



THE SIDEKICK  
COLLECTIVE

# The Sidekick Collective

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What's with the superhero theme?**

The Sidekick Collective was inspired by [an essay](#) that Founder Paige Edmiston wrote as a high school student, in response to an essay contest sponsored by Seattle author Eric Liu and venture capitalist Nick Hanauer. In this essay, *What True Patriotism Means to Me: A New Breed of Superhero for the 21st Century*, Paige identified a problem:

“And we see them in every eight-year-old Superman, Spiderman, and Batman running around the neighborhood on Halloween. America loves a good superhero. The only problem with this superpower love affair is that the superhero is not real. When that eight-year-old is but a few years older, saving the world is reduced to a movie-preview tagline enjoyed with popcorn at the multiplex.

But I believe superheroes are real.”

At The Sidekick Collective, we believe we can solve this problem by finding and supporting extraordinary teens who do what superheroes do: help others first, make right what's wrong, and protect the vulnerable.

### **What do Cosmic Heroes receive?**

In 2015-16, Cosmic Heroes received grants between \$1000-\$2000. This funding can be used for projects that help improve students' schools and communities. Projects must be initiated within one year of award date. Amounts are subject to fundraising and may increase in the future.

In addition to the funding, this year's Cosmic Heroes received a very superhero-y framed proclamation inducting them into the Cosmic Hero fold, as well as a mysterious box filled with items to remind them of their heroism in the future, including a Funko superhero bobble head and an album by local nerd-rock band and Comic Con celebrities Kirby Krackle.

### **What is the nomination and selection process?**

The Sidekick Collective receives nominations from teachers, mentors, youth leaders, and others who know extraordinary young people. Have an exceptional young person in mind? You can nominate him or her [here](#).

### **What are the selection criteria?**

We search for students who think a little differently, have exceptionally big hearts, and do what superheroes do: help others first, make right what's wrong, and protect the vulnerable. We are particularly interested in hearing the innovative and entrepreneurial ways nominees have demonstrated these characteristics.

**Do you get a return on Cosmic Hero projects?**

We have no financial stake in Cosmic Hero projects. We hope to see the world made a little — or a lot — better.

**How is the Cosmic Hero Award different than any other scholarship?**

| <b>The Cosmic Hero Award is:</b>  | <b>The Cosmic Hero Award is not:</b>   |
|---|--|
| Seed funding for a project to improve students' schools and communities. We like to think of it as an investment, where the return is seeing the world become a better place. | A college scholarship.   |
| Recognition of those who have grit, think a little differently and have exceptionally big hearts.   | Recognition for traditional areas of excellence, e.g. GPA, student body leadership, athletics. |
| An engine to empower and make possible big, bold, brave ideas.  | A solution to postsecondary education funding.   |
| A surprise award utilizing a secret nomination and vetting process.   | An award you can apply for.  |
| An ongoing relationship with a network of Sidekicks who want to give their support, highlighted by the day they tap into seed funding.  | A short-lived relationship that ends after the award.  |

**Do you have paid staff?**

Nope! At this time, The Sidekick Collective is entirely a labor of love by its ever-growing number of volunteers (aka 'sidekicks').

**Are you a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit?**

Yes! Our Federal Tax ID number is 47-2669575.