

# Student Academy of Audiology

[www.studentacademyofaudiology.org](http://www.studentacademyofaudiology.org)

## National SAA Chapter Challenge Instructions 2023-2024

Welcome to the 2023-2024 National Student Academy of Audiology (SAA) Chapter Challenge. As a part of our efforts to improve relationships between nationally recognized SAA Chapters, we developed the **National SAA Chapter Challenge** to help grow engagement in our profession and build a sense of community among audiology students. Furthermore, as future audiologists, it is paramount to be active participants in the advancement of our profession. We encourage all nationally recognized chapters to participate.

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- The national SAA Chapter Challenge is divided into five main categories: Advocacy, Education, Humanitarian, Fundraising, and Diversity and Inclusion.
- The year will be divided into three scoring periods. Complete the [Chapter Challenge Google Form](#) before the deadline for each period.

### **NOTE: LATE SUBMISSIONS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Period 1: May 20 - October 4 (**submission deadline October 6**)

Period 2: October 5 – December 13 (**submission deadline December 15**)

Period 3: December 14 – March 27 (**submission deadline March 29**)

- Read the descriptions and directions on the form carefully to understand how points are tallied. There is a designated “notes” area in each section where supplemental information can be added as needed. Make sure to include all of the activities in which your chapter participated! Points will be tallied and scores will be communicated to all chapters at the end of each submission period.
- This document contains examples of suggested activities; however, this is just a start. Section 8 of the [Google Form](#) under “Additional Activities” has space for you to record detailed information about the event, such as who was involved, where the event was held, and what the event entailed. You may receive up to one point for each additional activity that is not listed here. If you have questions about how an activity should be tallied, contact [Emily Jones](#), national SAA Chapter Challenge Subcommittee Chair.
- The winning chapters will be featured on the national SAA website and social media.

- Cash prizes will be awarded to the SAA chapter with the most points in each of the following categories, for a total of seven prizes: Most Overall Points, Most Well-Rounded (awarded to the chapter with points in the highest number of different categories), Advocacy Challenge Champion, Education Challenge Champion, Humanitarian Challenge Champion, Fundraising Challenge Champion, and Diversity and Inclusion Challenge Champion. Each chapter can only win one prize.

We look forward to a friendly competition and seeing everything your chapters accomplish!

**Remember: ADVOCATE, EDUCATE, SUPPORT, and LEAD!**

Sincerely,

[The national SAA Chapter Relations Committee](#)

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## **Points Suggestions**

Once again, these suggestions are to get your chapter started. Activities that are not listed may receive up to one point per each additional activity. Record, in detail, what your chapter's event consisted of (who, what, when, where) and include it under "Additional Activities" (Section 8 of 9 of the [Google Form](#)). If you have questions about how an activity should be tallied, contact [Emily Jones](#), national SAA Chapter Challenge Subcommittee Chair. **Good luck!**

## **Advocacy Challenge Descriptions**

This category involves activities that work towards creating awareness and support for issues in the audiology and d/Deaf and hard-of-hearing communities

### **• Write a letter or email to your congressional leaders [1 point per member who sends a letter, up to 10 points maximum]**

○ Members can mail or email a letter to state representatives and/or senators supporting a current legislative issue or bill that affects audiology (e.g., Medicare Direct Access). You can find your respective congressperson, current legislative issues supported by the Academy, and examples of ready-to-print template letters on the [Academy website](#).

○ Note: Please do not spam your representatives.

### **• Participation in the "Ask Me About Audiology" Campaign [1 point]**

○ October is [National Audiology Awareness Month](#). The [national SAA Public Outreach Committee](#) challenges all local SAA Chapters to advocate for audiology by participating in the annual "[Ask Me About Audiology](#)" (AMAA) Campaign in October. The goal is to bring awareness to audiology at the local level and encourage consumers to ask questions about audiology- and hearing-related issues. Host an advocacy event or spread awareness and education to the public using social media during this month to earn one point. Only one point may be earned for this activity.

### **• Participation in the #AuDvocracy Social Media Campaign [1 point]**

○ Share updates from your chapter's "[Ask Me About Audiology](#)" Campaign and other advocacy events throughout the year on social media (Facebook, Instagram, or other social media platforms) with the hashtag #AuDvocracy. Participants can earn one point per post (up to 3 points per scoring period), and can verify it by uploading a screenshot of the photo with the associated hashtag.

