

WHAT IS ACT-SO ?

Founded in 1978 by renowned author and journalist [Vernon Jarrett](#), ACT-SO (an acronym for “Afro-Academic, Cultural, and Technological & Scientific Olympics”) is an Olympic mentoring program whereby students demonstrate academic, artistic and scientific expertise. ACT-SO stimulates and encourages high academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students.

The ACT-SO program spans an entire academic year beginning in the fall, followed by planning, mentoring and coaching of students through winter months, culminating in a local competition in March or April and a national competition in July. ACT-SO is based on the dedication and commitment of community volunteers and business leaders that serve as mentors and coaches.

Students who participate in ACT-SO work with mentors to help them develop projects in preparation to compete with other students in [categories](#) which include [S.T.E.M.](#), [Humanities](#), [Performing Arts](#), [Visual Arts](#) and [Business](#). Students receive medals and prizes provided by the local and regional sponsors and

ACT-SO, often referred to as the “Olympics of the Mind”, seeks to promote the following:

- Positive self-esteem
- Positive interaction between our youth and the adult professional community
- Positive academic and artistic excellence
- High academic and cultural achievement



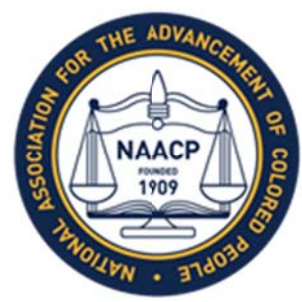
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BEAVER COUNTY

NAACP

BRANCH # 2372



BEAVER COUNTY NAACP ACT-SO CATEGORIES AND COMPETITIONS

S.T.E.M.	HUMANITIES	BUSINESS	VISUAL ARTS	PERFORMING ARTS
Architecture	Music Composition	Entrepreneurship	Drawing	Dance: Ballet
Biology/Microbiology	Original Essay		Filmmaking	Dance: Contemporary
Chemistry/Biochemistry	Playwriting		Painting	Dance: Modern
Computer Science	Poetry-Written		Photography	Dance: Traditional
Earth and Space Sciences	Short Story		Sculpture	Dramatics
Engineering				Music: Instrumental – Classical
Mathematics				Music: Instrumental – Contemporary
Medicine and Health				Music: Vocal – Classical
Physics				Music: Vocal – Contemporary
				Oratory
				Poetry -- Performance