

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE



**Miami-Dade NAACP**

**ACT-SO**

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

*An Olympics of the Mind*

PRESENTS THE GREAT MINDS OF OUR YOUTH

*"Today's Youth... Tomorrow's Legends"*



**GUIDEBOOK**

## MESSAGE FROM MIAMI-DADE NAACP ACT-SO COMMITTEE

The information contained in this Guidebook is for eligible student participants, community volunteers, educators, mentors, as well as potential sponsors/supporters.

“An Olympics of the Mind”, ACT-SO is the “brainchild” of the late Vernon Jarrett. An NAACP life member and advocate for children, Jarrett was a pioneer African American national syndicated journalist. After continually observing rising U.S. trends, which much too often indicated African-American students among the ethnic groups with the lowest scholastic scores and highest dropout rates, particularly in an overwhelming numbers of urban-centered school districts, he felt the need to do something to help stem the tide of this serious nationwide problem.

Jarrett believed that the promotion of “a winning spirit” in approaching any aspect of life goes a long way in encouraging and inspiring youngsters towards excellence in academics, as well as cultural activities. He also believed in the African proverbial adage that “It takes a village”. As a result of his push to mobilize adult community volunteers, interested in helping to promote excellence in achievement, scholastically and in co-curricula and after-school activities, he founded ACT-SO.

ACT-SO became the "battle cry", as community volunteers in NAACP branches throughout the nation sought to join forces with school districts and educators to inspire and celebrate academic achievement among deserving Black students as scholars, visual and performing artists, scientists and entrepreneurs.

In the interest of youngsters throughout Florida, local NAACP ACT-SO committee chairpersons and members, volunteers and student participants solicit continued interest, support, expertise, skills and talents, towards smothering the climate of low expectation and scholastic achievement and promoting a climate for the improvement of academic excellence. We urge you to join our community in promoting project ACT-SO!



Art Johnson, Chair  
Miami-Dade NAACP ACT-SO



Doris G. Hart  
Past FSC ACT-SO Coordinator/  
Miami-Dade ACT-SO Chair



Bishop Victor T. Curry,  
President  
Miami Dade NAACP



*Today's Youth... Tomorrow's Legends*



**Vernon Jarrett**

A major youth initiative of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), ACT-SO is an acronym for Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics. Founded in 1978 by Vernon Jarrett, pioneering renowned author and syndicated journalist, ACT-SO provides a forum through which Black youths are able to demonstrate their academic, artistic and scientific prowess and expertise, and thereby gain the same recognition often reserved only for persons in the entertainment and sports worlds. Jarrett was a great mentor and role model and continued to be ACT-SO's staunchest ally, until his death in the Spring of 2005.

ACT-SO is rooted in the firm conviction that African Americans can compete with their counterparts in classrooms, boardrooms or laboratories and succeed at the superior levels of achievement constantly displayed in the athletic arenas of our nation. It is one of the primary objectives of ACT-SO to afford the same respect for Blacks in scholastic and cultural achievement awarded heroes in the world of sports.

Through ACT-SO, local NAACP branches provide an instrument through which African American youngsters are encouraged and inspired toward excellence in academics and cultural pursuits, while also benefiting from the maximum support of volunteers and mentors in their communities.

**The following are the goals of ACT-SO:**

- To mobilize community volunteers for the promotion of academic and artistic excellence among African American students.
- To recognize and reward academic achievement among African-American students in a manner commensurate with the recognition afforded athletics.
- To assist African American students in establishing goals, developing the necessary skills, and acquiring the tools, training and confidence for success.



## RULES AND REGULATIONS

Afro-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 students. An academic competition often referred to as “An Olympics of the Mind,” its success is due largely to the dedication and commitment of community volunteers, education and social service professionals, business leaders and corporate sponsors, who volunteer their time, energy and resources in the promotion of academic and artistic excellence among the participants. Community volunteers who comprise the ACT-SO committee work in concert with the NAACP local sponsoring unit to recruit and/or solicit judges, mentors, coaches, tutors and resources.

