GENERAL SCIENCE

Science Talent Sought

The Annual Science Talent Search goes into its ninth year of discovering and fostering through scholarships the science ability of the Nation's young people.

➤ HIGH school students with scientific research ability are now being sought in the Ninth Annual Science Talent Search.

Boys and girls, seniors in the 27,000 private, parochial and public schools in continental U.S.A. are now eligible for $11,000 in Westinghouse Science Scholarships to further their education in science.

In announcing the Science Talent Search for the ninth consecutive year, Watson Davis, director of Science Service, which conducts the Search through Science Clubs of America, reaffirmed the need for finding and saving the science talent of young people. "One of the most precious resources of our country," he said, "is the talent of its boys and girls. Talent in science is a rare gift. It must be recognized and cultivated wherever it can be found."

Past experience has proved that students with science talent are not restricted to certain parts of the country. They are everywhere. All high school principals will soon receive the forms to request entry materials in the Ninth Annual Science Talent Search for their most promising science-minded seniors.

About 16,000 sets of entry materials are expected to be sent out on and after Nov. 15. The thousands of seniors will comply with all requirements for entry right in their own schools.

From the 16,000 entries it is estimated about 3,500 will complete all entry requirements. Of these 40 will be named as winners and will receive 5-day, all-expenses-paid trips to Washington, D. C., to attend the Annual Science Talent Institute.

Another 260 will be named for honorable mention. All 300 will be recommended to colleges, universities and technical schools of their own choice. As in the past, it is expected many will receive offers of financial assistance for college educations from other sources on the basis of this honor.

To comply with entry rules each contestant must take a three-hour science aptitude examination in his own school, submit personal and scholastic records and write an essay of about 1,000 words on "My Scientific Project." The examination may be taken as early as Dec. 5 but all entries must be in the offices of Science Clubs of America by midnight, Tuesday, Dec. 27, when the competition closes.

Winners and honorable mentions will be announced late in January, 1950, and the 40 winners will come to Washington, D. C., in March, 1950. After five days of meeting the nation's outstanding scientists, learning about the latest developments in science, and visiting places of historic and scientific interest the winners will receive scholarships ranging in size from $100 to $2,800.

Through the eight years of its existence the Annual Science Talent Search has located 320 winners and 2,080 honorable mentions. These young people are now making their mark in scientific circles. Many of them already have from one to four degrees in science and are active as chemists, physicists, doctors, mathematicians, engineers, biologists, astronomers and in many other fields of science. Some have made important contributions to their fields of study and others are well along in their preparation to do so.

The objectives of the Science Talent Search are:

1. To discover and foster the education of boys and girls whose scientific skill, talent and ability indicate potential creative originality and warrant scholarships for their development.

2. To focus the attention of large numbers of scientifically gifted youths on the need for perfecting scientific and research skill and knowledge so that they can increase their capacities for contributing to the rehabilitation of a war-dislocated world and to help the United States, with the aid of science, to lead the world to permanent peace.

3. To help make the American public aware of the varied and vital role science plays in world affairs and in raising the standard of living.

The judges of the Science Talent Search are: Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard College Observatory and president of Science Service; Dr. Rex E. Buxton, Washington psychiatrist; Dr. Harold A. Edgerton, vice-president of Richardson, Bellows, Henry & Co.; and Dr. Steuart H. Britt, manager of Research and Merchandising, McCann-Erickson, Inc., both of New York City. The latter two have designed the science aptitude examination for each of the Science Talent Searches. High school seniors in some states will have a double chance to win scholarships through state Science Talent Searches run concurrently with the national competition and by special arrangement with Science Clubs of America.

In 1949 the following states held these competitions: Alabama, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Other states also signed up for 1950 include: all of New England, South Dakota and Texas.

The Science Talent Search is conducted annually by Science Clubs of America, administered by Science Service. It is made financially possible by the Westinghouse Educational Foundation of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

For complete details of the Science Talent Search write to Science Clubs of America, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

Science News Letter, October 8, 1949

Words In Science—
APE-MONKEY

➤ The apes are the most man-like of all animals. They walk on two legs, but have long arms and differ from men in having big toes which oppose the other toes in the way a thumb opposes the fingers.

Monkeys differ from apes in more than their smaller size. They have tails and some have cheek pouches. They ordinarily walk on four feet although they sit erect.

Both monkeys and apes along with lemurs and tarsii belong to the general order of primates.

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