



Davidson Institute
Fellows Scholarship

For Immediate Release
August 21, 2024

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**DAVIS TEEN AWARDED \$25,000 SCHOLARSHIP FOR RESEARCH TO
PRESERVE MAASAI MEDICINAL HERITAGE**
Max Bloom Named A 2024 Davidson Fellows Scholarship Winner

Sacramento, Calif. – The Davidson Fellows Scholarship Program has announced the 2024 scholarship winners. Among the honorees is 16-year-old Max Bloom of Davis. Bloom won a \$25,000 scholarship for his project, *The Ilomon Project: Preserving Maasai Medicinal Heritage*. He is one of only 20 scholarship winners in the 2024 Fellows class.

“I’m thrilled that the Davidson Institute found importance in my work,” said Max Bloom. “Becoming a Davidson Fellow has been a huge gift to me and to the future of my project. To be able to see my project listed alongside some of the most brilliant young minds has been more than an honor.”

For his project, Bloom created *The Ilomon Project* to document the Maasai people's traditional plant medicine in Northern Tanzania. During a month of solo fieldwork in Tanzania, he recorded the use of more than 90 medicinal plants across five remote villages, capturing photographs and voice recordings of Maasai elders describing the preparation and application of these remedies. With the help of Maasai locals, he transcribed the recordings from Maasai into Swahili and English, preserving this knowledge in the Maasai's native language and sharing it globally through his website. His interdisciplinary research combines ethnobotany with the humanities, aiming to protect and share the Maasai's cultural heritage as their lands face encroachment from hunting reserves.

Bloom is a rising high school senior in Davis. In the future, he plans to study anthropology, African studies, and art history to pursue a career in cultural preservation. He is a competitive rower, accomplished violinist, a member of the Boy Scouts, and the vice president of his school's service club.

"This year's class of Davidson Fellows Scholarship recipients exemplifies the power of innovation and perseverance," said Bob Davidson, founder of the Davidson Institute. "Our Fellows continue to push the boundaries of their educational and research pursuits, striving to solve some of the world's most challenging problems by leveraging creative, outside-the-box

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thinking and cutting-edge technology to expand their networks, access new sources of information, and deliver an impressive array of diverse projects."

The 2024 Davidson Fellows will be honored during a reception at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. and with a virtual project presentation ceremony in September 2024.

The Davidson Fellows Scholarship program offers \$50,000, \$25,000 and \$10,000 college scholarships to students 18 or younger, who have completed significant projects that have the potential to benefit society in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, literature and music. The Davidson Fellows Scholarship has provided more than \$9.9 million in scholarship funds to 448 students since its inception in 2001, and has been named one of the most prestigious undergraduate scholarships by [U.S. News & World Report](#). It is a program of the Davidson Institute, a national nonprofit organization headquartered in Reno, Nev. that supports profoundly gifted youth.

About the Davidson Institute

Founded by Bob Davidson in 1999, the Davidson Institute recognizes, nurtures and supports profoundly intelligent young people, and provides opportunities for them to develop their talents to make a positive difference. The Institute offers support through a number of programs and services, including the Davidson Fellows Scholarship and the [Davidson Academy of Nevada](#). For more information about the 2024 Davidson Fellows, please visit: [DavidsonFellows.org](#).

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