

DuPage County



# FAMILY HANDBOOK

A Program Guide for DuPage County ACT-SO Families

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## NAACP ACT-SO PROGRAM

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) sponsors the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO), a national youth enrichment initiative. ACT-SO is designed to encourage academic and cultural achievement among high school students of African descent. Local NAACP branches across the United States manage ACT-SO programs, which are centered on three main pillars: mentoring, academic enrichment, and providing students with the opportunity to showcase their talents at local competitions. Students who earn gold medals at their local level advance to the National ACT-SO Competition, where they compete for scholarships, cash, and other prizes. The national program offers 33 competition categories grouped under STEM, Humanities, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Culinary Arts, and Business.

### History

ACT-SO was created to recognize and nurture the diverse talents of Black high school students across the United States. Founded in 1978 by journalist Vernon Jarrett, ACT-SO was developed in response to the need for programs that highlight excellence beyond athletics, focusing instead on academic and cultural achievements.

### Origins and Expansion

Vernon Jarrett, a devoted NAACP member, envisioned a platform where young Black students could develop their skills and earn the recognition they deserved. This vision led to an initial collaboration with the Chicago DuSable Museum in 1976, where ACT-SO was launched. The NAACP adopted ACT-SO in 1977, enabling its nationwide expansion. The first national competition took place in Portland, Oregon, in 1978, with participants from seven cities: Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Kansas City, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and St. Louis. This event marked the beginning of a program that has impacted thousands of students.

### Program Success and Student Impact

Since its founding, ACT-SO has engaged over 300,000 students, providing them with scholarships, monetary prizes, and other prestigious awards. Beyond tangible benefits, ACT-SO instills confidence, leadership skills, and a pursuit of excellence in its participants. The program's ongoing legacy reflects Vernon Jarrett's vision and the NAACP's commitment to nurturing the potential of Black youth, fostering an environment where academic and cultural talents are celebrated and the next generation of leaders is developed.

### Notable ACT-SO Alumni

- Anthony Anderson
- Michael Beach
- Edwina Findley-Dickerson
- Nicole Heaston
- Lauryn Hill
- Jennifer Hudson
- Mae Jemison
- Alicia Keys
- Anthony Burrell
- Jada Pinkett-Smith
- Justin Simien
- John Singleton
- Cornelius Smith Jr.
- Kanye West
- Michelle Williams
- Amber Stroud

# THE DUPAGE COUNTY ACT-SO PROGRAM

## Founder

Dr. Earnest Gibson, a respected administrator at the College of DuPage, established the DuPage County ACT-SO program in 1979. The program united students from the western suburbs, providing a supportive environment for academic and artistic development. For over forty-five years, DuPage County ACT-SO has honored Dr. Gibson's legacy by fostering student achievement and supporting academic and career ambitions.

## Program Description

The DuPage County ACT-SO program prepares students for a wide range of academic, cultural, and professional opportunities. Its comprehensive approach emphasizes student development and achievement, serving as the foundation for its ongoing success.

## Target Audience

ACT-SO targets high school students of African descent who are interested in learning, career exploration, and skill development. The program meets students at their current level of knowledge and ability—no prior experience or aptitude is required, only a willingness to participate in mentoring.

## Eligibility Requirements for Participants

- Be a high school student (9th–12th grade) of African descent
- Be a U.S. citizen or legal resident
- Attend one orientation session with a parent or guardian
- Complete all pre-competition work
- Be an amateur in the chosen ACT-SO category (no professional compensation received)

## Organizational Core Beliefs

The program believes African American students are exceptionally talented and deserve access to high-quality resources to develop their gifts, interests, and abilities. The organization is committed to:

- Providing a caring community of volunteers invested in student success
- Treating students as young professionals, fostering autonomy, independence, and self-advocacy
- Challenging students to take ownership of their projects and discover leadership skills
- Engaging parents as partners in developing future leaders

## Benefits of ACT-SO

### Youth Council Membership

ACT-SO participants are members of the DuPage County Youth Council (DCYC), a student-led group supported by an adult moderator. The DCYC educates youth about challenges facing African Americans and other minorities, encourages civic responsibility, and enhances advocacy skills through activities like field trips, leadership development, and engagement with officials. The DCYC nurtures future leaders and advocates for people of color.