**ACT-SO is not a talent show!** There are **26 categories** of competition in **Sciences, Humanities, Performing and Visual Arts and Business**. Its main goal is to afford students of African descent the same respect in scholastic and cultural achievement as awarded to entertainment and the athletic arenas.

Miami-Dade County NAACP ACT-SO had its first local competition in 1980. At the national competition that year, which was held in Miami Beach, Metropolitan Dade County had two (2) national winners. Since then, Miami-Dade students have competed every year locally and on the national level. Thousands of youngsters from public, private and parochial schools across Miami-Dade County, from Homestead Senior in South Dade to Dr. Michael Krop Senior at the north end, and Miami Beach to Holmes Braddock have participated in the local competitions. Each year, the top local winners/finalists compete against those from other cities at the national ACT-SO finals. Miami-Dade’s national winners have come from many different schools in the District, including but not limited to American, DASH, Jackson, Killian, North Miami Beach, Northwestern, NWSA, Palmetto and William H. Turner Tech High schools.

***All Contestants must meet the following guidelines:***

1. Of African descent (***Black***)
2. Enrolled in grades 9-12
3. A citizen or legal resident of the United States
4. Of amateur status (***not a paid professional***)
5. Demonstrate a genuine interest in one of the 26 categories listed below
6. Submit a separate project in each category entered

**(A student may enter as many as *three (3) different categories*)**

***“Participation is the first step to winning. You, too, can be a winner!”***

*Doris Hart, Past Miami-Dade ACT-SO Chair*

## CATEGORIES

### SCIENCES

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

### VISUAL ARTS

Architecture  
Drawing  
Filmmaking  
Painting  
Photography  
Sculpture

### PERFORMING ARTS

Dance  
Dramatics  
Music  
*Instrumental/Classical*  
*Instrumental/Contemporary*  
*Vocal/Classical*  
*Vocal/Contemporary*  
Oratory

### BUSINESS

Entrepreneurship

### HUMANITIES

Music Composition  
Original Essay  
Playwriting  
Poetry

## THE SCIENCES

### BIOLOGY / MICROBIOLOGY

The science of life or of the origin, structure, reproduction, growth and development of living organisms collectively.

### CHEMISTRY / BIOCHEMISTRY

The science that deals with the composition, structure and properties of chemical processes and phenomena of substances and the transformation that they undergo.

### COMPUTER SCIENCE

The science that deals with the theoretical aspects of computers including storage and the transformation of data using computers.

### EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES

The body of sciences that include geology, mineralogy, physiography, oceanography, meteorology, climatology, astronomy, speleology, seismology, geography, etc.

### ENGINEERING

Technology. Projects that directly apply scientific principles to manufacturing and practical uses.

### MATHEMATICS

The science of numbers and their operations, interrelations, combinations, generalizations, and abstractions of spaced configurations and their structure. Development of formal logical systems or various numerical and algebraic computations and the application of these principles.

## **MEDICINE AND HEALTH**

The study of diseases and health of humans and animals

## **PHYSICS**

Theories, principles and laws governing energy and the effect of energy on matter.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Only one (1) project can be entered per area.
2. Six (6) copies of a typed 8-½ inch by 11 inch, double-spaced scientific paper must accompany the project to be submitted. The content of the paper, which should not exceed five (5) pages, should include: a short introduction describing the background and purpose of the work, an experimental section including both methods and results, and a concluding section discussing the results and their implications. Tables, graphs, charts, maps, photographs, raw statistical data, etc. should be included whenever possible. They must also include references used and acknowledgements of any individuals who served as direct academic resources. The student's name and page number must be on the top of each page. Six (6) copies of the supporting documents, as well as the six copies of the paper must be submitted on or before the specified deadline.
3. The contestant is to make an oral presentation explaining his or her project. The oral presentation should not exceed five (5) minutes. This time limit does not include the time required for the judges to ask question and for the contestant to respond to the judges' questions.
4. Contestants are responsible for providing their own equipment.
5. The NAACP ACT-SO Program will provide electrical power and display tables.
6. Contestants must submit a Science Verification Form from a qualified scientist or science teacher with an earned professional degree or license. This person can also serve as a coach, working closely with the student during the course of the project to ensure the accuracy of the student's research and qualifications for entry.

