



ABOUT ACT-SO

ACT-SO (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics) is the major youth initiative of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Founded for youth of African descent, ACT-SO provides a forum through which the students demonstrate academic, artistic and scientific prowess and expertise, thereby gaining the same recognition often only reserved for entertainers and athletes. ACT-SO is rooted in the firm conviction that all students can succeed and compete at the same or superior levels as their counterparts in classrooms, boardrooms and laboratories across this nation and abroad.

Students can select up to three competitions from a total of 32 offerings in STEM, Business, Humanities, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, and Culinary Arts.

Almost 300,000 young people have participated in the program since its inception.

ACT-SO MISSION

For 40 years, the mission of ACT-SO has been to prepare, recognize and reward youth of African descent who exemplify scholastic and artistic excellence.

The goals of ACT-SO are:

- To mobilize the adult community for the promotion of academic and artistic excellence.
- To recognize creative talent and academic achievement.
- To provide and assist students with the necessary skills to establish goals and acquire the confidence and training to make a successful contribution to society.

ELIGIBILITY

Students interested in participating in NAACP ACT-SO must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Must be a citizen of the United States or hold a permanent resident visa card.
- Must be enrolled in grades 9-12 at the time of application.
- Must be an amateur (having not received wages for professional services) in the categories of competition.
- Must compete in a local ACT-SO competition in order to qualify for the national competition.