

FAQs about YMembership

Mensa® is a social organization for anyone who has scored in the top 2% on accepted intelligence tests, regardless of age. Mensa offers support to parents of gifted children and services to Gifted Children through two avenues: American Mensa and the Mensa Foundation. To find out if your child qualifies for membership in Mensa, please visit www.us.mensa.org/join.

American Mensa® is the organizational, membership-based organization that provides the following benefits specific to young members:

FRED: The Magazine for Young Mensans, by Young Mensans

FRED is a quarterly e-zine with a different topic each issue. Young Mensa members are welcome to submit material for inclusion. For more information, visit <http://www.us.mensa.org/fredmagazine> or email: ymmagazine@us.mensa.org.

Discounts

Young Mensa members can take advantage of all member discounts at places of interest to youth. There are also discounts for products and services as wide-ranging as car insurance, hotels, and magazines like *Mental Floss*, *Scientific American*, and more. Here are some discounts specifically for Young Mensans:

Stanford's Education Program for Gifted Youth offers a significant discount under for Mensa members of elementary age. The fee for participation is \$135 a year for both math and language arts. Contact GiftedYouth@americanmensa.org for more information.

The Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth identifies and develops the talents of the most advanced K-12 learners worldwide. CTY offers Young Mensans a 10-percent discount on online courses (for an average savings of more than \$100 per course!). Young Mensans can apply to the program via paper application or online application; either way, they must include a copy of their membership cards with their course applications to receive the discount.

Save 20 percent on McGraw-Hill's AP prep courses:

The McGraw-Hill ONboard™ Series for Advanced Placement is an online, interactive program designed to help incoming AP students build the background knowledge and skills they need to succeed in their upcoming AP coursework and beyond. This is a very useful program for students who are taking the courses at earlier ages or who may have skipped previous classes. Topics include biology, history, environmental science, psychology, government and economics. The courses are \$50 each, but McGraw-Hill is offering Mensans a 20-percent discount, making each course only \$39.99.

For a complete list, visit www.us.mensa.org/benefits.

Young Mensan
BookParade

Young Mensa members are eligible to participate as reviewers of books sent by publishers from Random House to Candlewick to National Geographic to Harvard University Press and beyond. The books are reviewed, the review sent to Mensa, and then the book is donated to the library of the reviewer's choice. Parents of Young Mensans interested in becoming book reviewers should email GiftedYouth@americanmensa.org.

Contests

Quarterly contests open to young members offer youth the opportunity to share their talents and interests, as well as win cool prizes. Contests are advertised in *FRED*, the *Mensa Bulletin*, and through email to youth members. For information on the current contest, see one of the sources listed or email GiftedYouth@americanmensa.org.

Mensa Bulletin

All members receive the *Mensa Bulletin*, the Mensa magazine published ten times a year. At least twice per year there is a significant article/information addressing the needs of gifted youth.

Bright Kids

The Bright Kids listserv is an e-list for parents and others interested in issues relating to raising and educating gifted youth. Mensa membership is not required. It is a fairly busy list, so signing up for the digest version may suit your needs. For more information, please visit www.lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/brightkids.

Additionally, resources for teachers and parents are shared on the Pinterest boards found at <http://pinterest.com/brightkids/>.

Scholarships

Some scholarships offered through the Mensa Foundation are available only to members of Mensa. For more information, please visit www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships.

Social Interaction

Young members can connect with others of similar interests at local, regional and national events. The number of events varies by location, and parents of youth members are invited to attend with their child(ren). Young members are welcome at virtually all Mensa events, unless specifically excluded from activities inappropriate for children. Special programming for children is provided at many Regional Gatherings, and several days of excellent activities for kids are provided at each Annual Gathering.

Many Local Groups have Coordinators who volunteer to serve the needs of gifted youth in their groups. Often, Local Group newsletters will publish items of interest or resources for youth.

Special Interest
Groups

Special Interest Groups (called SIGs) offer members of all ages to connect with other members who share similar interests. Many SIGs are open to and welcome youth members. For a full listing with descriptions, please visit www.us.mensa.org/sigs.

Intangibles

In addition to the tangible benefits of membership, young members enjoy the hard-to-quantify benefits such as prestige, legitimacy, and the feeling of belonging. Mensa is a place where highly gifted kids can develop their identity within and without their brains.

American Mensa Honor Society

The American Mensa® Honor Society (AMHS) is open to Young Mensans between the ages of 10 and 18 (or until they graduate from high school, whichever is earlier). The ideals of the American Mensa Honor Society are integrity, intellectual curiosity, academic commitment, and a service. In keeping with the purposes of Mensa, the objectives of the American Mensa Honor Society are to:

- Recognize the achievements of young members who take active roles in their communities, schools, and churches.
- Give young members avenues for service that will develop their talents and skills for the benefit of those around them.
- Allow these achievements to be formally recognized by schools and other institutions.

Brain Worx

Coming Soon: A daily trivia question geared specifically to youth with a different topic every day of the week.

Monday – Math & Science Monday (mathematics, history of math, engineering feats and marvels, science)

Tuesday – Tuned-in Tuesday (music, music history, radio, musicals, television, movies)

Wednesday – Worldly Wednesday (geography, geology, politics, history)

Thursday – Twin Topics (language and literature)

Friday – Fun Friday (general, space, strange, wacky, unusual facts)

Note: Young members are also welcome to participate in MindGames® and Culture Quest®

The **Mensa Foundation** is the philanthropic education and research arm of Mensa that provides the following benefits to all children, regardless of Mensa affiliation or location:

www.mensaforkids.org The Mensa for Kids Web site offers games, a monthly feature, a blog and other resources geared to gifted children. The site is geared to children under 12, although many older children (and adults) will enjoy the content as well. Resources for parents and teachers are also available on the site.

Lesson Plans At the www.mensaforkids.org site under “parent/teacher resources” there are many lesson plans geared to gifted children. The grade levels listed are not restrictive; they are the grade levels at which a child should be able to complete the lesson plan without adult assistance.

Excellence in Reading Through its Excellence in Reading program, the Mensa Foundation offers children around the world the opportunity to read a list of age-appropriate books selected by children’s librarians across the country and earn a certificate and a free t-shirt. For more information, please visit <http://mensaforkids.com/ReaderAward/intro.pdf>.

Scholarships The Mensa Foundation awards more than seventy thousand dollars annually in scholarships. The scholarships are awarded submitted essays. For more information, please visit <http://mensafoundation.org/scholarships/>.

Activity Plans The Foundation provides Activity Plans geared to families or groups with gifted children. These resources vary in topic and are added to regularly. They are appropriate for use in school-based gifted programs, as well as in the home. They can be found under “parent/teacher resources” on the www.mensaforkids.org Web site.

TED Extensions TED Extensions are short, easy to use guides that help teachers, parents, and youth use TED talks in a classroom or home setting in a way that extends beyond basic viewing. They are not written in a lesson plan format. They have a list of discussion questions, all at higher levels of thinking. Each one has books, links, and other resources connected to the topic of the TED talk for exploration.