

**Chapter Resource Packet  
2025-2026**

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## Message from SAA President Hector Sanchez and President-Elect Kaitlyn Marnien

Hello Chapter Leaders,

We are thrilled that your local chapter is a nationally recognized Student Academy of Audiology (SAA) chapter for the 2025-2026 academic year. Thank you for taking the time to engage, empower, and lead your local SAA chapter. You have a unique opportunity to mold and support the audiology students in your community. Because your chapter is recognized by the national SAA, you are eligible to receive a variety of resources such as a chapter blueprint and chapter bylaws template, funding opportunities for chapters, an SAA chapter logo, as well as timely and relevant information about national SAA and audiology related news. In addition, you will receive support from the national [SAA Chapter Relations Committee](#) and the national [SAA State Ambassador Program](#). The national SAA Chapter Relations Committee is charged with increasing chapter membership, engagement, collaboration, and communication. The national SAA State Ambassador Program is a collection of student volunteers who serve as leaders for the states in which they are enrolled academically to improve state and interstate communication between local SAA chapters and the state's professional organization. We encourage you to utilize both of these resources throughout the year!

We also highly encourage you to share this document with your chapter members. The packet contains many useful resources that you should review multiple times per year. The national SAA Chapter Relations Committee and the national SAA State Ambassador Program are dedicated to serving and supporting our affiliated chapters. Feel free to reach out to [Braidyn Milner](#), national SAA Chapter Relations Committee Chair, or your region's SAA State Ambassador if you have questions!

Best,

Hector Sanchez, national SAA President ([hectorsanchez.saa@gmail.com](mailto:hectorsanchez.saa@gmail.com))

Kaitlyn Marnien, national SAA President-Elect ([kaitlynmarnien.saa@gmail.com](mailto:kaitlynmarnien.saa@gmail.com))

# 2025-2026 National SAA Board of Directors



**Hector Sanchez**  
President



**Kaitlyn Marnien**  
President-Elect



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Programs Committee  
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**Braidyn Milner**  
Chapter Relations  
Committee Chair



**Marissa Gallan**  
Education Committee Chair



**Caroline Henning**  
SAA State Ambassador  
Program Chair

# National SAA of Audiology Overview

## Overview and Mission

The SAA is the national student division of the American Academy of Audiology (“the Academy”) that serves as a collective voice for students and advances the rights, interests, and welfare of students pursuing careers in audiology. National SAA introduces students to lifelong involvement in activities that promote and advance the profession of audiology and provides services, information, education, representation, and advocacy for both the profession and consumers of audiology services. National SAA has over 1,200 members, consisting of students enrolled in AuD, PhD, post-baccalaureate, undergraduate, or other accredited audiology doctoral programs for a professional degree in audiology.

## Vision

The vision of national SAA is to be essential in the lives of audiology students by equipping them with the knowledge to begin a patient-centered career that promotes the profession and advances research in audiology.

## History

National SAA was founded in 2009 after NAFDA (National Association of Future Doctors of Audiology) approached the American Academy of Audiology (the Academy) for support. Various professional healthcare organizations have affiliated student institutions, such as the American Medical Association-Medical Student Section (AMA-MSS) as well as the American Psychological Association (APA), the American Dental Association (ADA), the American Nurses Association (ANA), and the American Veterinary Association (AVA).

All have student sections that work together with the parent organization to achieve common goals. In October 2008, Brian Vesely, AuD, past NAFDA President, and past Academy President Patrick Feeney, PhD, signed an agreement that merged NAFDA into the Academy's student organization, the national Student Academy of Audiology (SAA). The ultimate goal of the merger was to maintain an independent student voice while maximizing the opportunities that come with joining the Academy.



# Partnerships

National SAA maintains a close relationship with both the Academy and its partners. Student liaisons on the national SAA Board of Directors communicate with leadership in the following organizations:

## [American Academy of Audiology](#)

**About:** The American Academy of Audiology serves as the collective voice of audiology. The Academy is the world's largest professional organization of, by, and for audiologists and is committed to advancing the science, practice, and accessibility of hearing and balance health care for our patients.

