



2013 FACT SHEET

WHAT IS ACT-SO? 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 around 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 26 categories of competition in the sciences, humanities, performing arts, visual arts and business.

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.

WHO FOUNDED ACT-SO? Vernon Jarrett, 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? High school students of African descent, who are citizens of the United States, enrolled in grades 9-12 and are amateurs in the categories of competition are able to participate.

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 with ACT-SO mentors who help them develop projects throughout the year. Local ACT-SO programs also provide ACT-SO students with enrichment opportunities, such as workshops, tutorials, and field trips.

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

WHAT ARE THE CATEGORIES OF COMPETITION?

SCIENCES	HUMANITIES	PERFORMING ARTS	VISUAL ARTS	BUSINESS
Biology/Microbiology	Music	Dance	Architecture	Entrepreneurship
Chemistry/ Biochemistry	Composition	Dramatics	Drawing	
Computer Science	Original Essay	Music	Filmmaking	
Earth and Space Sciences	Playwriting	Instrumental/Classical Music	Painting	
Engineering	Poetry	Instrumental/Contempor ary	Photography	
Mathematics		Music Vocal/Classical Music	Sculpture	
Medicine and Health		Vocal/Contemporary Oratory		
Physics				

Important Dates
Applications due by April 15, 2013
Competition Date: April 27, 2013

For more information send email to: rlewis8460@aol.com, phone 202-841-1832
 or
 mail to ACT-SO, P. O Box 318, Suitland,MD 20752