-6 (100-250 words), grades 7-8 (250-500 words), and grades 9-12 (500-750 words). Two winners are selected from each level and awarded a \$500 gift card from Target. The contest opens in September and the deadline is December 1 (postmark). State winners are announced in March and national winners in April. For more information, send email to lettersaboutlit@epix.net.

[MATHCOUNTS](#)

MATHCOUNTS is a national math competition for middle school students (grades 6-8). Individuals and teams of four mathletes from each school compete on a local, state and national level. All 228 national competitors and their coaches receive all-expense-paid trips to the MATHCOUNTS National Competition. The national champion receives the \$8,000 Donald G. Weinert Scholarship. The second place individual winner receives a \$6,000 college scholarship. The third and fourth place winners (countdown round semi-finalists) receive \$4,000 scholarships. The masters round champion receives a \$2,000 scholarship. The written round winner receives a \$8,000 scholarship and the written round runner-up receives a \$6,000 scholarship. The members of the first place team each receive a \$2,000 scholarship. Additional prizes include trips to US Space Camp, notebook computers, PDAs, and TI calculators. The registration deadline is in early December. Local and chapter competitions take place in February, state competitions in March, and the national competition in May. For more information, call 1-703-684-2828, fax 1-703-836-4875, write to MATHCOUNTS Foundation, 1420 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, or send email to info@mathcounts.org.

[National Marbles Tournament Scholarships](#)

The annual National Marbles Tournament awards \$5,000 in scholarships to mibsters (marble shooters) aged 8 to 14. The tournament is held in June each year. The children crowned King and Queen of Marbles each receive a \$2,000 scholarship. A \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to the boy and girl who win the sportsmanship award. For more information, write to National Marbles Tournament, 811 Roeth Avenue, Cumberland, MD 21502.

[National Geography Bee](#)

The National Geography Bee is sponsored by the National Geographic Society. It is open to US students in grades 4-8 who are age 15 or younger by the date of the national competition. The National Geography Bee is a three stage competition, starting at the school level (competitions from mid-November through mid-January), followed by state competitions in April and the national competition in May. The ten finalists compete for college scholarships. The first place winner receives a \$25,000 scholarship, the second place winner a \$15,000 scholarship, and the third place winner a \$10,000 scholarship. The school registration deadline is October 15. (There is a \$50 school registration fee.) For more information, call 1-202-828-6659 or write to National Geographic Bee, National Geographic Society, 1145 17th Street N.W., Washington, DC 20036-4688.

[National High School Oratorical Contest](#)

The National High School Oratorical Contest is sponsored by the American Legion. It is open to US students in junior high school or high school (grades 7-12) who are under age 20 as of the date of the national contest. State contests are held no later than mid-March, and the national contest finals are held in April. The American Legion pays for the travel and lodging expenses of the state winners and their chaperones. The first place winner receives an \$18,000 scholarship. The second place winner receives a \$16,000 scholarship. The third place winner receives a \$14,000 scholarship. Each state winner who participates in the first round of the national contest receives a \$1,500 scholarship. For more information, call 1-317-630-1249, write to National Americanism and Children & Youth Division, The American Legion National Headquarters, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, or send email to acy@legion.org.

[National History Day Contest](#)

The National History Day Contest is open to students in grades 6-12 in the junior (grades 6-8) and senior (grades 9-12) divisions. The projects relate to a specific [historical topic or theme](#). There are seven categories, including individual papers, individual exhibits, group exhibits, individual performance, group performance, individual documentary, and group documentation. Within each category, the first place winner receives \$1,000, the second place winner receives \$500, and the third place winner receives \$250. The national contest is held in June.

[National Spelling Bee](#)

The National Spelling Bee is sponsored by the E.W. Scripps Company. It is open to students in grades 1-8 as of their school finals (February 1) and who are under age 16 as of the date of the national finals (June 1). The champion wins a total of \$28,000 in cash prizes and scholarships. The second place finisher wins a cash prize of \$6,000, the third place finisher receives \$3,500, the fourth place finisher receives \$2,000, the fifth place finisher receives \$1,250, the sixth place finisher receives \$1,000, and the seventh place finisher receives \$750. There are also assorted other prizes ranging from \$50 to \$600 for students who are eliminated in earlier rounds. For more information, call 1-513-977-3040, fax 1-513-977-3800, or send email to bee@scripps.com.