**Mission:** Representing the interests of audiologists and future audiologists nationwide, the Academy is dedicated to fulfilling its mission: providing quality hearing-care services through professional development, education, research, and increased public awareness of hearing and balance disorders.

**Vision:** The Academy is essential in the professional lives of audiologists by advancing the science and practice of audiology, and achieving public recognition of audiologists as experts in hearing and balance.

## [American Academy of Audiology Foundation](#)

**About:** The American Academy of Audiology Foundation (Foundation) is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Foundation supports the American Academy of Audiology and all of the partners in the Audiology Enterprise, including the national SAA, the American Board of Audiology (ABA), and the Accreditation Commission for Audiology Education (ACAE).

**Mission:** The American Academy of Audiology Foundation promotes philanthropy in support of research, education, and public awareness in audiology and hearing science.

**Vision:** Support for advancements in hearing and balance sciences that enhance the experiences of life.

## [American Board of Audiology](#)

**About:** Founded in 1999, the American Board of Audiology (ABA) works closely with expert practitioners across the globe to create universally recognized standards in professional audiology practice. The ABA encourages audiologists to exceed these prescribed standards, thereby promoting a high level of professional development and ethical practice.

**Mission:** The ABA creates, administers, and promotes rigorous credentialing programs that elevate professional practice and advance patient care.

**Vision:** ABA credentials are earned by all leading audiologists, respected by other healthcare providers, and trusted by patients.

## Accreditation Commission for Audiology Education

**Mission:** The Accreditation Commission for Audiology Education's (ACAE) mission is to serve the public by establishing, maintaining, and applying standards to ensure the academic quality and continuous improvement of audiology education, reflecting the evolving practice of audiology.

**Purpose:** The purpose of ACAE accreditation is to recognize, reinforce, and promote high-quality performance in AuD education programs through a rigorous verification process. This process produces evidence that AuD programs have prepared graduates to be qualified doctoral-level and independent practicing audiologists. Graduates will be at the point of entry to the US and international healthcare systems for the diagnosis and treatment of hearing and balance disorders. Specifically, the professional at this level will demonstrate readiness for limited license practitioner status in the US. Accreditation also assures communities of interest that graduates will be able to function according to the national scope of practice, as defined by the professional organization.



# Media and Publications

## [National SAA Website](#)

A great resource to learn more about the national SAA and stay informed on news, networking opportunities, local chapter information and resources, jobs and externships, educational opportunities, scholarships, grants, and publications.

## Social Media

Be sure to follow the national SAA's Facebook and Instagram for weekly posts. This is a great way to keep your local chapter informed of upcoming events, current news, fun audiology facts, legislative initiatives, and education. Be sure to "like" us on [Facebook](#) and "follow" us on [Instagram](#). For more information on the American Academy of Audiology, be sure to "follow" the [Academy](#) on [Instagram](#).

## *SAAy Anything* E-Newsletter

This members-only electronic newsletter provides comprehensive reporting on topics relevant to the national SAA and its chapters featuring upcoming events, a message from the national SAA President and the national SAA Advisor, local chapter updates and highlights, articles of special interest, scholarship and grant due dates, and much more!

### 2025-2026 Publication Dates:

- September 18, 2025
- November 20, 2025
- January 15, 2026
- March 19, 2026
- May 21, 2026
- July 16, 2026

## SAA Chapter Spotlight

SAA chapters are regularly featured in the Chapter Spotlight section of the *SAAy Anything* electronic newsletter. To share your chapter's good news with the general membership, please complete a [submission form](#) for the next *SAAy Anything*. Reach out to [Chloe Tierney](#), national SAA Communications Committee Chair, if you have any additional questions.

## [National SAA Blog](#)

The national SAA Blog is an online forum where audiology students and professionals can share experiences, insights, and tips with the general public and one another. If you are looking for a place where you can learn more about life as an audiology student, gain insight from professionals, and connect with other people who are as passionate about audiology as you are, look no further than the national SAA Blog.