### **Scientific Projects will be judged by the following criteria:**

- **Quality of Research (40 pt)**
  - 1) Scientific Approach/Method
  - 2) Validity of Information
  - 3) Validity of Conclusion(s)
- **Depth of Understanding (40 pt)**
  - 1) Oral Presentation
  - 2) Knowledge Gained and Creativity
  - 3) Thoroughness
  - 4) Individual Work
- **Written Report (10 pt)**
- **Visual Presentation (10 pt)**

## **SAFETY PROCEDURES**

In order to ensure a safe environment for our contestants, we request that you carefully review the NAACP ACT-SO Safety Procedures listed below. The NAACP ACT-SO Program prohibits the use of the following materials for display:

- Living organisms (ex: plants, animals, and microbes)
- Dried plant materials
- Taxidermy specimens or parts
- Human or animal foods
- Human/animal parts or bodily fluids (e.g. blood, urine. Note: dried animal bones, histological dry mount sections, wet mount tissue slides, teeth, hair, and nails are acceptable)
- Soil or waste samples
- Preserved vertebrate or invertebrate animals (inclusive of embryos)
- Laboratory chemicals, including water
- Dry ice or other sublimating solids (i.e. solids which vaporize to a gas without passing through a liquid phase)
- Poisons, drugs, controlled substance, hazardous substances or devices (i.e. firearms, ammunition, or reloading devices)
- Sharp items (syringes, needles, or pipettes)
- Flames or highly flammable display materials which vaporize to a gas without passing through a liquid phase
- Batteries with open top cells

**Contestants are advised to use photographs and other visuals for presentation. Due to the potential for serious harm to the contestants and others, any project that displays any of the above items at the National ACT-SO Competition will be disqualified.**

## **HUMANITES**

### **MUSIC COMPOSITION**

The science or art of arranging music by ordering tones or sounds in succession, in combination or in temporal relationships to produce a composition having unity and continuity.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Only one (1) original notarized composition with six (6) copies of the notarized original should be submitted on or before the specified deadline.
2. The top of each page must include the contestant's name and page number.
3. The composition must be neatly and precisely written on music transcript paper, in such a manner that any trained musician could perform the composition.
4. The contestant must be prepared to play their composition, if requested by the judges. A piano will be the only instrument provided.
5. The composition must not exceed five (5) minutes.

### **Contestants Will Be Judged By The Following Criteria:**

- **Creative sense (10 pt)**
- **Form (20 pt)**
- **Harmonic and Rhythmic interest (20 pt)**
- **Strength of melodic line (20 pt)**
- **Use of theory (20 pt)**
- **Quality of transcript (10 pt)**

### **ORIGINAL ESSAY**

A brief examination of a subject in prose usually expressing a personal view or interpretation of a subject or topic.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Only one (1) notarized original essay written only by the contestant, with six (6) copies of the notarized original should be submitted on or before the specified deadline. The top of each page must include the contestant's name and page number
2. The essay must be typed and double-spaced; not to exceed twelve (12) pages.
3. The contestant must be prepared to answer questions by the judges.

### **Contestants Will Be Judged by the Following Criteria:**

#### **General Merit (25 pt)**

- Ideas
- Organization
- Wording
- Flavor

#### **Mechanics (25 pt)**

- Usage
- Punctuation/Capitalization
- Spelling

#### **Overall Effect (50 pt)**

### **PLAYWRITING**

A literary composition developed for the stage.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Only one (1) original notarized one act play, with six (6) copies of the notarized original, should be submitted on or before the specified deadline.
2. The play must be an original (written only by the contestant).
3. The play must be typed and double spaced, not to exceed twenty (20) pages. A one-page synopsis must be included.
4. The top of each page must include the contestant's name and page number.
5. The contestant must be prepared to answer questions by the judges.