### **• Participation in the Power of the Constituent (POTC) [1 point]**

○ Spread the word about audiology and hearing healthcare to your elected officials by participating in Power of the Constituent. For more information, see what some of [our chapters have done in the past](#). Each state follows its own specific legislative calendar; you can find the

2024 legislative dates for each state [here](#). The official kick-off for 2024 POTC is in January during period three!

- Earn an extra point [1 point] by hosting an in-person or virtual Power of the Constituent Event to advocate for audiology and allow your voice to be heard!

- **Donate to the American Academy of Audiology PAC [1 point]**

- As defined on the Academy website, “the purpose of the Academy’s Political Action Committee (PAC) is to support policy goals important to audiologists and the practice of audiology through the support of candidates for elective office; to promote better understanding among elected officials of the unique and important role of audiology in the delivery of high-quality healthcare to patients; and to assist audiologists and others in organizing themselves for effective political action.” Chapters can [donate to the Academy PAC](#); any monetary donation will be accepted and one point will be awarded for donating, regardless of the amount donated.

- **Schedule a visit with a government representative [1 point]**

- Scheduling a visit with your representatives and/or senators can be an effective way to advocate for a legislative issue that is important to you. Virtual or in-person meetings can be scheduled when your congressional leaders are in their home districts. Alternatively, your chapter can schedule a trip to Washington, DC to visit them at Capitol Hill with the help of Academy staff. If you are interested in scheduling meetings, further information about current issues, how to schedule an appointment, and what to expect during your appointment from the Academy’s advocacy team. Contact [Bailey Harmon](#), national SAA Public Outreach Committee Chair, for more information and assistance.

- **Encourage consumer advocacy [1 point per event]**

- Hold an event on your campus or in your community, start a social media campaign, or come up with your own creative ideas to encourage your patients and community members to advocate for audiology and hearing healthcare legislation. See our [Advocacy Tools](#) for ideas and more information.

- **Participate in a virtual advocacy training [1 point per event]**

- Host a virtual advocacy training in a webinar format for your local SAA chapter. See our [Advocacy Tools](#) for additional ideas and more information.

## Education Challenge Descriptions

This category involves activities that work towards imparting knowledge about the various aspects of hearing and hearing loss to the public

- **Reach out to undergraduate students [1 point per event]**

- Reach out to undergraduate students and encourage them to join your local SAA chapter, or educate them about audiology and hearing loss. Hold an open house, Q&A session, recruitment event, or participate in an undergraduate career fair or health fair.

- **Make an educational post in the Students Community in the Audiology Community [1 point]**

- Do you have an interesting case study, question about class or clinic, or just want to share thoughts with your peers? Post in the Student Community of the [Audiology Community](#) to start the conversation or join in a discussion with your peers! Information on how to join the Audiology Community can be found [here](#); it is as simple as a click on a subscribe button! 1 point will be awarded per post.

- **Organize a speaking engagement at a public or community venue [1 point per event]**

- Be an educational advocate for audiology by giving a hearing loss lecture at a community center, speaking to school-aged children about healthy hearing and noise levels, or participating in any similar speaking engagement. Check out the [Program Ideas Bank](#) to find ideas that suit your audience.

- **Host an audiology/hearing science journal club [1 point per scoring period]**

- Check out the latest and greatest research! Gather a group of students together to read about and discuss recent audiology or hearing science articles beyond class requirements. Explore the recent articles in the [Journal of the American Academy of Audiology](#) for inspiration. 1 point may be earned per scoring period.

- **Introduce us to your chapter or participate in the Chapter Spotlight [1 point per project]**

- Get creative and introduce us to your chapter! This can be in the form of a YouTube video, a website, a photo collage, or other artistic media. Your SAA chapter's introduction may be featured on the national SAA website, Instagram, or Facebook page. Email your chapter introduction to [Emily Jones](#), national SAA Chapter Challenge Subcommittee Chair.

- **Submit an idea to the SAA Program Ideas Bank [1 point]**

- The Programs Ideas Bank (PIB) is a resource and inspiration center for chapters to use when planning activities. PIB submissions include, but are not limited to, ideas for advocacy,

education, fundraising, humanitarian events, social events, and anything that does not fit in the listed categories. Submit ideas to the SAA Program Ideas Bank (PIB) to earn 1 point per scoring period! Visit the national SAA website for more information on the SAA [Program Ideas Bank](#) and to download a submission form. Completed submission forms should be sent to [Maryann Quigley](#), national SAA Chapter Relations Committee Chair.