[NewsCurrents Student Editorial Cartoon Contest](#)

The NewsCurrents Student Editorial Cartoon Contest is sponsored by Knowledge Unlimited, Inc. and is open to students in grades K-12. There are three divisions: grades K-6, 7-9 and 10-12. First, second and third place winners in each division receive US Savings Bonds. The deadline is March 1 (postmark). For more information, call 1-800-356-2303 or write to NewsCurrents Cartoon Contest, PO Box 52, Madison, WI 53701.

[Nicholas A. Virgilio Memorial Haiku Competition](#)

The Nicholas A. Virgilio Memorial Haiku Competition is open to students in grades 7-12. Entries from home-schooled students are not accepted. The six winning haiku received \$50. The deadline is March 25 (receipt).

[Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Awards](#)

The Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Awards are sponsored by the [Nicholas Green Foundation](#) and administered by the [National Association for Gifted Children](#). One \$500 US Savings Bond is awarded to a student from each state. Candidates should be students in grades 3-6 who have distinguished themselves in academics, leadership or the arts. The deadline is June 1. Individual [State associations](#) may have earlier deadlines (in some cases as early as January 1). See the web site for additional details.

[Olive Garden Pasta Tales Essay Contest](#)

The Olive Garden Pasta Tales essay contest is open to students in grades 1-12 from the US and Canada. Essays are 50 to 250 words on a topic that changes each year. The deadline is in early December. The grand prize winner will receive a \$2,500 savings bond and a 3-day trip to New York City. One student in each grade category will receive a \$500 savings bond,

[Patriot's Pen](#)

Patriot's Pen is an essay writing contest (patriotic theme) sponsored by the [Veterans of Foreign Wars \(VFW\)](#). It is open to US students in grades 6-8. More than 115,000 students enter the contest each year. The first place winner receives a \$10,000 US Savings Bond. The 28 top national winners receive US Savings Bonds of \$1,000 to \$10,000. Entries are submitted through local VFW Posts. The contest is also known as the VFW Youth Essay Contest. The deadline is November 1. For more information, call 1-816-968-1117.

[Prudential Spirit of Community Awards](#)

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards recognize children in grades 5-12 who have engaged in volunteer activities and have demonstrated exceptional community service. The program is sponsored by Prudential in conjunction with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). State winners receive a \$1,000 award. National winners receive a \$5,000 award. The student application deadline is in late October.

[Red Vines Drawing Contest](#)

Sponsored by the American Licorice Company, the Red Vines Drawing Contest is open to children in three age groups (as of May 1): kids (ages 6-12), teens (ages 13-18) and adult (ages 19+). In each age group and entry format there is one first prize winner of a \$2,500 scholarship, one second prize of \$250 and one third prize of \$100. Entries (one per person) consist of an original work of art that features the Red Vines logo. Winners will be selected on the basis of creativity and relevance to the Red Vines brand candy. The deadline is September 30. For more information, visit the web site or write to American Licorice Co., 2796 NW Clearwater Drive, Bend, OR 97701.

[Scholastic Art & Writing Awards](#)

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are open to US and Canadian students in grades 7-12. It is sponsored by Scholastic Inc. and administered by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers, Inc. More than 250,000 students enter the competition each year. Gold Portfolio Award recipients receive \$10,000 scholarships (5 for art, 5 for writing, 2 for photography). For more information, call 1-212-343-6493, write to The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012, or send email to

A&WGeneralinfo@scholastic.com.

[Team America Rocketry Challenge](#)

Team America Rocketry Challenge is a national model rocket competition open to US junior high school and high school students (grades 7-12). It is sponsored by AIA and the National Association of Rocketry. The top 100 teams compete for \$60,000 in scholarships. The application deadline is November 15. For more information, send email to rocketcontest@aia-aerospace.org.

[ThinkQuest](#)

ThinkQuest is an annual team competition in which students under age 19 create innovative and educational web sites. There are three age divisions: 9-12, 13-15, and 16-19. Teams may have three to six student members. Prizes include laptop computers, MP3 players, and digital cameras.

[Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards](#)

The Toshiba ExploraVision Awards is a competition for teams of 2-4 US and Canadian students in grades K-12. The goal of the competition is to encourage students to explore a vision of a future technology. The teams research a technology or device and project how it might change in the future. They identify necessary breakthroughs to enable the development of the technology and discuss the positive and negative impact of the technology on society. There are four divisions: grades K-3, grades 4-6, grades 7-9, and grades 10-12. Within each division, there is one first prize and one second prize. The first prize consists of a \$10,000 US Savings Bond for each student on the winning team. The second prize consists of a \$5,000 US Savings Bond for each student on the winning team. ExploraVision is sponsored by Toshiba and [National Science Teachers of America](#). Materials are available starting in

September. The deadline is February 1. For more information, call 1-800-EXPLOR9 (1-800-397-5679), write to ExploraVision, 1840 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201-3000, or send email to exploravision@nsta.org.