## High-Quality Enrichment Programming

ACT-SO provides rich enrichment experiences, including college and career coaching, mentorship, workshops, master classes, field trips, recreational outings, and service projects. These activities promote personal growth, career exploration, community understanding, and global connection. Families receive coaching, information, and resources to support their students throughout the program and facilitate transitions to higher education or the workforce.

### Career Exploration

Orientation and enrichment sessions introduce students to the arts, humanities, sciences, and business, highlighting their relevance to modern society. This exposure helps students clarify their interests and potential career paths.

### Knowledge Acquisition and Skill Development

The local competition allows students to showcase projects evaluated by professionals in each category. Preparation enhances technical knowledge, social-emotional intelligence, critical thinking, project management, research, and presentation skills—abilities valuable in higher education and professional environments.

### Tangible Benefits of Local and National Competitions

Students who place first, second, or third at the local level earn gold, silver, or bronze medals. Gold medalists advance to the National ACT-SO Competition, an annual event in a different city, featuring five days of networking, learning, and competition. An awards banquet recognizes medalists, who may also receive monetary prizes. Each spring, scholarship opportunities are published for eligible students, with recipients announced at the national event.

### Professional Mentoring

Mentors provide technical support and model professional behaviors such as integrity, accountability, and excellence. They boost students' confidence, offer constructive feedback, and connect their interests with educational and career opportunities. Many mentor-mentee relationships continue beyond the program, offering ongoing academic and professional benefits.

### Student Enrichment and Mentoring

Over a seven-month enrichment period, students explore various fields to identify their interests. Professional mentoring is emphasized as a critical element in helping students reach their potential. Students are matched with experienced mentors who provide guidance, feedback, and support, helping them refine skills and build confidence.

### Distinctive Approach to Youth Mentoring

The DuPage County program stands out by actively shaping participants' futures. Graduates develop a strong sense of identity, a passion for learning and excellence, and a clear vision for their future. They gain essential skills, discipline, and confidence for academic and professional success, and are equipped to contribute positively to their communities.

### Organizational Structure

DuPage County ACT-SO operates as part of the Youth Division of the DuPage County NAACP Branch. The program is entirely volunteer run, with a staffing model that supports daily operations and strategic growth.

Leadership is provided by a chairperson and one or more co-chairs, supported by a team of dedicated volunteers, including industry professionals, alumni, parents, students, and community members. The program is divided into Internal Relations (for student and family activities) and External Relations (for community and vendor engagement).

### Program Staffing

A diverse group of volunteers from various sectors—including private industry, government, community, and educational institutions—support the program. Each volunteer is screened and serves in roles suited to their skills. Parent volunteers also offer valuable support.

### Four Pillars of the DuPage County ACT-SO Program

- Recruitment: Ongoing efforts target 9th–12th graders interested in the Arts, Humanities, STEM, and Business. Recruitment involves outreach to educators, administrators, churches, alumni, and community groups, with both formal and informal activities.
- Connection: ACT-SO connects students with peers, mentors, professionals, and organizations, forming a network of current and future leaders. These connections can grow into lasting academic and professional relationships.
- Development: The program offers leadership development, monthly enrichment sessions, 1:1 mentoring, and community service events. Participation in the DuPage County Youth Council provides additional exposure and development opportunities.
- Preparation: College and Career Readiness workshops help students prepare for high school and beyond, covering topics such as higher education options, applications, scholarships, financial aid, resumes, and social media profiles.

### Inclusive Supports for Students and Families

#### Buddy Program

First-year families are supported through a buddy program, pairing them with experienced participants for guidance and encouragement throughout the year. Peer buddies offer regular outreach, support, and quick feedback to promote successful outcomes.

