

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
Hospitality Management

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 and complete a
volunteer or registration form!
#BNACTSO

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

National ACT-SO Web site:
www.naacp.org/act-so/

Bloomington-Normal



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

*The
Olympics
of the
Mind*



Freedom to CREATE

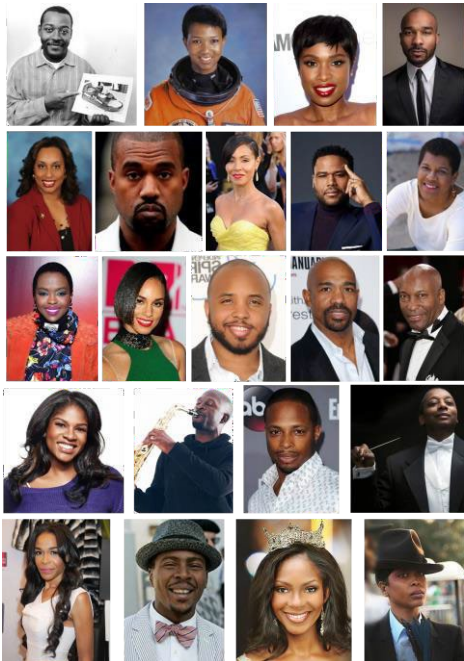
Courage to PURSUE

Promise to THRIVE

What is ACT-SO?

ACT-SO is an acronym for Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics. ACT-SO is a year-long 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 33 categories of competition in the humanities, performing and visual arts, culinary, business, and STEM.



Famous ACT-SO Alumni

Freedom to **CREATE** | Courage to **PURSUE**
Promise to **THRIVE**

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 Bloomington-Normal Branch of the NAACP. ACT-SO partners and contributors include State Farm®, Office of the President and Department of English at Illinois State University, COUNTRY Financial®, Illinois Wesleyan University, Epiphany Farms Restaurant, Ivy Lane Bakery, The Pantagraph, and Heartland Community College has established two \$5,000 **Heartland Community College Bloomington-Normal ACT-SO Scholarships** for graduating seniors.

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.

*Freedom to **CREATE** | Courage to **PURSUE** | Promise to **THRIVE***



Support our youth.
Make a donation today!