# National SAA Chapter Recognition

There are many benefits to being a nationally recognized SAA Chapter. **First and foremost, a SAA chapter must be nationally recognized in order to use the SAA name and logo.** The SAA name and logo is a registered trademark owned by the American Academy of Audiology. By becoming nationally recognized, a chapter is then provided permission to use the SAA name and logo. Each SAA chapter is provided with a customized logo with their chapter name. Any additional use of the SAA name and logo must be approved by the national SAA and the Academy.

The SAA has developed personalized logos for local SAA chapter use (see example below). The logo consists of the national SAA logo with the affiliated chapter's name included. Requests can be emailed to [saa@audiology.org](mailto:saa@audiology.org).



Other benefits of national recognition include eligibility for networking opportunities, participation in the annual [Chapter Challenge](#), [leadership resources](#), national SAA [Town Halls](#), and participation in the national [SAA State Ambassadors Program](#). Once your chapter is recognized by the national SAA, there are a few processes your chapter should be aware of in order to maintain national recognition

## Chapter Renewal Process

**The 2026 renewal cycle will run from January 12- January 30, 2026.**

Chapters are required to submit paperwork to national SAA annually. In addition, national SAA must be notified of changed contact information, as necessary.

To maintain national SAA recognition, renewal documents must be submitted annually.

- **In even years (January 2026),** the chapter renewal will consist of:
  - [Chapter Contact Information Form](#) with your current chapter leadership
  - Current list of local SAA members with Academy ID numbers\*
    - Member roster available for download [here](#)
  - Renewal of the SAA Agreement - this document was updated in 2023 to make the terms of use of the SAA name and logo more clear
- **In odd years (January 2027),** the chapter renewal will consist of:
  - [Chapter Contact Information Form](#) with your current chapter leadership
  - Current list of local SAA members with Academy ID numbers\*
  - Current chapter bylaws signed by both the chapter president and faculty advisor
  - Renewal of the [SAA Agreement](#)

*\* An Academy ID number is the member number assigned to an individual when they join the national SAA as a student member. If you do not remember your Academy ID or are unsure if you have one, contact the Academy's [membership department](#).*

## **National Town Hall Meetings**

Throughout the year, national SAA hosts multiple meetings with local SAA chapter leaders to discuss important topics, including national membership and the benefits that national SAA can offer to chapters and individual members. This year the Town Halls will be focused on three different topics: communication and member engagement, advocacy, and education and externship support. These Town Hall meetings are designed to improve inter-chapter relationships, facilitate communications at the national and local levels, and build a support network for chapters. They are also a benefit for nationally recognized SAA chapters.

In order to maintain active status, one or more chapter representatives should participate in at least one Town Hall meeting throughout the year: Fall, Winter, and Spring. Each season, there are four available dates and times that are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. You can find this year's dates in the 'Save the Date' timeline below. Be on the lookout for an email from the national SAA Chapter Relations Chair, [Braidyn Milner](#), to register for these calls.

2025-2026 Town Halls will take place at 8:00 pm Eastern as follows:

- Fall Town Halls–Communication and Member Engagement:
  - October 21, October 23, October 27, October 29, 2025
- Winter Town Halls–Advocacy:
  - January 20, January 22, January 26, January 28, 2026
- Spring Town Halls–Education and Externship Support:
  - March 31, April 2, April 6, April 8, 2026

## **Chapter Governance**

It is recommended that SAA chapters have a Board of Directors elected by the chapter membership consisting of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Chapters may include other board members in addition to the aforementioned officer positions and are encouraged to include a national SAA representative among their elected officers.

## **What does a SAA Board of Directors look like for a local chapter?**

According to SAA chapters surveyed in 2020, the most popular leadership positions for local chapters include:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Public Outreach Chair

Other leadership positions created by some SAA chapters included:

1. Fundraising chair
2. Advocacy/public relations/education chair
3. Volunteer/humanitarian chair
4. State-level audiology association chair
5. Class representatives (i.e., first-year, second-year, third-year, etc.)
6. Social chair
7. National SAA liaison/representative
8. Event coordinator
9. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion chair

## **How many leadership positions should a SAA chapter have?**

The number of leadership positions in a local chapter may vary based on the size of the chapter and the level of involvement of its members. On average, there are between five and ten leadership positions per local chapter.