West Point Bridge Design Contest

The West Point Bridge Design Contest is open to US students age 13 through grade 12 at the time of registration. Students compete individually (team of one) or in teams of two members. This engineering competition involves designing truss bridges. Each member of the first-place team receives a \$10,000 scholarship. Each member of the five finalist teams wins a notebook computer. Registration opens in early January and ends on February 28. The final round is held in April.

Young Naturalist Awards

The Young Naturalist Awards is a research-based science essay contest open to US and Canadian students in grades 7-12. It is sponsored by the American Museum of Natural History and the Chase Manhattan Foundation. Two scholarships are awarded to the winning essays at each grade level. The 7th grade winners receive \$500. The 8th grade winners receive \$750. The 9th grade winners receive \$1,000. The 10th grade winners receive \$1,500. The 11th grade winners receive \$2,000. The 12th grade winners receive \$2,500. Award winners and their family members also receive travel and lodging to attend the awards ceremony at the American Museum of Natural History in the spring. There are also 36 finalists who receive a cash award of \$50 and a certificate. The deadline is in early March. For more information, call 1-212-496-3498, write to Young Naturalist Awards Administrator, National Center for Science Literacy, Education, and Technology, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024-5192 or send email to yna@amnh.org.

Youth Service America

Youth Service America offers the State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning Grants to US children age 5-25 to implement service-learning projects for National Youth Service Day in April. One hundred \$1,000 grants will be awarded. The application deadline is in mid-October. For more information, send email to GoodNeighbor@ysa.org.

The National Education Association (NEA) sponsors [Youth Leaders for Literacy](#) in conjunction with Youth Service America. This program awards 20 \$500 grants to student-led initiatives. The program is open to applicants aged 21 and younger. The application deadline is in mid November.

Scholarships for Children Who Are Age 13

Many scholarship search sites take a more restrictive approach than required by COPPA, requiring individuals to be at least age 14 in order to register. (This is probably due to errors in published summaries of the requirements of COPPA. The act and regulations define child as "an individual under the age of 13".) This may make it more difficult for students who are 13 years old to find out information about scholarships.

The following scholarships are open to students who are 13 years old.

American Morgan Horse Institute Graywood Youth Horsemanship Grant

The [American Morgan Horse Institute \(AMHI\)](#) sponsors the Graywood Youth Horsemanship Grant for members of the Morgan youth club or American Morgan Horse Association, ages 13 to 21. One or two grants are awarded each year. The grant is used to cover costs of study of horse care, breeding, management, training and riding of Morgan horses. See the [application](#) for additional details. The deadline is February 1. For more information, send email to amhioffice@aol.com.

San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department Miss Recreation Pageant

The San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department sponsors the annual Miss Recreation Pageant for unmarried female students aged 13 to 18. Candidates must reside within the city limits of San Antonio. The student crowned Miss Recreation will receive a \$2,000 scholarship. The application deadline is in early December.

Sizzling Style & Scholarly Smarts Scholarship Sweepstakes

CollegeBound Teen Magazine and N.Y.C. New York Color sponsor the Sizzling Style & Scholarly Smarts Scholarship. \$1,000 will be awarded to the best 200-word essay about "what your one and only 'can't live without' beauty product is and why you can't live without it". Candidates must be at least 13 years old and legal residents of the United States. The deadline is January 31. For more information, write to CollegeBound Teen Magazine, N.Y.C. New York Color/Sizzling Style & Scholarly Smarts Sweepstakes, 1200 South Avenue, Suite 202, Staten Island, NY 10314.

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Source: <http://www.bankrate.com/finance/college-finance/scholarships-for-kids-under-13.aspx>

4 college scholarships for kids under 13

By [Donna Fuscaldo](#) • Bankrate.com



Highlights

- College costs can be staggering, depending on the school your child picks.
- Children as young as 5 can earn money for college.
- Scholarships for youngsters cover a broad spectrum of activities.

It's never too early to start applying for scholarships. Although senior year is synonymous with searching for college aid, children under 13 and as young as 5 can earn money toward a college education -- and it's more common than you may think.