### **Contestants Will Be Judged By The Following Criteria:**

- **Characterization (10 pt)** – Is there a protagonist of some type? Is there an antagonist? Are the characters in the play developed? Are the roles defined?
- **Clarity (10 pt)** – Is the author’s theme and purpose clearly stated?
- **Content (25 pt)** – Is the subject matter or situation of the play relevant, creative, and/or controversial?
- **Dialogue (10 pt)** – Is the word usage or phrasing consistent with the character? Does the dialogue advance the plotline or develop the character’s background?
- **Mechanics (10 pt)** – Is the manuscript clearly typed? Are there errors in spelling and/or grammar? Are the stage directions clearly stated? Are the settings and characters clearly indicated?
- **Plot (25 pt)** – Has the storyline been clearly defined? Has the action of the play been chronologically developed? Is there evidence of:
  - 1) Exposition
  - 2) strength
  - 3) Complication
  - 4) Climax
  - 5) Conclusion
- **Style (10 pt)** – Has the playwright established a definitive method or style?

### **POETRY**

A composition, marked by language chosen for its sound, beauty and evocative power.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Submit (1) notarized original poem, along with six (6) copies of the notarized original on or before the specified deadline.
2. The top of each page must include the contestant’s name and page number.
3. Poems should be typed, using 12 point Times New Roman, Verdana, Georgia, or Comic Sans. Please no other fancy typefaces or graphics. Poems should retain original form that they were created in and do not have to be double-spaced. Individual poems may be free verse or rhymed metrical poetry containing stanzas. Poems should not exceed 3 pages.
4. The contestants will be interviewed about their work by the judges.

### **Contestants Will Be Judged By The Following Criteria:**

- **Emotional Connection (20 pt)**- Is the poet emotionally connected to the topic they are writing about and does the poem elicit an emotional response from the reader?
- **Original Thought (20 pt)** - Has the poet tackled an interesting subject or created something new with their work, or are they simply parroting belief systems or ideas that they have heard from someone else.
- **Sequential development (20 pt)** - Does the poem follow a distinct path or does it wander without every really getting to the point. Are there too many things going on in the poem? Is there a strong ending, or is it forced?

- **Structure or form, and overall presentation (20 pt)** - How is the poem constructed? Are there appropriate line and stanza breaks? Does the poem have a strong title? Does the poem contain appropriate grammar and punctuation?
- **Use of language as it relates to theme (20 pt)** - Does the poet use figurative language including vivid imagery, similes, metaphors, hyperbole, or idiom? Is the voice active, are the senses engaged?

## **THE PERFORMING ARTS**

### **DANCE**

To perform a series of rhythmic and patterned bodily movements usually performed to music.

#### **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. The solo performance must not exceed five (5) minutes. (*Contestants not adhering to minimum and maximum time requirements are subject to point deductions and/or disqualification*).
2. Costumes are optional, but should be appropriate to the choreography performed.
3. Musical accompaniment must be provided by the contestant on a standard cassette or CD player clearly marked with the student's name. The cassette/CD must contain only the music for the performance. It is recommended that the contestant provide a backup tape.
4. The theme and the dance form (ballet, modern, jazz, ethnic, etc.) of the performance must be identified to the judges prior to the presentation.
5. Aerobic exercises, street dancing, cheerleading and drill team routines may not be used.

#### **Contestants Will Be Judged By The Following Criteria:**

- **Technical Proficiency/Skill (25 pt)**
  - 1) alignment
  - 2) strength
  - 3) endurance
  - 4) flexibility
  - 5) coordination
- **Clarity and Consistency in Style (25 pt)**
- **Phrasing/Dynamics/Musicality (25 pt)**
- **Clarity of Intent/Interpretation of Choreography (25 pt)**

### **DRAMATICS**

The art of staging or acting plays.

#### **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. The performance must be a minimum of three (3) minutes and maximum of five (5) minutes. (*Contestants not adhering to the minimum and maximum time requirements are subject to point deduction and/or disqualification.*)
2. The selection must be of literate quality.
3. The material must be memorized.
4. Costumes, makeup, and props are optional, but not required.