- Note: If members are willing to be involved in a leadership position, you can create additional positions to include all who are willing to volunteer their time.

Any changes to a chapter's bylaws must be submitted to [saa@audiology.org](mailto:saa@audiology.org) for review.

## **Tax-Exempt Status for Chapters**

SAA chapters should review the financial policies of the university under which they are approved to operate. In most cases, student-run organizations qualify for tax-exempt status through their university.

Chapters interested in obtaining tax-exempt status on their own must make their own individual request to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for a separate review by the IRS of their particular operations. There may also be particular state and local requirements that must be taken into consideration by the applicant and coordinated with the IRS application when seeking tax-exempt status.

The tax-exempt 501(c)(6) status of the Academy/SAA is particular to the Academy/SAA and may not be used as any type of “umbrella” under which chapters conduct tax-exempt activities

# Chapter Contact/Information Form

The [SAA Chapter Contact Information Form](#) gives national SAA contact information for the chapter's main points of contact. It is important to keep contact information as up-to-date as possible in order to communicate local and national information from national SAA to local SAA chapters. Anytime a chapter holds an election or an officer is changed, a new Chapter Contact Information Form with the updated information should be submitted within 30 days.

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## Chapter Activities with the National SAA

### Promoting Activity and Participation on Social Media

The key factor to optimizing your local SAA chapter's social media is to be creative and encourage all members to contribute to the creation and maintenance of the group feed. The content and frequency of posts can be tailored to best fit the needs of each chapter. Below are some ideas to boost activity and develop consistent participation on your chapter's social media platforms:

- Initiate chapter member spotlight posts to highlight the accomplishments of chapter members.
- Construct posts with content that is relatable and shareable for both undergraduate and graduate student membership.
- Encourage members to share posts and photos and contribute ideas about the group to administrators.
- Post unique, fun images that will catch members' attention.
- Employ variation in post content - mix it up with images, text, videos, music, webpages, webinars, articles, or other content.
- Ensure frequent activity in the group (posts, comments, discussion) and step in to provide more content, if needed.
- Develop unique hashtags for your region to use when posting.
- Pose questions to stimulate discussion (e.g., questions about audiology legislation, case studies, articles, issues in the profession, etc.).
- Incorporate monthly or seasonal "themes" into posts.
- Share exclusive content that members would not receive elsewhere.
- Consider sharing relevant posts from the Academy, national SAA, AAA Conference, and AAAPF social media pages that may spur discussion.
- Schedule media content to ensure that content is posted at appropriate intervals.

If any questions or concerns arise, email [saa@audiology.org](mailto:saa@audiology.org) or [Braidyn Milner](#), national SAA Chapter Relations Committee Chair.

## Chapter Relations Initiatives

### National SAA Chapter Challenge

Get competitive and share your chapter's accomplishments by participating in the [2025-2026 SAA Chapter Challenge](#). Chapters collect points for activities completed across five main areas: Advocacy, Education, Humanitarian, Fundraising, and Diversity and Inclusion. Points will be accumulated across three Chapter Challenge periods.

- Period 1: **March 11, 2025 to October 6, 2025 (deadline October 8, 2025)**
- Period 2: **October 7, 2025 to December 12, 2025 (deadline December 14, 2025)**
- Period 3: **December 13, 2025 to March 13, 2026 (deadline March 15, 2026)**

Instructions can be found [here](#). At the end of each period, submit your [Google Form](#) before the submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted. If you have questions about how an activity should be tallied, contact [Braidyn Milner](#), national SAA Chapter Relations Committee Chair.

Given changes in funding, there will no longer be a cash prize awarded to the winners of the Chapter Challenge. Instead, we will be awarding the top three chapters based on the amount of points earned. National SAA will be recognizing the top three chapters' hard work on the SAA conference day at the upcoming AAA Annual conference in April. Each of the winning chapters will receive a certificate and will be recognized at a Chapter Challenge award ceremony. The winning chapters will be featured on the SAA website and social media. An article will be written in the July 2026 *SAAy Anything* E-Newsletter.

