



ARTS & SCIENCES AWARD PROGRAM—2024

Overview

At AG Bell we know that children who are learning to listen and speak often improve their learning through activities outside of school. These activities encourage children to use their imagination, follow specific spoken instructions, speak publicly and/or use their hearing in performance arts like music, dance or singing.

The activities that are eligible for Arts & Sciences awards are after-school, weekend or summer programs focused on the sciences or arts. A program must be organized - that means it is held by a specific organization like a YMCA or a nature center - or by someone offering private lessons in music or voice. *Applications are not accepted for programs that offer academic credit, travel or study abroad, recreational summer camps, sports camps or team sports.*

The review committee especially looks for applications for programs in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) like space camp, math camp, marine science camps, “Science for Girls” programs, etc. Many museums and local children’s organizations offer wonderful programming in these areas. Some colleges offer programs or not-for-credit classes that give middle or high school students the opportunity to learn more about the sciences. The committee also accepts applications for programs or activities in the performing arts like acting, dance or music lessons.

Awards are usually _ made for the full cost of the program unless the activity is very inexpensive. Families should plan to pay at least half of the cost of the program or activity.

Criteria

These are the requirements to be eligible for this program. Your child must meet **all** of 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 (one-sided) hearing loss or unilateral auditory neuropathy do not qualify.*
- Your child’s hearing loss must be in the moderately-severe to profound range. *Children with cochlear implants already meet this eligibility requirement.* If your child uses hearing aids, your child must have an unaided Pure Tone Average (PTA) of 55 dB or greater in the better-hearing ear, in the frequencies of 500, 1000, 2000 and 4000 Hz. That sounds complicated, but it isn’t really.
 1. On the unaided audiogram, look at the results for the better hearing ear at 500, 1000, 2000 and 4000 Hz.
 2. Add those four numbers together.
 3. Divide that total by four. The result is the Pure Tone Average.

NOTE: *this may not apply for children who have been diagnosed with Auditory Neuropathy. For information on required documentation for AN, please see the “documentation” section on the next page.*

- Listening and Spoken Language must be your child’s **primary** mode of communication.
- Your child must be in grades 1 through 12 at the time you apply.
- Your child must be enrolled in or registered for the science or art program selected.
- Your family must reside in the United States, U.S. territories, or Canada.

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

How to Submit Your Application

There are two ways to submit your application – in paper form by regular mail or in pdf form by email. AG Bell *prefers* that you submit by email.

TO SUBMIT BY EMAIL:

- The application can be completed online as a writable pdf. First, **download** the application from our website and save it on your computer. Once you have completed the application, save it again. Print it and scan it with all the required attachments. Submit all pages **together in one pdf document** by email to: financialaid@agbell.org.

TO SUBMIT IN PAPER FORM:

- If you choose to submit your application in paper form, all pages of the application and attachments should be submitted on 8½" x 11" paper (*or Canadian equivalent*).
- All pages must be single-sided.
- Please remove all staples from the application, but feel free to use a paper clip to hold the package together.
- Please do not fold the application.

Whether you submit your application by e-mail or on paper, the application and attachments must be in English and in the following order:

1. Application, with pages in order. All pages of the application must be completed and page three of the application must be signed.
2. Documentation of hearing loss.
 - **For children who use hearing aids**, an unaided audiogram performed within the last 24 months (must be dated after 2/1/22).
 - **For children with a cochlear implant**, please include the most recent programming report. If your child uses a cochlear implant *and* a hearing aid, only a CI programming report is required. If you do not have a programming report, you may submit an audiogram.
 - **For children who have been diagnosed with Auditory Neuropathy and who do not have a cochlear implant**, please include the last two unaided audiograms (one must have been performed within the last 12 months) along with the report from the audiologist with the original AN diagnosis. If two audiograms are not available, please include a recent report from the audiologist with the current status of the AN along with recommendations.

Please Note: Applications that do not include an audiogram or CI programming report will not be considered for an award; we **cannot** accept a narrative audiological report instead of a report. If you have a question about what an audiogram or programming report is, please speak with your audiologist.
3. Photocopy of brochure or flyer (single-sided only, please) that describes the science or art program where you would like your child to participate and the cost of the program. If your child is taking private lessons, please submit a letter on the business letterhead of the musician/artist/instructor that describes the content, level, schedule and cost of lessons.
4. Letter of Recommendation from a teacher or a non-family member who knows the child well and can describe the benefits of the selected program for your child (maximum of two pages, single-sided).
5. Letter of Recommendation from a current AG Bell member or your child's hearing health professional (maximum of two pages, single-sided).

You must submit two separate letters of recommendation from different individuals. Letters of Recommendation *must be signed*. An email message from one of your recommenders is **not acceptable**.

Application Deadline

The deadline for applications is February 29, 2024. **All materials MUST ARRIVE together in one package at AG Bell before 5:00pm EST on February 29, 2024. You can submit your application by email to financialaid@agbell.org OR the mailing address below:**

AG Bell Financial Aid Program

3417 Volta Place NW
Washington, DC 20007

Please **do not wait** until the deadline to submit your application. **If we receive it early enough, this will give us time to let you know if anything is missing from your application.**

If you would like to know whether or not your application was received, you may choose to request a Delivery Receipt when sending e-mail or send your application using a service that can confirm delivery (like certified USPS mail, UPS, FedEx, etc). Please **do not** request a delivery signature as this may delay delivery of your application. AG Bell does not accept responsibility nor make exceptions for any delays or delivery errors on the part of delivery services including delays due to the requirement of a signature.

Faxed applications are not accepted under any circumstances.

Late and incomplete applications are not considered under any circumstances.

Applications are not returned for any reason.

Please do not contact AG Bell seeking an exception to these policies.

Administrative Processes

Staff reviews all applications for eligibility and completeness. If we cannot move forward with your application, we will let you know by e-mail. Eligible applications are then sent to the committee. Once the selection committee has conducted its review, AG Bell will send you an e-mail to let you know of the committee's decision. Award checks usually take eight to ten weeks to be processed after the award notice has been sent. **All communications are via e-mail**; if you do not provide an e-mail address, you will not receive notifications from AG Bell.

All decisions of the selection committee are final.

Do you have questions or need clarification?

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

*Response time may be up to three business days, so please ask your questions **well in advance** of the deadline.*