

# Student Academy of Audiology

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

## National SAA Chapter Challenge Instructions 2024-2025

Welcome to the 2024-2025 National Student Academy of Audiology (SAA) Chapter Challenge. As a part of our efforts to enhance relations 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 Inclusivity and Representation..
- Complete the [Chapter Challenge Google Form](#) before the deadline for *each* period.
- The year will be divided into three scoring periods.

### **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 10 (**submission deadline March 12**)

- 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.
- There will be three Chapter Challenge Champions: first, second, and third place, based on the total amount of points in the five categories.
- The three winning chapters will be recognized at the SAA conference day at AAA 2025.
- The winning chapters will be featured on the national SAA website and social media.

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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### **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.

#### **Participation in the “Ask Me About Audiology” Campaign [One point]**

October is [National Audiology Awareness Month](#). [National SAA](#) 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 Power of the Constituent (POTC) [One 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 current legislative dates for each state [here](#). The official kick-off for the 2025 POTC is in January during Period Three!

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### **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 [One 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.

#### **Host an audiology/hearing science journal club [One 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. One point may be earned per scoring period.

#### **Introduce us to your chapter or participate in the Chapter Spotlight [One 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 [Mara Smith](#), national SAA Chapter Relations Chair.

#### **Present a poster at a conference, including the annual AAA 2025 + HearTECH Expo [One point]**

One of the best ways to share knowledge with other professionals is to present your work at a conference. Earn one point per poster presenter at the AAA 2025+HearTECH Expo, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), local school/university conferences, or state events. Submission information for the AAA Annual Conference is available on the [Academy website](#).

#### **More than one officer attends a national SAA Town Hall meeting [One point per additional officer]**

The national SAA Virtual Town Halls are designed to improve inter-chapter relationships, facilitate communications, and build a support network for local SAA chapters. Part of the mandatory SAA Chapter Renewal process is to have, at minimum, one officer attend a national SAA Town Hall meeting per term. If your chapter has an additional officer(s) attend the Town Hall meetings, your chapter can earn up to two points.

*Ex: if your chapter has three officers attend a Town Hall meeting, your Chapter will earn two points given one attendance is required for chapter renewal and two were in addition.*

## **Humanitarian Challenge Descriptions**

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

### **Coordinate a service event on campus or with another SAA chapter [One 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. 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 [One point per event]**

By visiting a preschool, nursing home, or other community location, your chapter can help people hear better and reconnect with loved ones. Make sure a licensed audiologist is present 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](#) [One 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 can 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](#) [One point]**

The World Health Organization's (WHO) World Hearing Day is held annually on March 3, which falls during the third scoring period. Each year, the 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.

### **Participate in a Special Olympics Healthy Hearing (SOHH) event [One point]**

Special Olympics is the largest global public health organization dedicated to serving individuals with 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.

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## **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 [One point]**

The American Academy of Audiology Foundation's (AAA Foundation) programs and initiatives affect audiologists, audiology students, consumers, and individuals with 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 [One 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 funds, the amount donated, and which organization received the donation.

### **Fundraising in reverse – [Apply for a student scholarship](#) [One 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 five 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 five points can be awarded per period.

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### **Inclusivity and Representation 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 [Two points]**

Set up a SAA meeting with your chapter to specifically talk about inclusivity and representation/[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 your SAA chapter can help.

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

Host a watch party for 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 Student Academy of Audiology [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#)! Topics have included diversity and humanitarian work in audiology, LGBTQ+ inclusion in the profession, and cultural competency.

#### **Host an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) scavenger hunt [One 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.

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## Bonus Points

### **Undergraduate Member Participation [One 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.

### **National SAA Membership [Up to five 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 = five points
- If 90% of chapter members are national SAA members = three points
- If 85% of chapter members are national SAA members = two points
- If 75% of chapter members are national SAA members = one point

### **Social Media Challenge (Academy, SAA, AAA Foundation Facebook; Academy and SAA Instagram) [Two 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 = one point
  - Your chapter's social media page reposts two SAA/Academy posts = one point
  - Your chapter's social media page reposts five SAA/Academy posts = two points
    - **Note:** these points can only be earned in one period

### **Participate in national SAA events [One point per event]**

Stay involved with national SAA and learn about different aspects of audiology through the virtual programming series offered by 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 [One point each]**

Any additional projects, activities, or events that your chapter participates in can count for one point! 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!