### State Ambassador Program

A national [SAA State Ambassador](#) is a national SAA volunteer who serves as a leader for a state in which they are enrolled academically to improve state and interstate communication between local SAA chapters (if more than one exists) and the state's professional organization(s). National SAA State Ambassadors work closely with a professional mentor (who is also a member of the Academy) as appropriate. Your national SAA State Ambassador is the main contact for all members and chapter leaders, answering any questions or providing an appropriate contact. National State Ambassadors are knowledgeable about national SAA initiatives and can also connect you with local SAA chapters. Interested in applying? Apply online or reach out to SAA State Ambassador program chair [Caroline Henning](#).

## Public Outreach Initiatives

### Power of the Constituent

Every year, between January and May, most state legislatures convene in their state capitol to participate in legislative sessions. During this time, members of the public are welcomed and encouraged to reserve space within their state's capitol to converse with their state legislators about issues they are most passionate about and/or directly affect their quality of life, whether on a personal, professional, or global

level. Please reach out to [Braidyn Milner](#), national SAA Chapter Relations Committee Chair, if you have any questions or concerns.

### **Public Outreach Spotlight Initiative**

The Public Outreach Spotlight Initiative encourages national SAA members and local SAA chapters to reach out to their local community to offer humanitarian services and share their ideas and efforts with other chapters. The purpose of the Spotlight is to recognize the amazing humanitarian work conducted by SAA members and to inspire chapters and members to actively participate in humanitarian audiology. There are two ways to participate: (One) Create a local event to serve your community and/or (Two) Join/host a regional event. Your chapter can submit for extra [Chapter Challenge](#) points by hosting an event. Contact [Braidyn Milner](#), national SAA Chapter Relations Committee Chair, to showcase what your chapter is doing in the community or if you have any questions.

### **World Hearing Day (March 3)**

Organized by the World Health Organization (WHO), World Hearing Day is held annually on March 3 after being introduced at the First International Conference on Prevention and Rehabilitation of Hearing Impairment in 2007. Each year, the WHO and other international and local organizations carry out ear- and auditory perception-related activities and events to promote hearing health and care around the world. Possible service projects include planning or participating in a hearing screening, a food drive, handing out earplugs at a local event, or educating the public through presentations or social media campaigns on hearing loss or hearing healthcare.

On World Hearing Day 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) released the [World Report on Hearing](#). The Education Committee will continue the efforts to promote and share this campaign. More information can be found on the Academy's website.

### **National Audiology Awareness Month**

The Academy is dedicated to advancing the profession through increasing public awareness of audiology and the importance of hearing protection. To accomplish this, the Education Committee will promote National Audiology Awareness Month (NAAM) in October by using tools and resources, providing on-demand webinars, and raising awareness on social media.

### **Ask Me About Audiology Campaign**

The national SAA's annual "Ask Me About Audiology" Campaign (AMAA), takes place during National Audiology Awareness Month (NAAM) in October. This campaign has easily become a fall semester staple for many local SAA chapters, empowering students to educate members of the local community about hearing healthcare, the impact of hearing loss/noise exposure, and the profession of audiology. During the AMAA, gather members of your local SAA chapter and venture into your local communities. Town centers, local parks, outdoor markets, county fairs, health fairs, and sporting events are great locations to start. Encourage members of the public to ask questions or share their personal experiences with hearing loss, tinnitus, balance problems, and other audiology issues. We are

challenging you to participate during the month of October, and join the campaign to draw attention to audiologic issues.

### **SAA Humanitarian Month**

This year, the SAA is hosting Humanitarian Month in March. Possible service projects include planning or participating in a hearing screening, a food drive, handing out earplugs at a local event, or educating the public by giving a presentation or holding a social media campaign about hearing loss or hearing healthcare. Your chapter can also come up with their own service project.

## **Education Initiatives**

### **Education and/or Externship Survey**

This initiative looks to:

- Create resources based on the [Education and/or Externship survey](#) (e.g., lack of knowledge of pharmacology, medical imaging, and cognitive decline).
- Create regular resources (e.g., blog posts, infographics, documents on the SAA website) for AuD/PhD, undergraduate, and externship students.
- Update the externship resource packet/resume guide for new professionals.