- **Participate in the National Exam for Audiology Trivia Olympics (NEATO) [1 point]**

- Prepare for the Praxis® with national SAA! Use a chapter meeting to practice answering questions modeled off the Audiology Praxis® exam.
- The chapter who placed first is awarded three additional points, the second-place chapter is awarded two additional points, and the third-place chapter is awarded one additional point.

- **Participation in Chapter Chatter [1 point]**

- Does your chapter have an exciting update to share? Send your update to [Kassandra Thompson](#), national SAA Communications Committee Chair, to be part of our Chapter Spotlight. As a thank you for participating, your chapter will earn one point.

- **Present a poster at a conference, including the annual AAA 2024 + HearTECH Expo [1 point]**

- One of the best ways to share knowledge with other professionals is to present your work at a conference. Earn 1 point per poster presenter at the AAA 2024 + HearTECH Expo, ASHA, local school/university conferences, or state events. Submission information for the AAA annual conference is available on the [Academy website](#).

- **Invite a guest lecturer to present at a chapter meeting [1 point per scoring period]**

- Use a chapter meeting as an opportunity for advancing knowledge in special topic areas beyond the classroom. Examples might include an expert in pharmacology, industrial or forensic audiology, minority researcher, clinician in communication sciences, or other related professionals. One point per scoring period.

- **Communications contributions, “ComCon” [1 point per published work]**

- If someone from your chapter writes a post that is published on the national [SAA Blog](#), [Audiology Today](#), [SAAy Anything](#), or on one of national SAA’s social media accounts, you can earn one point per published work.

## Humanitarian Challenge Descriptions

This category involves activities that work towards providing philanthropic aid to a community in need

- **Humanitarian trip (of at least one day) [3 points per trip]**

- There is a need for audiological services in developing countries overseas, as well as in underserved regions within the U.S. Look out for opportunities provided by your university (or create your own!) to promote healthy hearing to communities in need.

- **Coordinate a service event with another SAA chapter [1 point per event]**

- Let's all work together for the greater good! This can include a service event, a fundraiser, or even an advocacy project. Reach out to your [National SAA State Ambassador](#) for collaboration ideas. If your state does not have a state ambassador, please reach out to [Molly Bastida](#) or [Amanda Brown](#), national SAA State Ambassador Program Co-Chairs.

- **Coordinate a service event on campus [1 point per event]**

- Some examples include coordinating a food or clothing drive, creating a support group for students with hearing loss, or taking part in a program that assists families in need by donating gifts for the holidays.

- **Perform hearing screenings in your community [1 point per event]**

- Undetected and untreated hearing loss are major health concerns. By visiting a preschool, nursing home, or other community location, your chapter can help people hear better and reconnect with loved ones. Make sure to bring a licensed audiologist along to supervise, and refer to your university clinics for follow-up care. This event must be organized and facilitated by your SAA chapter, and not set up through your audiology program.

- Note: Include who organized this event and what their relationship is to your SAA chapter in the notes section to ensure points are awarded.

- **Participate in national [SAA Humanitarian Month](#) [1 point]**

- Participating in the national SAA Humanitarian Month during the month of March (third scoring period) can be done in many ways. SAA chapters can work on service projects which would include planning, hosting, or participating in hearing screenings. Other ideas include hosting a food drive, handing out earplugs at a local event, educating the public by giving a presentation about hearing loss, or holding a social media campaign about hearing healthcare. More ideas can be found in the [Program Ideas Bank](#). Only one point may be earned for this activity.

- **Participate in [World Hearing Day](#) [1 point]**



○ The World Health Organization's (WHO) World Hearing Day is held annually on March 3, which falls into the third scoring period. Each year, WHO and other international and local organizations plan and execute ear- and auditory perception-related activities and events to promote hearing health around the world. Your chapter can earn one point by participating in World Hearing Day activities. Possible service projects include planning or participating in a hearing screening, hosting a food drive, handing out earplugs at a local event, or educating the public by giving a presentation about hearing loss. Your chapter can also create a unique service project or can check out the [Program Ideas Bank](#) for more ideas. Only one point may be earned for this activity.

