

## **Nebraska Regional Programs for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing Activity Participation Guidelines**

Every attempt will be made by the Nebraska Regional Programs (NRP) to include all students who meet the following criteria:

- residents of Nebraska,
- verified according to Rule 51 as a child with a disability,
- have a verified hearing loss,
- have an active IEP,
- be “in good standing” per the student’s resident district’s policy or determination (grades, attendance and behavior), and
- be “in good standing” with the NRP.

Reasonable accommodations or special considerations will be made to allow the participation of all students. The essay requirement may be adapted to accommodate students’ communication mode. The safety of students and others is always part of these considerations.

The regional programs attempt to provide a wide range of activities, both statewide and regional, to meet the needs of various age groups. Most activities will target specific age groups, such as elementary or secondary students. Each region establishes registration deadlines, which are strictly adhered to.

Some activities have more specific criteria for participation. Individual exceptions to the guidelines may be made at the discretion of the regional coordinators.

**Optimist Speech Contest:** Optimist International (OI) sponsors this contest and NRP follows their guidelines for eligibility. Students in 7th, 8th and 9th grade may participate in an exhibition level; no prizes are awarded at this level. Students in 10<sup>th</sup> grade through age 21 who have not received his/her signed diploma compete for a scholarship. In order to participate, a student must:

- have an unaided 40 dB loss in the 500, 1K and 2K range (this is an OI requirement),
- must include an audiogram completed no more than 24 months prior to the contest,
- are only eligible to win one time,
- be in good standing with their school per the student’s resident district’s policy or determination (grades, attendance, and behavior), and
- be in good standing with the regional programs – behavior from previous activities.

**Cosmosphere/Space Camp:** A student must:

- be in 8th, 9th or 10th grade,
- be in good standing with their school per the student’s resident district’s policy or determination (grades, attendance and behavior),

- be in good standing with the regional programs – behavior from previous activities,
- have a recommendation from their administrator as well as their deaf educator or general education teacher,
- have attended a minimum of 3 overnight activities in the prior 2 years,
- write a 5-paragraph essay on why he/she wants to go to Space Camp and what they expect to learn, and
- not have attended Space Camp with the Nebraska Regional Programs in the past.

**Close Up:** A student must:

- be in 10<sup>th</sup> grade through age 21 and have not received his/her signed diploma,
- be in good standing with their school per the student's resident district's policy or determination (grades, attendance and behavior),
- be in good standing with the regional programs – behavior from previous activities,
- have a recommendation from their administrator as well as their deaf educator or social studies teacher,
- have attended at least 3 overnight activities in the prior 2 years,
- attend the required pre-trip meeting with a parent/guardian, and
- not have attended Close Up with the Nebraska Regional Programs in the prior
- participate in a follow up required by your regional coordinator.

**Young Americans:** A student must:

- be in 5th grade through age 21 and have not received his/her signed diploma,
- be in good standing with their school per the student's resident district's policy or determination (grades, attendance, and behavior),
- be in good standing with the regional programs – behavior from previous activities,
- have attended at least 1 overnight activity in the prior 2 years.

**Camp Anderson:** A student must:

- be in 5th grade through age 21 and have not received his/her signed diploma,
- be in good standing with their school per the student's resident district's policy or determination (grades, attendance, and behavior) at the end of the school year,
- be in good standing with the regional programs – behavior from previous activities,
- have a recommendation from their administrator as well as their deaf educator or general education teacher,
- have attended at least 3 overnight activities in the prior 2 years, and
- write a 5-paragraph essay on why he/she wants to go to Camp Anderson and what they expect to learn.

**Battle of the Books (BOTB)**

- be in 5th grade through 8th
- be in good standing with their school per the student's resident district's policy or determination (grades, attendance and behavior) at the end of the school year,
- be in good standing with the regional programs – behavior from previous activities,
- have a recommendation from their administrator as well as their deaf educator or general education teacher,
- have attended at least 2 overnight activities in the prior 2 years, and
- Participate in the online study guide.
- Sponsor specific information can be found at this link, [Gallaudet University BOTB](#)

**Academic Bowl (AB)**

- be in 9th grade through 12th
- be in good standing with their school per the student's resident district's policy or determination (grades, attendance and behavior) at the end of the school year,
- be in good standing with the regional programs – behavior from previous activities,
- have a recommendation from their administrator as well as their deaf educator or general education teacher,
- have attended at least 3 overnight activities in the prior 2 years, and
- Participate in the online study guide.
- Sponsor specific information can be found at this link, [Gallaudet University AB](#)