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**American Cancer Society Accepting Applications  
for Summer High School Research Program  
Deadline for applications is Monday, March 16**

Springfield, IL – Through March 16, the American Cancer Society is accepting applications for its annual Summer High School Research Program.

Now in its seventh year, the program allows a select group of Illinois high school juniors to experience life as a professional research scientist. Students participate in hands-on work in cancer research laboratories as they follow the direction of established researchers at some of Illinois' leading research facilities. The program is designed to help students develop their own philosophy in biophysics, biochemistry, immunology, and pharmacology, as well as gain an understanding of cancer and its impact on Illinois residents. Last year, 25 students from throughout the state were chosen to participate in the eight-week program.

As part of the organization's mission to support cancer research, the American Cancer Society, Illinois Division's Summer High School Research Program has been hugely successful in bridging many of Illinois' finest students into the future of science.

"It's extremely important to encourage our finest young minds to pursue their passion for science, research and fighting cancer," said Dr. K. Thomas Robbins, American Cancer Society Regional Board of Directors Past President and SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine Director. "This program not only offers students a unique opportunity to gain experience in the field of cancer research, but also helps provide them with a sense of what it is like to funnel their knowledge and efforts into something extraordinary."

Students chosen for the program are assigned an independent, limited and achievable research project to work on four days per week. On the fifth day, they attend various lectures and present project updates. At the end of the program, the students come together and present a collective report of their findings to the group.

Selection for the program is based upon the student's interests, as expressed in an essay, academic record, two letters of recommendation (at least one letter of recommendation must be from a teacher). Selected participants also receive a stipend.

In the past 50 years, the Illinois Division of the American Cancer Society has been awarded approximately \$30 million in research grants in Illinois.

For more information on or an application for the American Cancer Society's high school research program, please contact Stephen Hunt at 217-523-4503, then press option 3, or Tyharrie Hill, Illinois Division, at 312-279-7392 or [ilhsprogram@cancer.org](mailto:ilhsprogram@cancer.org).

The American Cancer Society is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by saving lives, diminishing suffering and preventing cancer through research, education, advocacy and service. The Society's Illinois Division has more than 120,000 volunteers and staff members fighting cancer in the state. For cancer-related information 24-hours a day, call 800-ACS-2345 or visit the American Cancer Society Web site at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

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