### **Contestants Will Be Judged By The Following Criteria:**

- **Projection (10 pt)**
- **Structure (10 pt):** [Does the performance have transitions/beats and a clear beginning, middle, climax, and end?]
- **Memorization (10 pt)**
- **Movement (10 pt)** [Is the blocking clear and does the actor commit to and follow through with his/her movements and gestures?]
- **Emotional Connection and Honesty (10 pt)** [Are you really "selling" that you are becoming this character or are you simply "play-acting" ?]
- **Imagination and Creativity (15 pt)** [Are you bringing something different to the piece or are you just reciting lines?]
- **Stage Presence (10 pt)**
- **Character Work (10 pt)**
- **Specificity of Acting Choices (10 pt)** [Clear pursuit of Actions/Objectives]
- **Creation of the Space (5 pt)**

### **MUSIC INSTRUMENTAL/CLASSICAL**

The art of performing with a device used to produce music with tones of the late 18th and 19th centuries characterized by an emphasis on balance, clarity, and moderation.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. The musical selection must be one specifically written for solo performances. The performance may be an excerpt and may not exceed five (5) minutes. (*Contestants not adhering to the maximum time requirements are subject to disqualification.*)
2. Contestants must bring six (6) copies of the sheet music to present to the judges at the time of competition.
3. If the selection chosen is written with piano accompaniment, it must be performed in that manner. Contestants requesting accompaniment must submit sheet music with their registration packet.
4. The composition to be performed must be consistent with the nature of the instrument and the level of musical proficiency of the performer.
5. The selection of music and instrument is solely the decision of the contestant.
6. The only instrument provided for the performances will be a piano.

### **Contestants Will Be Judged By The Following Criteria:**

- **Interpretation, Expression, Tempo, Phrasing, and Historically appropriate style (20 pt)**
- **Intonation and touch (piano) (20 pt)**
- **Stage presence, choice of music (20 pt)**
- **Technique, articulation, Breathing, Rhythm, Facility and Accuracy (20 pt)**
- **Tone quality, Beauty, Control, Characteristic timbre (20 pt)**

## **MUSIC INSTRUMENTAL/CONTEMPORARY**

The art of performing with a device used to produce music with the tones of the present.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. The musical selection must be one specifically written for solo performances and may not exceed five (5) minutes. [**Contestants not adhering to the maximum time requirement are subject to disqualification**]
2. The selection performed should feature a solo performance.
3. If other players are needed (as in a jazz selection), they must be provided by the contestant.
4. The only instrument provided for performance will be a piano. Any additional instruments or equipment needed must be provided by the contestant.
5. The selection of music and instrument is solely the decision of the contestant. Examples of contemporary music are Broadway, Jazz, Gospel, Blues, etc.

### **Contestants Will Be Judged By The Following Criteria:**

- **Effectiveness of style, Improvisation (10 pt)**
- **Intonation, Touch (piano) (10 pt)**
- **Stage presence, Choice of music (10 pt)**
- **Technique, Articulation, Breathing, Tonality, Rhythm, Facility (10 pt)**
- **Tone quality, Beauty, Control, Characteristic timbre (10 pt)**
- **Effectiveness of style, Improvisation ((10 pt)**
- **Intonation, Touch (piano) (10 pt)**
- **Stage presence, Choice of music (10 pt)**
- **Technique, Articulation, Breathing, Tonality, Rhythm, Facility (10 pt)**
- **Tone quality, Beauty, Control, Characteristic timbre (10 pt)**

## **MUSIC VOCAL / CLASSICAL**

The art of performing with the human voice rhythmic tones or sounds of the late 18th and 19th centuries characterized by an emphasis on balance, clarity, and moderation.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Only one (1) song is to be performed, and it must not exceed five (5) minutes. [*Contestants not adhering to the maximum time requirement are subject to disqualification.*]
2. Musical accompaniment can be provided by the contestant on a standard cassette tape. The cassette/CD tape should contain only the instrumental version of the song. Contestants are encouraged to provide a backup tape.
3. Contestants requesting accompaniment must submit sheet music with their registration packet.
4. Contestants must present six copies of the sheet music to the judges at the time of competition.
5. The material must be memorized.
6. Costumes are not required.