#### Transparency and Predictability

To ensure a positive experience, the program provides:

- Mandatory orientation sessions for families
- Accountability forms outlining participation expectations
- A comprehensive family handbook
- A program kickoff event
- Regular family enrichment meetings following a predictable schedule
- SportsPlus—an integrated communication platform

These activities promote clarity and predictability for participants and families.

### Promoting a Sense of Belonging

The program strives to build a community where students feel comfortable and valued. Significant effort is devoted to identifying and nurturing student talents and supporting personal growth. The

environment is designed to empower students, promote independence, and foster leadership and self-advocacy in a safe, respectful, and collaborative setting.

### Supporting Diverse Student Needs

The program takes into account the diverse backgrounds and learning preferences of students, striving to deliver tailored support that addresses these distinctions. Responsive programming can be achieved when student needs are clearly communicated.

### The Importance of Family Involvement

Transparency with parents is essential, as they are viewed as partners. Open communication allows the program to effectively meet students where they are and deliver responsive programming.

### Fostering Growth and Life Skills

The program includes elements to develop positive self-concept and life skills beyond high school. By maintaining open communication with parents, the program can adapt to support each student's growth and success.

### Performance Feedback

Families will receive feedback on student performance throughout the program year, enabling timely support and clear communication.

## COMPETITION CATEGORIES

The National ACT-SO program features 32 competition categories in Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Humanities, STEM, Business, Culinary Arts, and Sustainable Design. DuPage County ACT-SO mentors students in 31 categories, excluding Culinary and Sustainable Design. Students may enter up to three categories per year. The categories are as follows:

### Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)

- Architecture
- Biology/Microbiology
- Chemistry/Biochemistry
- Computer Science
- Earth and Space Science
- Engineering
- Mathematics
- Medicine and Health
- Physics
- Sustainable Design (Pilot)

### The Performing Arts

- Dance – Ballet
- Dance – Contemporary
- Dance – Modern
- Dance – Traditional
- Dramatic Arts – Acting

- Music Instrumental – Classical
- Music Instrumental – Contemporary
- Music Vocal – Classical
- Music Vocal – Contemporary
- Oratory
- Poetry Performance

## Humanities

- Music Composition
- Original Essay
- Playwriting
- Poetry – Written
- Short Story

## Visual Arts

- Drawing
- Filmmaking
- Painting
- Photography
- Sculpture

## Business

- Entrepreneurship

## Judging Criteria

The judging criteria for each category is determined by the NAACP National ACT-SO Leadership Team. ACT-SO programs structure their curriculums and local competitions to align with the requirements set by national headquarters to ensure optimal student success.

The following links may be used to access the 2026 Judging Criteria:

STEM:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/11gwumQkvBt8\\_PJ-nGHxIA2xWQsl0HJb5/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11gwumQkvBt8_PJ-nGHxIA2xWQsl0HJb5/view?usp=sharing)

Arts and Humanities:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BFvMLU-m1UljHcR3FDLutV3-lWWdpRK3/view?usp=sharing>

Entrepreneurship:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1agQG2YfkaP9MtcDgKGFXVToyYjt3-2KG/view?usp=sharing>

## YOUTH ENRICHMENT

### Mentoring

Mentoring is the cornerstone of ACT-SO, offering students access to industry leaders, career exploration, and exposure to innovations in various fields. Mentors serve as role models and guides, explaining career pathways and supporting academic and career performance. Students are encouraged to explore their interests in a supportive environment and are expected to take responsibility for their projects, using mentoring sessions for skill refinement and feedback. The desired outcomes are improved knowledge and skills, high-quality projects, and lasting mentoring relationships.

### Argonne STARS (Science, & Technology Advancement for Rising Scholars) STEM Research Program

For over a decade, DuPage County ACT-SO has partnered with Argonne National Laboratory, offering the Argonne STEM Research program. Scientists and administrators from Argonne, Fermilab, UIC, and other local institutions mentor ACT-SO students in STEM. Monthly meetings are held on the campus of Argonne National Laboratory where students are supported in exploring scientific methods, developing competitive projects, as well as enhancing research, project management, and public speaking skills.

