



# ACT-SO FACT SHEET



## WHAT IS ACT-SO?

ACT-SO is an acronym for Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics. ACT-SO is a yearlong enrichment program designed to recruit, stimulate, improve and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students. The ACT-SO program centers on the dedication and commitment of community volunteers and business leaders; to serve as mentors and coaches to promote academic and artistic excellence among African-American students. There are 31 categories of competition in business, the sciences, humanities, performing and visual arts.

<u>STEM</u>	<u>HUMANITIES</u>	<u>PERFORMING ARTS</u>	<u>VISUAL ARTS</u>	<u>BUSINESS</u>
Architecture	Music Composition	Dance Ballet	Drawing	Entrepreneurship
Biology/Microbiology	Original Essay	Dance Contemporary	Filmmaking	
Chemistry/Biochemistry	Playwriting	Dance Modern	Painting	
Computer Science	Poetry (Written)	Dance Traditional	Photography	
Earth & Space Science	Short Story	Dramatics	Sculpture	
Engineering		Music Instrumental Classical		
Mathematics		Music Instrumental Contemporary		
Medicine & Health		Music Vocal Classical		
Physics		Music Vocal Contemporary		
		Oratory		
		Poetry (Performance)		

## WHO SPONSORS ACT-SO?

ACT-SO is sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), which is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. ACT-SO receives support from schools, community, organizations, churches, foundations, private corporations and individuals.

## WHO FOUNDED ACT-SO?

Vernon Jarrett (1913-2004), a renowned author and journalist, initiated the idea of a program that would promote and reward academic achievers the same way sports heroes are honored. The first national ACT-SO competition was held in 1978 in Portland Oregon

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

Students must:

- Be a citizen of the United States or hold a permanent Resident Visa Card.
- Be enrolled in grades 9-12 at the time of application.
- Be an amateur (having not received wages for professional services) in the categories of competition.
- Compete in a local ACT-SO competition in order to qualify for the national competition.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN ACT-SO?

The ACT-SO program is intended to be a learning experience, first and foremost. The focus of a viable and effective local ACT-SO program is on enrichment and mentorship. Students work on project throughout the year. Local ACT-SO programs may provide ACT-SO students with enrichment opportunities, such as workshops, seminars, mentorships, and field trips.

The benefits ACT-SO students receive from the enrichment and mentorship components include substantial assistance toward the development of their ACT-SO projects and valuable tools to assist them throughout their education including time management, research, and public speaking. "The Olympics of the Mind" or ACT-SO encourages excellence.

The local competition serves to showcase the hard work students have put in all year long. ACT-SO students who receive gold medals on the local level may compete at the National ACT-SO Competition where they receive scholarships and prizes provided by national sponsors.

*For more information or to make a donation contact:*

**Pat Price/JoAnn Burl** [actsomc@gmail.com](mailto:actsomc@gmail.com)/[joannburl@yahoo.com](mailto:joannburl@yahoo.com)

**Send checks to ACT-SO. Mailing Address: ACT-SO, NAACP Montgomery County MD, P.O. Box 2165, Rocvville, MD 20847-2165**