**Contestants Will Be Judged By The Following Criteria:**

- **Choice of Music (10 pt)**
- **Diction (25 pt) [Correctness of pronunciation]**
- **Interpretation (10 pt)**
  - 1) Expression
  - 2) Phrasing
  - 3) Historically appropriate style
  - 4) Tempo
- **Intonation (10 pt)**
- **Stage presence (10 pt)**
- **Technique (10 pt)**
  - 1) Breathing,
  - 2) Posture
  - 3) Rhythm
  - 4) Accuracy
  - 5) Beauty of sound
  - 6) Control
- **Tone quality (25 pt)**

**MUSIC VOCAL / CONTEMPORARY**

The art of performing with the human voice rhythmic tones or sounds to produce music with the tones of the present.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Only one (1) song is to be performed, and it must not exceed five (5) minutes. [*Contestants not adhering to the maximum time requirement are subject to disqualification.*]
2. Musical accompaniment can be provided by the contestant on a standard cassette tape or CD. The cassette tape or CD should contain only the instrumental version of the song. Contestants are encouraged to provide a backup tape.
3. Piano accompaniment is available only if the contestant has provided and brings his/her own sheet music.
4. The material must be memorized.
5. Costumes are not permitted.
6. Microphones are permitted and will be provided.
7. Examples of contemporary music are Broadway, Jazz, R&B, Gospel, Blues, Soul and Country and Western.

**Contestants Will Be Judged By The Following Criteria:**

- **Choice of Music (15 pt) [Matched to vocal ability]**
- **Interpretation (20 pt):**
  - 1) Expression
  - 2) Phrasing
  - 3) Style
  - 4) Tempo
  - 5) Arrangement

- **Stage presence (15 pt):**
  - 1) Comfort on and control of stage,
  - 2) Posture
  - 3) Rapport with audience
- **Technique (25 pt):**
  - 1) Breathing
  - 2) Posture
  - 3) Rhythm
  - 4) Accuracy
- **Tone quality (25 pt):**
  - 1) Beauty of sound
  - 2) Control
  - 3) Intonation and Diction

## **ORATORY**

The art of speaking in public eloquently and effectively. **[This is not a dramatic presentation.]**

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Only one (1) speech is to be presented, and it must not exceed five (5) minutes.
2. The selection of the speech is the decision of the contestant; it should either be an original (written by the contestant) or an excerpt from a speech written by a famous individual or historical figure.
3. The speech is not to be presented as a dramatic presentation.
4. Costumes and props are not permitted.
5. The material must be completely memorized.
6. Contestants are encouraged to prepare and deliver original selections. However, if the contestant decides to present a selection already published, we recommend that they not limit their selection to speeches delivered by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. There are many great speeches by famous people, such as Frederick Douglas, Sojourner Truth, Malcolm X, etc.

### **Contestants Will Be Judged By The Following Criteria:**

- **Delivery (25 pt)**
  - 1) Voice
  - 2) Diction,
  - 3) Pronunciation
  - 4) Enunciation
  - 5) Gestures,
  - 6) Emphasis
- **Interpretation (25 pt)**
  - 1) Content
  - 2) Subject Adherence,
  - 3) Theme,
  - 4) Logic and Color
- **Platform Presence (25 pt)**
  - 1) Poise,
  - 2) Appeal

- 3) Impression,
- 4) Attitude and Effect
- **Projection (25 pt)**
  - 1) Voice
  - 2) Emphasis
  - 3) Tone
  - 4) Pitch
  - 5) Volume

## **THE VISUAL ARTS**

### **ARCHITECTURE**

The science, art or profession of designing buildings or outdoor spaces.