● **Donation drive for an audiology humanitarian trip [1 point]**

○ If your chapter would like to help out with a humanitarian trip but lacks the time, personnel, or resources to participate directly, consider donating items to a chapter or audiologist who is planning a humanitarian trip. Some relatively inexpensive donations could be disposable specula, alcohol pads/wipes, batteries, or other frequently used disposable supplies.

○ If you do not know of a chapter that goes on humanitarian trips or what supplies are requested, contact [Bailey Harmon](#), national SAA Public Outreach Committee Chair.

● **Participate in a Special Olympics Healthy Hearing (SOHH) event [1 point]**

○ Special Olympics is the largest global public health organization dedicated to serving individuals who have intellectual disabilities. Free health screenings and health information is provided to athletes who attend. Volunteers at Special Olympics Healthy Hearing (SOHH) events perform hearing screenings on athletes, educate participants about their hearing, and make referrals when appropriate. Chapters can earn one point for participating in a SOHH event per chapter challenge period. Be a part of the rewarding volunteer experience by checking out more information on [SOHH Events](#) and contacting a [Special Olympics](#) office near you.

● **Public Outreach Spotlight Initiative [2 points]**

○ The Public Outreach Spotlight Initiative encourages local SAA chapters to offer humanitarian services both locally and internationally and share their ideas and efforts with other chapters. The purpose of the Spotlight is to recognize the amazing humanitarian work that is done by SAA members and to inspire other chapters to actively participate in humanitarian audiology. Chapters can participate by creating a local event to serve the community or either planning or joining a regional event. For more information on the Public Outreach Spotlight Initiative, contact [Bailey Harmon](#), national SAA Public Outreach Committee Chair.

## Fundraising Challenge Descriptions

This category involves activities that work towards raising money for donations or use in your local SAA chapter

- **Donate to the AAA Foundation [1 point]**

- The American Academy of Audiology Foundation's (AAAF) programs and initiatives affect audiologists, audiology students, consumers, and individuals who have hearing loss and/or balance disorders. Through research grants, humanitarian work, education, and public awareness scholarships, the AAA Foundation works to broaden the knowledge base and understanding of the impact hearing and balance disorders have on an individual. Chapters can earn one point by [donating to the AAA Foundation today](#), regardless of the amount donated.

- **Raise funds for a hearing-related non-profit organization [1 point]**

- Your SAA chapter can donate to any local or national organizations or causes that accept donations. Some suggestions are the [Hearing Loss Association of America \(HLAA\)](#) or [Special Olympics Healthy Hearing \(SOHH\)](#). Chapters can earn one point by donating, regardless of the amount donated.

- If your chapter raises funds for a non-hearing related organization, please enter this under the "Additional Activities" section, detailing what your chapter did to raise the funds, how much was donated, and which organization received the donation.

- **Fundraising in reverse – [Apply for a student scholarship](#) [1 point]**

- There are many grants and scholarships offered through the AAA Foundation! The grants and scholarships are all supported by the AAA Foundation, as well as industry-provided funding given specifically to benefit students. One point may be earned per chapter for this activity.

- **Raise money for your local chapter [up to 5 points]**

- Host a fundraiser for your SAA chapter. Enter the amount raised for your SAA chapter during the period. Provide additional information about how this money was raised. A maximum of 5 points can be awarded per period.

## Diversity & Inclusion Challenge Descriptions

This category involves activities that work towards fostering inclusivity and cultural humility within your local SAA chapter

- **Open forum discussion on Diversity & Inclusion [2 points]**

- Set up an SAA meeting with your chapter to specifically talk about [diversity and inclusion](#). Engage in conversations on what your members know or do not know, how to improve your cultural competency in these areas, and how SAA can help.

- **Schedule a lecture from your university's Office of Multicultural Affairs/Office of Diversity and Inclusion [1 point]**

- Attending a lecture or training session from your university's Office of Multicultural Affairs or Office of Diversity and Inclusion will enhance members' cultural competency. Proof of attendance can be submitted through a photo taken at the event for one point.

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Webinar Screening [1 point]**

- Host a watch party of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion webinar. Bring your questions and have a post-watch discussion to share comments and reactions.

- The SAA Diversity and Inclusion Task Force hosted DEI webinar interviews in the past. Be on the lookout for upcoming events on the [American Academy of Audiology Facebook](#)! Topics have included diversity and humanitarian work in audiology, LGBTQ+ inclusion in the profession, and cultural competency.