"There are scholarships available to children in much younger grades," says Mark Kantrowitz, publisher of FastWeb.com and FinAid.org and author of "Secrets to Winning a Scholarship." "It's not very competitive because many parents don't think about it yet."

A scholarship may not give your child a free ride through four or more years of college, but it will defray some of the costs, which can be staggering, depending on which school your child chooses. To cover the expenses of a state or public college, parents would have to save \$250 a month from their child's birth on, and double that for a private university, Kantrowitz says.

The types of scholarships available to youngsters cover a broad spectrum of activities, from creating a doodle for Google Inc. to making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for Jif. Winning once doesn't mean your child is out of the scholarship hunt since there's no cap on how many scholarships children can compete for. With that in mind, here's a look at four scholarships for kids under 13.

Doodle 4 Google

The annual Doodle 4 Google scholarship contest is open to children in kindergarten through 12th grade. To encourage creativity among kids, Google awards the student who creates the winning Google Doodle a \$30,000 college scholarship and a \$50,000 grant to his or her school to go toward building a technology lab or program. The 2012 winner also received a free trip to New York City, a Chromebook computer, a Wacom digital design tablet and a T-shirt printed with the winning doodle on it.

The four national finalists win a \$5,000 educational grant to be used at the school of their choice, a trip to New York City, a Wacom digital design tablet and a T-shirt printed with their doodle on it. The theme of the 2012 contest was "If I could travel in time, I'd visit ... "

Google says it chose that theme because the Mountain View, Calif.-based Internet company wanted to give students a blank canvas to imagine the past, present and future.

Contest dates for 2013 had not been announced at Bankrate's date of publication.

Jif Most Creative Sandwich Contest

Have a little chef in the home from ages 6 to 12?

He or she may be able to turn a talent into a \$25,000 college scholarship, thanks to the Jif Most Creative Sandwich Contest. Using a Jif peanut butter or Jif hazelnut spread product, contestants have to create a sandwich that will be judged on creativity, taste, visual appeal and ease of preparation.

To be considered for these scholarships for kids under 13, entrants have to submit a completed entry form, the sandwich recipe using the Jif spread, an original name for the sandwich and a photo of the completed sandwich. Four runner-up winners get a \$2,500 college fund. Each child is only allowed to submit one sandwich and will be disqualified if they enter more than one. The 2012 winner, 8-year-old Mallory R. of Hilton Head Island, S.C., created the P-Nutty BBQ Chicken Quesadilla. Jif, a unit of Orrville, Ohio-based The J.M. Smuckers Co., has been running the contest for a decade.

Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes

Having a positive impact on a person or the planet not only feels good but also can get your child scholarship money. Each year, the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes awards as much as \$2,500 in cash to 25 young people ages 8 to 18 who have made a positive difference. The winners have to use the money for their higher education or to fund their service project. Past recipients come from all walks and engage in

inspiring behavior such as organizing a rodeo for disabled children, providing clean drinking water to African villages and cleaning up South Carolina's beaches.

Entrants are nominated by an adult who has intimate knowledge of the child's work but is not a relative. To be considered, the child has to be working on a project that clearly benefits other people, fellow creatures or the planet. The student may have outside help but the activity has to be mainly the student's own creation to win. The contest places particular emphasis on helping the environment. There's an April 30 deadline for applicants each year.

Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program

Recognizing the importance of volunteering, Kohl's rewards children ages 6 to 18 who volunteer to improve their communities through the Menomonee Falls, Wis.-based retailer's Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program. Ten national winners get \$10,000 in scholarships for post-secondary education and \$1,000 is donated by Kohl's on the winner's behalf to a nonprofit organization. More than 200 regional winners get a \$1,000 scholarship. According to Kohl's, this year more than 2,200 children will get more than \$420,000 in scholarships and prizes.

One 2012 national winner was 15-year-old Briana Moore of Detroit who collected and delivered food baskets to more than 400 families. Leyla Cook, 11, of Garden Grove, Calif., created a volunteer program to provide a support system for military kids and their families.

Students can't be a high school graduate and have to be nominated by someone age 21 or older during the nomination period of Feb. 1 to March 15, 2013. The student's action has to be described in detail and should demonstrate efforts that went beyond what a child of that age would normally do. The efforts had to have occurred in the previous year. Kohl's chooses the winners based on the project, its benefit and the outcome.

Read more: <http://www.bankrate.com/finance/college-finance/scholarships-for-kids-under-1.aspx#ixzz2YpYGIBrF>