#### **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Only one (1) original project may be submitted. The project must be the creation of the competing contestant, rather than a replication of another architect's design.
2. Six (6) copies of a typed 8-½ inch by 11-inch double-spaced paper must accompany the project. The content of the paper, which should not exceed five (5) pages, should include overall statement of goals and processes, design objectives, the history of the project and execution of the project. The student's name and page number must be on the top of each page. The six (6) copies of the paper **must** be submitted on or before the deadline
3. Blueprints of the project must be 24 x 36 inches in length or width. The contestant must also submit a site plan, floor plan, a minimum of two (2) elevations and a section of the design at appropriate scale.
4. Contestants are required to make an oral presentation, not to exceed five (5) minutes, explaining his/her project. This time limit does **not** include the time required for the judges to ask questions and the contestant to respond to the judges.
5. Contestants are required to construct a scaled model of his or her project. (Display tables and electricity will be provided by the national office.)
6. Contestants must submit a Verification form from a qualified architect with an earned professional degree or license. This person can also server as a coach, working closely with the student during the course of the project to ensure the accuracy of the student's research and qualification for entry.

#### **Contestants Will Be Judged By The Following Criteria:**

- **Complexity of Project/Originality (15 pts)**
- **Planning and Space Concepts (10 pts)**
- **Aesthetics (10 pts)**
- **Consistency and Validity of Design Concepts (10 pts)**
- **Drawings (15 pts)**
  - 1) Quality of line work
  - 2) Organization of drawings

- **Model (10 pts)**
  - 1) Workmanship
  - 2) Scale
- **Site Analysis/Design (15 pts)**
- **Construction Materials/Methods of Construction (5 pts)**
- **Written Statement (5 pts)**
  - 1) Explaining Project
  - 2) Establishing Parameters
  - 3) Identifying Project Limitations and Design Objectives
- **Verbal Presentation (5 pts)**

## **DRAWING**

The art of representing forms and figures on a surface by means of lines.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Only one (1) project can be submitted.
2. The National Office will provide easels.
3. The contestant is required to make an oral presentation, which will not exceed three (3) minutes, explaining the methods or techniques used in developing the project. Mounting and matting is preferred.
4. The submission should be no larger than 36 inches by 48 inches. Framing is optional.
5. The oral presentation must not exceed three (3) minutes.
6. The contestant must be available to answer questions from the judges.

### **Contestants Will Be Judged By The Following Criteria:**

- **Composition (20 pts)**
- **Line/Form (20 pts)**
- **Presentation (20 pts)**
- **Technique/Craftsmanship (20 pts)**
- **Theme (20 pts)**

## **FILMMAKING**

The art and process of making motion pictures.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

#### **FILM**

1. Only one (1) film is to be entered.
2. The running time of the film must not exceed five (5) minutes.
3. A storyboard or project theme must be associated with the film (*Please Note: Storyboards are NOT stills taken from the film, rather they are original drawings, sketches, etc. completed PRIOR to the execution of the film.*)
4. Only one (1) film is to be entered in DVD format.
5. The running time for the film must not exceed five (5) minutes.
6. A playback unit will be provided.

7. Films should be submitted on a single DVD packaged in a standard 5 1/4 x 7 1/2 plastic DVD case. Do not put labels on the DVD
8. DVD's must be compatible with standard set-top DVD players.
9. Do not simply burn a QuickTime or AVI file to a disc as data. This may render your film unplayable. Make sure your disc plays in a standard DVD player before you submit your entry.

**Contestants will be judged by the following criteria:**

• **Creative (25 pts)**

1. Storyboard (10 pts) - how effectively did the competitor execute the ideas presented on the storyboard in their piece?
2. Originality (15 pts)- Did the competitor try to challenge him/her self to do something different and interesting. Did they have a new and interesting way of retelling an old story/concept? Creativity of approach or concept

• **Production (35 pts)**

1. Direction/Structure (25 pts) – the use of camera, choice of shots to help convey the story, framing, camera movement, clarity of story
2. Use of light (10 pts) – Are actors and/or environment lit effectively

• **Sound (15 pts)**

1. Use of audio effects /music (10 pts)
2. Audibility (5pts) – Is dialogue audible.

• **Post Production (25 pts)**

1. Editing (20 pts)– Approach in editing to tell the story more effectively.
2. Titles (5 pts)

**PAINTING**

The art of laying on paints with a brush or a knife.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Only one (1) project can be entered.
2. The National Office will provide easels.
3. The contestant is required to make an oral presentation, which will not exceed three (3) minutes, explaining the methods or techniques used in developing the project.
4. The contestant must be available to answer questions from the judges.
5. The submission should be no larger than 36 inches by 48 inches. Framing is optional.