### Arts & Humanities Program

The Humanities program fosters a love for the arts, enhances cultural understanding, and emphasizes self-awareness and community engagement. The partnership with b.unity provides mentorship for students in Performing Arts, Humanities, and Visual Arts. b.unity offers a safe space for youth to create and share their narratives, addressing social justice and public health issues, and fostering positive change and unity. b.unity works closely with ACT-SO students to develop important leadership and life skills in addition to helping them prepare for competition.

### Entrepreneurship Program

The Entrepreneurship program teaches foundational business knowledge and business plan development. Students receive coaching to prepare pitches for the local competition, exposure to entrepreneurs, and access to masterclasses and research support. The program uses the Ramsey Entrepreneurship curriculum, featuring case studies, videos, and online assessments. Completion of the course precedes mentor pairing. No prior business experience is required.

### Attendance and Participation Requirements

Student and Family attendance and active engagement is crucial to the successful completion of the program. Active engagement includes attendance at an orientation session held prior to the start of each program year, attendance of a minimum of four DuPage County ACT-SO Family Enrichment Sessions. It also includes adhering to the attendance requirements for Argonne STARS, bUnity and Entrepreneurship sessions as prescribed by the current agreements for families in those programs.

### Notification of Absences or Late Arrival

Families must inform enrichment coordinators of absences or late arrivals. Extended or recurring conflicts should be discussed with the coordinator.

## Engaging with Mentors

- All mentor-student interactions must involve family members.
- Families receive advance notice of all mentor-student contact.
- An adult must accompany students at in-person meetings.
- Families are encouraged to be present during virtual meetings.
- Concerns should be raised with the mentor and, if unresolved, with the program coordinator.

## PROGRAM SPECIFICS

### Program Calendar

At the beginning of each program year, families receive calendars listing enrichment meetings, category specific gatherings, and key events. The calendar is accessible via the SportsPlus app. Below are key dates for the 2025-2026 program year:

- Program Kickoff: September 20th
- Day of Services: November 8th
- Career Day: October 18<sup>th</sup>
- Picture Day: October 18<sup>th</sup> / November 15<sup>th</sup>
- Alumni Day: December 13<sup>th</sup>
- Pinning Ceremony: January 17<sup>th</sup>
- DuPage ACT-SO Local Competition: March 21<sup>st</sup>
- Awards Banquet: March 22<sup>nd</sup>
- NAACP National Convention: July 15th-19<sup>th</sup>

### Fees

Enrollment fees are the main source of program funding. Efforts are made to keep fees affordable. Participation fees may be paid in one lump sum or in installments. Families are responsible for timely payments and must contact administrators if issues arise before deadlines.

SportsPlus sends payment reminders, and payments can be made through the app. Discounts are available for multiple students. For questions, contact [chairperson@dupageact-so.org](mailto:chairperson@dupageact-so.org).

### Student and Family Accountability Agreements

DuPage County ACT-SO promotes academic and artistic excellence by providing targeted support and resources. Clear expectations and transparency are essential for student success. Students must participate actively, and families play a key role in providing motivation and guidance. Both students and families must review and sign the accountability agreement during registration.

### Helpful Tips for Students to Attain Optimal Results

- Arrive on time
- Eat a meal immediately prior to enrichment sessions
- Participate actively in sessions and programs
- Notify leaders of absences in advance
- Prepare in advance and bring necessary supplies
- Engage positively with peers and coordinators

- Seek guidance and support as needed
- Demonstrate respectful communication and accountability
- Review and respond to communications promptly

### Helpful Tips for Families to Foster Their Students' Success

- Offer emotional support and encouragement
- Help manage time and competing priorities
- Attend meetings and participate actively
- Stay informed and adhere to deadlines
- Encourage self-advocacy and positive involvement
- Seek help with communication challenges
- Support students with self-care to manage stress
- Review and respond to communications promptly

### College and Career Readiness

DuPage County ACT-SO offers college preparation and coaching led by a professional counselor. Both synchronous and asynchronous classes help families navigate the path to college or employment. For students entering the workforce, monthly sessions provide information on emerging careers and essential skills. Project presentations help students develop communication, critical thinking, and project management abilities for any industry.

