

January 4, 2021



Cynthia Peeples, Co-Chair
Tammy Monroe, Co-Chair
Akron NAACP ACT-SO Committee
E: AkronACTSO@gmail.com
P: 330-356-8022

THE 42nd ANNUAL NAACP ACT-SO COMPETITION SEASON IS UNDERWAY!

Akron NAACP invites Summit County high school students to compete in STEM, Performing & Visual Arts, Business, and more! Local winners advance to the National Competition for awards, prize packages, scholarships and internships.

AKRON, OH (Jan 4, 2021) The Akron Branch of the National Association for the Advancement Colored People (NAACP) is excited to invite ALL Summit County high school students to compete in the 2021 Akron NAACP ACT-SO (Afro-Academic Cultural Technological Scientific Olympics) program. The acclaimed program showcases exceptional youth from all backgrounds in six categories: STEM, Humanities, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Business, and Culinary Arts. ACT-SO has attracted more than 300,000 contestants since its inception, from more than 200 cities across the nation. Nationals host more than 700 contestants.

The competition format is two-tiered, with Summit County students competing in the Akron NAACP ACT-SO event on April 24-25, 2021, and Gold Medal winners advancing to Nationals on July 7-10, 2021. Students may select up to three competitions and are evaluated by leaders of industry, government, academia, and the arts. The program offers unparalleled networking opportunities and professional development at the local and national levels.

[Google.org](https://www.google.org) recently provided a \$3M grant to support ACT-SO's expansion, and drive ACT-SO volunteerism among Google employees. Derrick Johnson, NAACP President and CEO, stated, "This funding and volunteer support will help our outstanding youth, who exemplify scholastic and artistic achievement, to continue to pursue their passions free from limitations. We are excited to continue this tradition and ensure all of our students have access to mentorship in STEAM careers."

Akron NAACP is host to three National champions:

- 2019 Silver Medal, Chika Nkowcha for Drawing
- 2019 Bronze Medal, Connor Harris for Microbiology
- 2018 Silver Medal, Kofi Boakye for Music Instrumental/Contemporary

Notable ACT-SO alumni include: John Singleton, Roy Hargrove, Lauryn Hill, Jennifer Hudson, Alicia Keys, Jada Pinkett-Smith, Anthony Anderson, and Kanye West.

Established in 1977, founder and celebrated journalist, Vernon Jarrett originally presented the "Olympics of the Mind" concept to the DuSable Museum of African American History. The NAACP Board of Directors ultimately adopted the youth achievement program and built the storied platform to showcase the scholastic and artistic talents of often overlooked African American students. Today, ACT-SO encourages all students of every background to strive for greatness and continues to promote growth, excellence and innovation to position ACT-SO competitors as "Leaders For Tomorrow and Beyond".

Learn more about the ACT-SO program at www.AkronACTSO.org

ABOUT THE NAACP:

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest nonpartisan civil rights organization. Its mission is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination. NAACP members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities.



Akron ACT-SO
P: 330-356-8022
E: AkronACTSO@gmail.com
www.AkronACTSO.org