### **National SAA Blog Series**

In collaboration with the national SAA Communications Committee, the national SAA Education Committee will provide blog posts and resources on the following topics:

- Externships (e.g., choosing where to apply, interviews, balancing location, finances, your rights as a student, educational experiences, lowering tuition during externship year, externship statement)
- Novel research

### **AuD/PhD Topics**

As a way to motivate audiology and undergraduate students looking to pursue a PhD, this initiative works toward creating resources that consolidate information for students interested in pursuing an AuD/PhD. Consequently, a discussion forum could provide students with an opportunity to engage with other students and mentors to help them with questions regarding this process.

## **Chapter Relations Initiatives**

### **Applying to Audiology Graduate School Packet**

This is an informational packet created by members of the national SAA Chapter Relations Committee to assist undergraduate students in researching and applying to audiology graduate programs. [Review](#)



[the packet](#) for more information and tips/tricks on how to apply. Contact [Braidyn Milner](#), national SAA Chapter Relations Committee Chair, for any questions.

### **National SAA Students with Hearing Loss Subcommittee**

This subcommittee is led by audiology students with hearing loss. Their purpose is to create resources for students who have hearing loss, as well as a sense of community and networking opportunities. If you are interested in getting involved, contact [Mindee Anderson](#) or [Natalia Matteo](#), national Students with Hearing Loss Subcommittee Co-Chairs.

### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives**

One of the main goals of national SAA is to promote diversity and cultural competency within the audiology student community. National SAA strives to create a safe environment for audiology students with diverse backgrounds, including but not limited to: culture, race, religion, sex/gender, sexual orientation, and individuals with disabilities. Follow the national [SAA Facebook Page](#) and [Instagram](#) for more resources that students and professionals can use to educate themselves on different topics related to diversity and inclusion.

Take advantage of the resources provided by the Student Academy of Audiology to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in your local chapter.

# Save The Date!

## August

- August 19: Call for [AAA 2026 Abstract Submission](#)

## September

- September 18: *SAAy Anything* E-Newsletter
- September 19-25: Balance Awareness Week

## October

- [National Audiology Awareness Month](#)
- [“Ask Me About Audiology” Campaign](#)
- October 6: [Chapter Challenges](#) Period One ends
- October 7: [Chapter Challenges](#) Period Two begins
- October 8: [Chapter Challenges](#) Period One submission deadline
- October 10: Deadline for [AAA Abstract Submission](#)
- October 21: [Town Hall](#)
- October 23: [Town Hall](#)
- October 27: [Town Hall](#)
- October 29: [Town Hall](#)

## November

- November 5: Registration opens for [AAA 2026](#) and the 2026 [SAA Conference](#)
- November 20: *SAAy Anything* E-Newsletter

## December

- December 12: [Chapter Challenge](#) Period Two ends
- December 13: [Chapter Challenge](#) Period Three begins
- December 14: [Chapter Challenge](#) Period Two submission deadline

## January

- [Power of the Constituent Campaign](#)
- January 12: [Chapter Renewals](#) begins
- January 20: [Town Hall](#)
- January 15: *SAAy Anything* E-Newsletter
- January 22: [Town Hall](#)
- January 26: [Town Hall](#)
- January 28: [Town Hall](#)
- January 30: [Chapter Renewals](#) due

## March

- [SAA Humanitarian Month](#)
- March 3: [World Hearing Day](#)
- March 13: [Chapter Challenge](#) Period Three ends

- March 15: [Chapter Challenges](#) Period Three submission deadline
- March 19: *SAAy Anything* E-Newsletter
- March 31: [Town Hall](#)

## **April**

- April 2: [Town Hall](#)
- April 6: [Town Hall](#)
- April 8: [Town Hall](#)
- April 22: 2026 [SAA Conference](#)
- April 22-25: [AAA 2026](#) in San Antonio, Texas

## **May**

- [Better Hearing Month](#)
- May 21: *SAAy Anything* E-Newsletter

## **June**

- June 30: Final day of the national SAA 2025-2026 term

## **July**

- July 1: First day of the national SAA 2026-2027 term
- July 15: *SAAy Anything* E-Newsletter