GENERAL SCIENCE

Name Top STS Winners

Nine girls and 31 boys are winners in Annual Science Talent Search for 1959. These young people will visit Washington, where they will be judged for $34,250 in awards.

➤FORTY TOP winners, chosen from the previously announced Honors Group of the 18th Annual Science Talent Search for the Westinghouse Science Scholarships and Awards, have been announced. The winners, nine girls and 31 boys, have been invited to Washington for a five-day, all-expenses-paid visit Feb. 26 through March 7.

They will participate in the Science Talent Institute and be judged for $34,250 in Westinghouse Science Scholarships and Awards in the final phase of the Science Talent Search conducted by SCIENCE SERVICE through its Science Clubs of America.

Like the 680 winners who have preceded them, this group excels in such qualities as special aptitude for scientific inquiry and activity, outstanding scholarship and a strong drive to explore untried areas of knowledge. (See p. 71.)

Individually, these highly talented 15-to-17-year-olds, like the list of their names, run the gamut from A to Z in their backgrounds, experiences, particular abilities, interests and plans.

They come from large schools and small in 34 communities in 16 states from California to New York, from Montana to Texas. Their graduating classes range in size from 76 to 1,384. Thirty-seven of them rank in the top five percent or better of these classes. Of these at least 20 are ranked first, second or third.

There are scientists in the family backgrounds of 23, no scientists at all in those of 17. Nearly 75% of the fathers and 60% of the mothers continued their education beyond high school, and 40% of these parents hold advanced degrees.

Winners Aided By Others

The winners have been inspired, helped and encouraged by an assortment of people including their own parents, devoted teachers and interested scientists. Three of the students apparently supplied their own sources of enthusiasm for scientific pursuits.

The 40 are members of all kinds of organizations from science and mathematics clubs to Boy Scouts of America and have collected awards and honors for attainments in such different fields as science fairs, music, and debating.

They are looking forward to careers in nearly every important research specialty, with physics and mathematics leading among their professional choices. Chemistry, college teaching and biological sciences follow close behind. Medicine is next, and the list concludes with electronics design and systems research engineering.

The research papers they submitted to the Science Talent Search as part of the requirements of the competition concern such divergent subjects as the digestive processes of the Venus flytrap, the relationship between symbolic logic and electronic switching networks, and the synthesis of laboratory dyestuffs.

In their leisure hours these young people enjoy such hobbies as music, photography, reading, mathematics, amateur radio, and a variety of sports from tennis to speleology.

However, they will have rather few leisure hours in the next month or so. Along with their regular school work, they will be busy with what previous winners have described as a somewhat "awesome feeling of responsibility to live up to the honor" and preparations to attend the Science Talent Institute.

At the Institute the 40 will be honored guests during five days in the nation's capital. In addition to opportunities to meet with world famous scientists and visit top level laboratories by special arrangements, there will be interviews with the judges.

40 Awards Will Be Given

At an awards banquet on the final night of the Institute on Monday, March 2, five four-year scholarships, of $7,500, $6,000, $5,000, $4,000 and $3,000, and 35 Science Awards of $250 each will be given to the winners in recognition of their outstanding ability and promise. Funds for these grants and for administering the Search are provided by the Westinghouse Educational Foundation of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

There has been unprecedented interest in the Science Talent Search this year with a record number of 28,195 requests for aptitude examinations. A total of 4,274 entrants qualified fully for judging by taking a difficult science aptitude examination, submitting school records and faculty recommendations, and writing a research report.

All of the Honors Group will be recommended to colleges and universities for admission and scholarship awards, and many of them will be eligible for still further recognition in State Science Talent Searches conducted in 32 states and the District of Columbia by special arrangement with the national Search. (See SNL, Jan. 24, p. 55.)

State or regional searches are conducted in Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.