



ARTS AND SCIENCES AWARDS PROGRAM—2026

Overview

At AG Bell, we know that children who are learning to listen and speak often enhance their learning through activities outside of school. These activities encourage children to use their imagination, follow specific spoken directions, speak in public, and/or use their hearing in performing arts such as music, dance, or singing.

Activities eligible for Arts and Sciences awards are after-school, weekend, or summer programs focused on the sciences or the arts. A program must be organized, meaning it is conducted by a specific organization, such as a YMCA or nature center, or someone who offers private music or voice lessons. Applications are not accepted for programs that offer academic credit, travel or study abroad, summer recreational camps, sports camps, or team sports.

The review committee is especially seeking applications for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs, such as space camps, math camps, marine science camps, "Science for Girls" programs, etc. Many local museums and children's organizations offer wonderful programming in these areas. Some colleges offer noncredit programs or classes that allow middle or high school students to learn more about science. The committee also accepts applications for programs or activities in the performing arts, including acting, dance, and music lessons. All activities must be done outside of the house.

Prizes are typically not awarded to cover the full cost of a program unless the activity is minimal in cost. Families are expected to contribute at least half of the total expense. Please provide a detailed breakdown of the camp costs so the committee can assess the total amount and the family's planned contribution.

Criteria

Here are the requirements to be eligible for this program. Your child must meet all the following criteria:

- **Bilateral hearing loss** or auditory neuropathy must have been diagnosed before your child's fourth birthday (pre-lingual). Note: Children with unilateral hearing loss or unilateral auditory neuropathy do not qualify.
- Your child's hearing loss should be in the range of **moderately severe to profound**. Children with cochlear implants already meet this eligibility requirement. If your child wears hearing aids, your child should have a hearing aid-free pure tone average (PTA) of 55 dB or higher in the ear with the best hearing, at the frequencies of 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz. That sounds complicated, but it's not.
 1. On the audiogram without a hearing aid, look at the results for the ear with better hearing at 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 Hz.
 2. Add those four numbers together.
 3. Divide that total by four. The result is the average of pure tones.
- A current audiogram (within the past 12 months) is required in order for this application to be considered.

NOTE:

- *Listening comprehension and spoken language should be your child's primary mode of communication.*
- *Applicants must be enrolled in grades 1 through 12 at the time of application. Children currently in kindergarten are not eligible.*



- *Your child must be enrolled or registered in the selected science or art program.*
- *Your family must reside in the United States, U.S. territories, or Canada.*

Note: All eligible applicants will receive a free AG Bell membership.

The application deadline is **February 16, 2026**.

Administrative process

Once we have reviewed the eligibility and completeness of the applications, we will send the eligible applications to the selection committee. The committee will review applications and determine grants. The review process can take some time, so thank you for your patience. We will then send grant award notices via email. Please note that all communications will be via email; if you do not provide an email address, you will not receive notifications from AG Bell.

All decisions of the selection committee are final.

Do you have any questions or need clarification?

Please send an email with your questions to: financialaid@agbell.org

The response can take a few days, so you should raise all your questions as soon as possible.