**Contestants Will Be Judged By The Following Criteria:**

- **Color (20 pts)**
- **Composition (20 pts)**
- **Craft (20 pts)**
- **Line/Form (20 pts)**
- **Theme (20 pts)**

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

The process, art and technique of taking images recorded by a camera and reproducing them on a photosensitive surface.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. No more than six (6) photographs can be submitted or one (1) collage of work.
2. The photographs must be uniformly mounted using white, black or gray boards.
3. The photographs and/or mounting boards must be no larger than 20x16 inches and mounted on white, black, or gray color boards.
4. The contestant is required to make an oral presentation, which will not exceed three (3) minutes, explaining the methods or techniques used in developing the project.
5. The National Office will provide display tables.

**Contestants Will Be Judged By The Following Criteria:**

- **Choice of film (15pts) [Black and white, color slide or color negative]**
- **Cleanness (15 pts)**
- **Composition (20 pts)**
- **Effective use of light (35 pts)**
- **Mounting of photographs (15 pts)**

**SCULPTURE**

The art of making three-dimensional figures or designs.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Only one (1) project can be entered.
2. The National Office will provide easels and display table space.
3. Each contestant is required to make an oral presentation explaining the methods or techniques used in developing the project.
4. Oral presentations must not exceed three (3) minutes.
5. Craft projects (i.e. ceramics, macramé, etc.) will not be accepted.

**Contestants Will Be Judged By The Following Criteria:**

- **Concept (20 pts)**
- **Composition (20 pts)**
- **Craftsmanship (20 pts)**
- **How well the medium was applied (20 pts)**
- **3-Dimensional Form (20 pts)**

# BUSINESS

## **ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Refers to owning, organizing, and managing your own business by providing a necessary product or service.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Only one (1) business plan may be submitted per student. Six (6) copies of a typed 8-½-inch by 11-inch double spaced business plan must accompany the project.
2. The business plan, which should be a minimum of ten (10) pages and not to exceed twenty (20) pages, should include a cover page, executive summary, company description, a marketing plan, a management plan and a financial plan, in addition to any supporting (*i.e. graphs, photographs, statistical data*).
3. The student's name and page number must be at the top of each page.
4. The six (6) copies must be submitted on or before the specified deadline.
5. The contestant is required to make an oral presentation, not to exceed five (5) minutes, explaining his/her business plan.
6. A visual presentation in the form of a display, slide show, overhead or PowerPoint presentation should be provided.
7. Contestants should be familiar with business terminology in general and about terminology related to their selected product/service.
8. Contestants are required to have personally conducted the business plan analysis and have been involved with the production of any prototype product or service trials. The NAACP ACT-SO Program will provide electrical power and an LCD projector. **Contestants must provide a laptop**

### **Contestants Will Be Judged By The Following Criteria:**

- **Written Business Plan (75 pts)**
  - 1) Marketing Strategy (15 pts.)
  - 2) Management Plan/Personnel Profiles (10 pts)
  - 3) Financial Plan (15 pts)
  - 4) Market Research & Analysis (10 pts)
  - 5) Government Requirements (5 pts)
  - 6) Product/Service Knowledge (10 pts)
  - 7) Customer Service Plan (5 pts)
  - 8) Creativity/Originality (5 pts)
- **Oral Presentation (20 pts)**
  - 1) Comfort Level of Product/Service Knowledge
  - 2) Social Responsibility/Contribution to the Community
  - 3) Presentation Style
- **Visual Presentation (5 pts)**