

## COMPETITION CATEGORIES

### STEM

Architecture  
Biology/ Microbiology  
Chemistry/ Biochemistry  
Computer Science  
Earth and Space  
Science Engineering  
Mathematics  
Medicine and Health  
Physics

### THE HUMANITIES

Music Composition  
Original Essay  
Playwriting  
Poetry-Written  
Short Story

### THE PERFORMING ARTS

Dance: Ballet, Contemporary, Modern, Traditional  
Dramatics  
Music Instrumental/ Classic  
Music Instrumental/ Contemporary  
Music Vocal/ Classic  
Music Vocal/Contemporary  
Oratory  
Poetry-Performance

### THE VISUAL ARTS

Drawing  
Filmmaking  
Painting  
Photography  
Sculpture

### BUSINESS

Entrepreneurship

### CULINARY

Culinary Arts

Are you interested in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics?

Do you like to experiment and discover things?

Do you like to sing, dance, act, or write poetry?

Do you paint or draw?

Do you have a business mind?

If you do, then ACT-SO!



## Bloomington-Normal



For information on becoming an ACT-SO **JUDGE, COACH, MENTOR, or PARTICIPANT** visit us at [www.bnact-so.org](http://www.bnact-so.org) and complete a volunteer or registration form!

Like us at [Facebook.com/BNACTSO](https://www.facebook.com/BNACTSO)

Bloomington-Normal NAACP ACT-SO  
P.O. Box 385  
Bloomington, IL 61702

National ACT-SO Web site:  
[www.naacp.org/act-so/](http://www.naacp.org/act-so/)

## Bloomington-Normal



**Academic, Cultural, Technological  
and Scientific Olympics**

The  
Olympics  
of the  
Mind



*Follow your passion!*

## 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 29 categories of competition in the humanities, performing and visual arts, culinary, business, and STEM.



Kanye West

Jada Pinkett-Smith

Anthony Anderson

Alicia Keys

Justin Simien

Jennifer Hudson

John Singleton

Tananarive Due

Ronald Demon

Mae C. Jemison

Lauryn Hill

## 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. Local ACT-SO chapters receive support from schools, community, organizations, churches, foundations, private corporations, and individuals. Bloomington-Normal ACT-SO is sponsored by State Farm®, Bloomington-Normal Branch of the NAACP, Office of the President and Department of English at Illinois State University, COUNTRY Financial®, Illinois Farm Bureau, GROWMARK, The Pantagraph, and Epiphany Farms Restaurant.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

High school students 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 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.

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.

## 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.



*Follow your passion!*