The program provides comprehensive support to ensure students are college and career ready, going above and beyond to prepare them for their next steps.

### Family Volunteer Requirements

As a volunteer-driven youth mentoring organization, DuPage County ACT-SO relies on student, parent, and community volunteers to deliver its programming each year. Every family must complete at least ten service hours. Volunteer roles vary in type, responsibilities, contact method, and focus.

- Types of Roles: Leadership or Team Member
- Responsibilities: Ongoing, Project-Based, or Event-Based
- Contact Type: Virtual, Hybrid, or In-Person

All contributions are valued; skills in fundraising, IT, graphic design, marketing, public relations, and event management are always needed.

Focus: Student/Parent Facing or Administrative

### Volunteer Screening

To maintain a safe environment, all volunteers undergo a background check. Mentors from institutional partners are screened through their organizations. Only those with approved background checks may work with students or access student data.

## National Travel

A National Travel Coordinator manages all aspects of travel for the ACT-SO National Competition delegation, serving as liaison among students, families, and chaperones. Students are under the care and responsibility of program chaperones from the time of departure until returning home.

## Troubleshooting And Escalating Concerns

The program provides a structured escalation process for addressing issues, ensuring that families and students receive timely support for their concerns.



- Peer Buddies: Support students and families with basic questions and encouragement.
- Family/Student Coordinators: Offer support and respond to inquiries regarding program procedures and the calendar.
- Program Coordinators: Oversee Arts/Humanities, STEM, and Business programs, supporting students with projects, schedules, mentor concerns, and participation issues.
- Finance Director: Assists families with payments and account management.
- Fundraising Director: Leads all fundraising campaigns for the organization.
- Internal Relations Coordinator: Manages daily operations, engagement, volunteer opportunities, and event questions.
- External Relations Director: Leads production of the Awards Banquet program book.
- Co-Chair: Oversees program operations and supports communications, technology, and events.
- Chairperson: Directs all aspects of the program, including risk management, partnerships, and community relations.

## Emergency Response

The closest medical facility is Bolingbrook Advocate Hospital. In emergencies, 911 is called, and students may be transported as necessary. Families should update medical information in the SportsPlus app for prompt sharing with healthcare providers.

## Safety Procedures

Safety is reviewed at each meeting location. Leadership is trained to guide families and students in emergencies.

## BUSINESS, ARTS, AND STEM EXCELLENCE (B.A.S.E.)

B.A.S.E. is the 501(c)(3) nonprofit supporting the DuPage County ACT-SO program. B.A.S.E. sponsors fundraising events in partnership with DuPage County ACT-SO, with proceeds directly supporting program operations.

## Family Fundraising Agreement

Each year, families agree to participate in B.A.S.E.-sponsored fundraising to support operations. The Fundraising Director leads campaigns. Families must sign an agreement at the program's start to affirm their commitment to fundraising efforts, seeking donations and pursuing sponsorships where possible.

## Media Consent and Release

The program and its affiliates regularly take photos and videos of participants for marketing, fundraising, recruitment, and related activities. Families must sign a media consent/release form acknowledging that all photos become the property of DuPage County ACT-SO and agreeing to the terms of use.

## Equipment Loan Agreement

Supplies and equipment are available for loan to support student projects. Families must sign an agreement outlining usage terms. All items must be maintained properly and returned by applicable due dates.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. When is the ACT-SO Competition?

The third Saturday in March.

### 2. When is the ACT-SO Banquet?

The third Sunday in March at the Bolingbrook Golf Club.

### 3. Who is eligible to participate in the local competition

Active participants with a project may compete in the local competition.

### 4. Who is eligible to receive competition prizes:

Students that have all fees and fundraising requirements met by the deadlines.

### 5. What awards and prizes are given at local and national competitions?

Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals are awarded with corresponding monetary prizes.

### 6. How are the local and national competition structured?

The structure and rules of local competition mimic the national competition. The National ACT-SO Director provides guidance each year about which sessions are closed and those that are open to spectators as well as the judging criteria.