- **Host a social event with a cultural organization [up to 5 points]**

- Have a social event with a cultural organization on campus to mingle, learn more about them, and increase cultural competency. Contact your university's student center to find out which cultural organizations can be found on your campus! One point can be earned per event, for a maximum of 5 points.

- **Host an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) scavenger hunt [1 point]**

- Select a location on or off campus and try to determine how well it complies with ADA regulations. After the scavenger hunt, members should reconvene and discuss what modifications could be made to better support ADA regulations. A letter summarizing the findings can be passed along to the location's ADA compliance advocate for further review.

## Bonus Points

### ● Undergraduate Member Participation [1 point per scoring period]

○ To encourage undergraduate outreach and participation, earn one bonus point if at least one undergraduate member participates in any of your chapter challenge activities. One point may be earned per scoring period.

### ● Academy Fellow Participation [1 point]

○ To encourage participation from professionals, chapters can earn one bonus point if at least one Fellow Member of the American Academy of Audiology participates in a chapter event during the period. Fellow membership options are listed and defined [here](#)! Note: These Fellow members should be separate from your chapter advisors. Please list the name of the participating Fellow Member in the notes section.

### Sharing Communications from the National SAA [1 point per period]

○ Earn one point per chapter challenge period for forwarding national SAA communications to all members of your SAA chapter; you must CC [Emily Jones](#), national SAA Chapter Challenge Subcommittee Chair, and [Maryann Quigley](#), national SAA Chapter Relations Committee Chair, to earn these points. Points cannot be awarded retroactively. Be sure to include your SAA chapter name in the body of the email so that we know which chapter you are representing.

### ● National SAA Membership [Up to 5 points]

○ Being a [member of the national SAA](#) provides many benefits to your chapter members, such as having access to scholarships and [exclusive resources](#). Chapters with 75% or greater national SAA membership among chapter members may receive bonus points during any scoring period, but **for one period only**. Note that these membership percentages will be verified as part of the national SAA chapter renewal process, and points may be modified based on these findings.

- If 100% of chapter members are national SAA members = 5 points
- If 90% of chapter members are national SAA members = 3 points
- If 85% of chapter members are national SAA members = 2 points
- If 75% of chapter members are national SAA members = 1 point

### ● Social Media Challenge (Academy, SAA, AAA Foundation, SAA Instagram) [2 points]

○ Keep in touch with your professional organizations by following the Academy's various social media pages and liking and sharing their posts with the click of a button. These are the Academy and national SAA social media pages:

- [American Academy of Audiology Facebook](#)
- [American Academy of Audiology Instagram](#)
- [American Academy of Audiology Foundation Facebook](#)
- [Student Academy of Audiology Facebook](#)
- [Student Academy of Audiology Instagram](#)
  - Participants can earn up to two points for their **SAA chapter**
  - 10 new members or 80% of members like/follow all national SAA and Academy social media pages = 1 point
  - Your chapter's social media page reposts 2 SAA/Academy posts = 1 point
  - Your chapter's social media page reposts 5 SAA/Academy posts = 2 points

**Note:** these points can only be earned in one period

● **Participate in national SAA events [1 point per event]**

○ Stay involved with national SAA and learn about different aspects of audiology through the virtual programming series offered through the programming committee. The programs presented by national SAA are a great way to network and meet students and professionals from all over the country. Information for these events can be found on the national [SAA website](#) and the national [SAA Facebook](#) page. You can earn a point for every event where at least one chapter member attends.

● **Additional Activities [1 point each]**

○ Any additional projects, activities, or events that your chapter participates in can count for one point! Write a detailed description and tally your points in the "Additional Activities" section of the Google Form. Make sure to include which category best fits your project (advocacy, education, humanitarian, or fundraising). Examples can include:

- Virtual Event: Coffee with a Grad Student
  - Set up a Zoom meeting and pass out the link to undergraduate students where they can come to ask questions about graduate school interviews, audiology in general, the application process, or other hot topics.
- Create a Snapchat or Instagram filter or a temporary Facebook profile picture for a special day in audiology (e.g., World Hearing Day is March 3) or post a photo using the Academy-created filters.
- Check out the [Program Ideas Bank](#) for more ideas!