



ACTSO MEDALISTS

More than 260,000 young people have benefited from the ACT-SO program & inspiration since its inception

ACT-SO: Today's Youth...Tomorrow's Legends. "If you believe you can do it, then...ACT-SO!"

ACT-SO--the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics--is a major youth initiative of the NAACP. Talented *minority students* compete in local competitions, and gold medal winners are sent to the National Competition. Gold, silver and bronze medalists are announced during the NAACP's National celebration of **ACT-SO** that concludes with award ceremonies at the NAACP National Convention, in Orlando, FL this year.

What Is ACT-SO?

The ACT-SO highlight is an annual competition with certain categories involved in yearlong enrichment program sponsored by the NAACP, designed to recognize high academic and cultural achievements focused on African-American students in math, science, performing and visual arts, and the humanities, *and open to other students of color*. The program relies on the dedication and commitment of community and business leaders who volunteer as mentors and coaches to promote academic and artistic excellence. Through this collaborative effort, participating students develop the confidence and skills needed to excel in school and in life, and participate in the annual Local and National Competitions.

NAACP Local ACT-SO Program Timelines

ACT-SO's success is due largely to the dedication of the ACT-SO local sponsoring unit adult volunteers, mentors and coaches. **Local competitions usually take place between March and May**. Contestants who win gold medals on the Local level qualify to attend the National ACT-SO competition, which takes place in early July at the Annual NAACP Convention. **The Beverly Hills/Hollywood Local Competition is March 23, 2013 at Hamilton H.S.**

What Are The Categories Of Competition?

ACT-SO currently includes 26 categories of competition:

PERFORMING ARTS	SCIENCES	HUMANITIES	VISUAL ARTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Dance <input type="checkbox"/> Dramatics <input type="checkbox"/> Music Inst/Classical <input type="checkbox"/> Music Inst/Contemp <input type="checkbox"/> Music Vocal/Classical <input type="checkbox"/> Music: Vocal/Contemp <input type="checkbox"/> Oratory	<input type="checkbox"/> Biology/Microbiology <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry/Biochemistry <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science <input type="checkbox"/> Earth & Space Sciences <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine and Health <input type="checkbox"/> Physics	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Composition <input type="checkbox"/> Original Essay <input type="checkbox"/> Playwriting <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry <input type="checkbox"/> Entrepreneurial	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing <input type="checkbox"/> Filmmaking <input type="checkbox"/> Painting <input type="checkbox"/> Photography <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture

WHO FOUNDED ACT-SO?

Vernon Jarrett, a renowned author and journalist, initiated the idea of an "Olympics of the Mind" 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?

The program focuses on African-American high school students, who are citizens of the United States, enrolled in grades 9-12 and are amateurs in the categories of competition. Students **must compete in a Local ACT-SO** program to qualify for the National ACT-SO competition. All students of color are welcome to participate.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN ACT-SO?

ACT-SO, above all, is a learning experience, in which scholarships and prizes are awarded. At the national level, gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded along with cash scholarships of \$1,000, \$750 and \$500 in each category, in addition to many other awards, scholarships and prizes. Local winners are awarded certificates and many other prizes. Participants develop new skills and enhance their ability with each ACT-SO pursuit.