### 7. Can I provide a photo of my student for the banquet program book?

The ACT-SO staff photographer takes picture of the students each year for inclusion in the awards banquet program book. Outside photos are not permitted to ensure uniformity across all student photos.

### 8. How should I handle issues with paying my fees?

Communicate with the Internal Relations Coordinator prior to deadlines.

**9. Are participation and program fees refundable?**

Fees are non-refundable.

**10. Do I have to purchase banquet tickets for myself and my student?**

Each family receives one (1) banquet ticket p/ student and two (2) additional tickets.

**11. Is there a family volunteer requirement?**

Families are required to volunteer a minimum of ten (10) hours. Flexible opportunities (i.e. hybrid, in-person, remote) are available.

**12. Does the program accept donations?**

Donations are accepted for fundraising raffles and auction items. The Gifts2Geniuses program also accepts donated items that will be given to students as a part of their celebratory “swag bags” that are distributed at the awards banquet. Preferred items include flash drives, small electronics, mugs, gift cards, etc.

**13. Are my students' program fees tax deductible?**

Program fees are not tax-deductible; donations and banquet tickets may be. Please consult your tax preparer for more information.

**14. How should I handle issues with my student's mentor?**

Please follow the progressive escalation process. First, encourage your student to advocate for themselves, if the issue remains unresolved contact the Program Coordinator.

**15. What does my student need for enrichment sessions?**

Student should bring a refillable water bottle, a sweater or light jacket, a notebook and pen as well as any category specific items needed for their project.

**16. Who should I contact if my student is late or absent?**

Notify your students' enrichment coordinator and mentors; ideally 48 hours in advance.

**17. Who should I contact in the event of an emergency?**

Immediately contact Program Chairs for urgent concerns affecting student safety.

**18. What is the attire for the competition and banquet?**

Participants are expected to wear attire suitable for their competition category. Business attire is generally required except for performing arts categories. For the Awards Banquet, business or “Sunday best” attire is appropriate.

## DUPAGE COUNTY ACT-SO LEADERSHIP TEAMS

### Executive Steering Committee

- Dr. Leslie Ford, Chair – [Leslie.Ford@DuPageACT-SO.org](mailto:Leslie.Ford@DuPageACT-SO.org)
- Vanessa Morrissette, Internal Relations Co-Chair – [Vanessa.Morrissette@DuPageACT-SO.org](mailto:Vanessa.Morrissette@DuPageACT-SO.org)
- Anissa Burrell-Butler, External Relations Co-Chair – [Anissa.Burrell-Butler@DuPageACT-SO.org](mailto:Anissa.Burrell-Butler@DuPageACT-SO.org)
- Ellen Moore, Dir. Corporate Community Relations – [Ellen.Moore@DuPageACT-SO.org](mailto:Ellen.Moore@DuPageACT-SO.org)

- Sharlyne Williams, Dir. Budget & Finance – Sharlyne.Williams@DuPageACT-SO.org
- Jeremy White, Internal Relations Program Director – Jeremy.White@DuPageACT-SO.org
- Curtis Brady, Dir. Fundraising – Curtis.Brady@DuPageACT-SO.org

#### Enrichment Coordinators

- J. Patrick Ford, Entrepreneurship Coordinator – J.PatrickFord@dupageact-so.org
- Thomas Reed, STEM Coordinator – Thomas.Reed@dupageact-so.org
- Tigelique Woods, Arts, Humanities Coordinator – Tigelique@wearebunify.org

