



*great theatre in the great outdoors.*



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GREAT FALLS, VA – [Traveling Players Ensemble](#) is honored to announce its selection for the **2016 Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Good Neighbor Grant** to support scholarships for its educational theatre programs. Traveling Players will invest the \$25,000 grant award in scholarship students who will thrive in their summer camps and academic year classes. Applications are still being accepted for Traveling Players' need-based [scholarships](#) for summer camp 2016.

Founded in 2003, Traveling Players' mission is to enhance self-expression, self-discovery, self-reliance, and problem-solving skills while heightening an appreciation of both challenges and beauty by bringing great theatre into the great outdoors.

An educational theatre company, Traveling Players' hallmark programs are its summer day camp for rising 4th through 12th graders, when campers work in small ensembles (up to 14 performers) to rehearse a play under the direction of experienced theatre professionals. Campers take their shows on tour to locations throughout the greater Washington DC area, and in the past the company has been invited to perform at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, Colonial Williamsburg, Shenandoah National Park, Reston's Multicultural Festival, and the International Children's Festival at Wolf Trap. Traveling Players' award-winning summer camp is in residence at Lake Fairfax Park in Reston, VA. Selected spaces are still available for [summer camp 2016](#).

Traveling Players is deeply committed to providing scholarships and financial aid to all members of its community for all of its programs, and since its founding has given out over \$125,000 in scholarships with awards of up to 100% of tuition without an annual or lifetime cap, making it the most generous arts scholarship program in the area. Many scholarship campers return year after year, becoming integral members of the community. Receiving extensive training including individual coaching in preparation for college and professional auditions, many TPE' scholarship campers have received college scholarships, sometimes quadrupling TPE's initial investment in a student.

“I have so much respect for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation and the opportunities that it provides for such deserving students by providing scholarships nationwide,” says Founder and

Artistic Director Jeanne Harrison. “We are thrilled to receive the foundation's Good Neighbor Grant, especially to support more scholarships students, since the Cooke Foundation is the leader in the country in this regard. Traveling Players has been leading locally with theatre scholarships, so being aligned with JKCF means the world to us. We are eager to make our already powerful scholarship program even more robust. We are extremely grateful.”

“Traveling Players Ensemble bring the highest caliber educational theater programming to budding artists in the DC region,” said Cooke Foundation Executive Director Harold O. Levy. “We are proud to enable them to expand access to students with financial need who might otherwise be able to take part in this outstanding program.”

The [Jack Kent Cooke Foundation](http://www.jkcf.org) is dedicated to advancing the education of exceptionally promising students who have financial need. It offers the largest scholarships in the U.S., comprehensive counseling and other support services to students from 8th grade to graduate school. Since 2000 it has awarded about \$147 million in scholarships to more than 2,000 students and \$90 million in grants to organizations that serve outstanding low-income students. [www.jkcf.org](http://www.jkcf.org)

Traveling Players has previously been recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) as one of 25 of "Summer Schools in the Arts." Featured twice on WAMU's *Metro Connection*, the camp has also been named the #1 arts camp in the nation by CampEasy.com and called a "little-known gem for the budding actor" by *The Washington Post*. Traveling Players was included in the 2015-16 Catalogue for Philanthropy as one of the best small nonprofit organizations in the greater Washington area.

Traveling Players is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA), the Arts Council of Fairfax County (ACFC), and Cityline Partners, LLC. For more information about Traveling Players' scholarship fund and for the ability to donate, [click here](#).

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