

HERBERT HOOVER UNCOMMON STUDENT AWARD

Scholarships and Awards for Iowa High School Juniors

A project-driven program not based on grades, test scores, essays or financial need

The Hoover Uncommon Student Award identifies approximately 15 Iowa high school juniors who propose and then accomplish projects of their own design. The award also honors Herbert Hoover, an Iowa native and the 31st President of the United States. All finalists receive \$1,000 after completing their projects and presenting their accomplishments to a selection committee. In addition, three are chosen to receive \$5,000 scholarships.

What kind of project should I propose?

- A project you enjoy doing. What are you good at? What issues in your school or community would you like to tackle? What are you passionate about?
- Joint projects and class projects are not eligible, but enlisting volunteers is acceptable. Making money is permissible.
- You may already be working on something or have accomplished a goal. In that case, base your proposal on that and take it to another level. Note: You propose the project in your application. You don't do the project before applying.
- Past Hoover Uncommon Students describe their projects at www.hooverassociation.org/grantsawards/uncommonstudent/class_finalists.php

Writing a project proposal

- Read about Herbert Hoover to see how he was involved in the areas of entrepreneurship, community/humanitarian service, conservation, and technology.
- Clearly state the project goal and how you will reach it.
- Answer these questions in your proposal: What? Why? How? Who? When? Where?
- Write the proposal in words you know. Keep it clear and simple. Define any specialized vocabulary.
- Get necessary permissions BEFORE submitting the proposal. Avoid: "If I get permission, I will . . ." Evaluators need to see a reasonable chance of success.
- Ask an adult unfamiliar with your idea to read your proposal. He/she can tell you if there are details missing. Then improve your proposal before submitting it.

Continued on back ►

How do I apply?

1. Start thinking about your project NOW!
2. Submit on-line application (recommended) or download and print the application from the Hoover Association website: www.hooverassociation.org/grantsawards/uncommonstudent/.php
3. Request two references to submit on-line recommendation forms (recommended) or download and print recommendation forms from the Hoover Association website.
4. Complete application on-line or mail completed form by deadline date to: **The Hoover Association, PO Box 696, West Branch, IA 52358**

Important dates

March 31, 2012 - Application Deadline

Your on-line application must be submitted no later than the deadline date. Your mailed application must be postmarked no later than the deadline date.

May 10, 2012

By this date you will receive a letter informing you whether or not you were selected as a finalist.

June 9-10, 2012 (Required)

10:00 am Saturday - 1:30 pm Sunday As a finalist, you must attend this expense-paid weekend at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum in West Branch to meet each other and learn more about Herbert Hoover and the program that carries his name. Do not apply if you are unavailable to participate in this weekend in its entirety.

October 27, 2012 (Required)

With your project completed, you return to West Branch to make a public presentation and receive your \$1,000 award. At that time, you will be considered for one of the three \$5,000 Uncommon Student Scholarships for study at an accredited two- or four-year college or university anywhere in the country.

To learn more about this program...

Visit www.hooverassociation.org
or contact Delene McConnaha at
800-828-0475, 319-643-5327, or
scholarship@hooverassociation.org