#### DuPage County ACT-SO Timeline of Events

- 1978 – ACT-SO founded by Vernon Jarrett; NAACP becomes national sponsor
- 1979 – DuPage County ACT-SO founded by Dr. Ernest Gibson; COD becomes local sponsor
- 1980 – First DuPage County local competition under Chair Rose Thompson
- 1994 – Sadie Flucas appointed Chair, program gains national prominence
- 1999 – First national medalist: Colie Latin, Bronze in Instrumental/ Classical
- 2001 – Three national medals: Bronze (Vocal Contemporary), Gold (Computer Science), Silver (Playwriting)
- 2002 – Four national medals: Gold (Mathematics), Gold (Physics Electronics), Bronze (Physics Energy), Gold (Computer Science)
- 2003 – Three national medals: Bronze (Music Composition), Silver (Physics General), Silver (Computer Science)
- 2004 – One national medal: Gold (Music Composition)
- 2006 – Two national medals: Bronze (Entrepreneurship), Gold (Oratory)
- 2007 – Two national medals: Silver (Biology/Microbiology), Silver (Entrepreneurship)
- 2008 – DuPage County leads parade at National ACT-SO in Orlando
- 2009 – Two national medals: Gold (Architecture), Bronze (Physics); Jackie Mayo and Dorletta Payton become Chairs
- 2010 – Six national medals: Gold (Computer Science), Silver (Architecture), Silver (Drawing), Silver (Sculpture), Bronze (Entrepreneurship), Bronze (Medicine and Health)
- 2011 – Two national medals: Gold (Architecture), Gold (Instrumental Contemporary); three additional medals: Silver (Biology/Microbiology), Silver (Music Composition), Bronze (Instrumental Contemporary)
- 2013 – Four national medals: Gold (Music Composition), Gold (Entrepreneurship), Silver (Architecture), Bronze (Earth & Space Science)
- 2014 – Two national medals: Gold (Architecture), Gold (Mathematics)
- 2015 – Three national medals: Gold (Chemistry), Silver (Computer Science), Bronze (Filmmaking); Jr. ACT-SO program launched
- 2016 – Five national medals: Gold (Chemistry), Gold (Medicine & Health), Gold (Music Composition), Silver (Computer Science), Bronze (Physics)
- 2017 – Six national medals: Gold (Chemistry), Gold (Computer Science), Gold (Earth & Space Science), Silver (Music Composition), Silver (Physics), Bronze (Engineering)

- 2018 – Nine national medals: Gold (Architecture), Gold (Computer Science), Gold (Mathematics), Gold (Music Composition), Gold (Physics), Silver (Biology), Silver (Medicine and Health), Bronze (Chemistry), Bronze (Entrepreneurship)
- 2019 – Multiple national medals: Gold (Architecture), Gold (Engineering), Bronze (Earth & Space Science), Gold (Playwriting), Gold (Mathematics), Gold (Oratory), Silver (Music Vocal)
- 2020 – Seven national medals: Gold (Computer Science), Gold (Earth & Space Science), Gold (Physics), Gold (Music Composition), Silver (Biology/Microbiology), Silver (Chemistry/Biochemistry), Silver (Engineering). Chair: Dorletta Payton; Co-Chair: Thomas Reed
- 2021 – Five national medals: Gold (Entrepreneurship), Silver (Engineering), Silver (Dance Contemporary), Bronze (Earth and Space Sciences), Bronze (Poetry Performance)
- 2022 – Five national medals: Gold (Original Essay), Gold (Oratory), Gold (Music Composition), Silver (Engineering), Silver (Health and Medicine). Chair: Thomas Reed; Co-Chair: Leslie Ford
- 2023 – Four national medals: Gold (Biology/Microbiology), Gold (Chemistry), Gold (Entrepreneurship), Silver (Poetry Written). Chair: Thomas Reed; Co-Chair: Dr. Leslie Ford; Co-Chair: Vanessa Morrissette
- 2024 – Seven national medals: Gold (Engineering), Bronze (Earth and Space Science), Gold (Chemistry/Biochemistry), Gold (Biology/Microbiology), Gold (Poetry Performance), Silver (Medicine and Health), Silver (Music Instrumental Contemporary). Chair: Dr. Leslie Ford; Co-Chair: Vanessa Morrissette
- 2025 – Ten national medals: Gold (Mathematics), Gold (Engineering), Gold (Chemistry/Biochemistry), Gold (Poetry Performance), Gold (Music Instrumental: Contemporary), Gold (Filmmaking), Silver (Earth & Space Science), Silver (Computer Science), Bronze (Medicine and Health), Bronze (Music Instrumental: Classical)