



THE REAL AAU

# How to Start an AAU Cheerleading Program





# AAU CHEERLEADING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

#WeAreAAU | [www.aacheerleading.org](http://www.aacheerleading.org)

The AAU Cheerleading Program offers opportunities for boys and girls, ages 18 and under, in all skill levels to participate in cheerleading.

Events are held throughout the country, including local competitions, invitationals, District Championships, and National Championships. The National Championships are open, so any member team can participate.

## AGE DIVISIONS

The AAU Cheerleading program provides an avenue of competition for many ages as well as both genders. For more specific details on age division please visit the website [www.aacheerleading.org](http://www.aacheerleading.org) and review the AAU Cheerleading handbook.

Tiny Cheer	5 & Under	Level 1
Mini Cheer	8 & Under	Level 1-2
Youth Cheer	11 & Under	Level 1-5
Junior Cheer	14 & Under	Level 1-5
Senior Cheer	18 & Under	Level 1-5
Special Needs	Any age	N/A

## BENEFITS OF AAU CHEERLEADING

- Nationally recognized non-profit organization.
- Insurance, including general liability and participant accident, is included as a benefit of membership.
- Low membership fees and Low tournament fees.
- Freedom and flexibility in conducting programs and hosting events.
- Multi-sport membership card allows participants to compete in any sport.
- Open entry to the National Championships – any team can participate.
- Non-exclusive organization. Anyone can join.
- Easy online registration for membership, insurance certificates, license applications and events.
- Multi-year membership available – join for 1, 2 or 3 years.
- Level 3 Club Membership offering eligibility for tax-exempt status and to accept tax-exempt donations.

## FUTURE NATIONAL EVENTS

AAU Junior Olympic Games  
 Dates TBD  
 Detroit, MI  
 Suburban Collection Showplace




## SPORT CONTACTS

National Chair: Cayla Myers // 407-617-9358 // [caylas\\_stars@yahoo.com](mailto:caylas_stars@yahoo.com)

Sport Manager: Amanda Steelman // 407-934-7200 // [asteelman@aausports.org](mailto:asteelman@aausports.org)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

 [fb.com/TheRealAAU](https://www.facebook.com/TheRealAAU)

 @TheRealAAU





# AAU CHEERLEADING



## Program Overview

The AAU Cheerleading program offers opportunities for athletes of all ages, in all skill levels. Events are held throughout the country, including local competitions, invitationals, District Championships, and National Championships.

\*For Nationals qualifying information refer to the AAU Cheerleading handbook.

## Benefits of AAU Cheerleading

- An opportunity to follow in the footsteps of former AAU athletes: B.J. Upton, Prince Fielder, Mark Spitz, Shaquille O’Neal, Kerri Strug, Chamique Holdsclaw, Greg Louganis, Ryan Klesko, Dan Gable, Carl Lewis, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, and many others.
- Membership that includes insurance coverage.
- Ability to participate at the world-famous ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex, and other great facilities throughout the country.
- Travel, make new friends, continue education, and create unforgettable memories.
- Membership in an organization long recognized for its position in amateur sports.

## National Contacts

### National Chair

Cayla Myers  
217-868-9336  
cayla\_stars@yahoo.com

### National Office Contacts

**Amanda Steelman**  
asteelman@aausports.org  
407-934-7200

PO Box 22409  
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

## Cheer Age and Skill Divisions

Cheer Division	Age	Level
Tiny Cheer	5 & Under	Level 1
Mini Cheer	8 & Under	Level 1-3
Youth Cheer	11 & Under	Level 1-5
Junior Cheer	14 & Under	Level 1-5
Senior Cheer	18 & Under	Level 1-5
Special Needs	Any age	N/A

The AAU Cheerleading program provides an avenue of competition for many ages as well as both genders. For more specific details on age division please visit the website [www.aacheerleading.org](http://www.aacheerleading.org) and review the AAU Cheerleading handbook.

## Equipment

The AAU Cheerleading program suggests the following equipment:

1. One (1) competition spring floor gymnastics exercise mats, including Stratum Palmer deck, 2” cross link foam and carpet with borders. The floor must be a minimum of 40’x40’.
2. Practice/Warm-up mat which can be either one (1) additional spring floor mat, a 40’x40’ spring tumbling strips or cheerleading mat.
3. Both the competition and practice floors, all mat lines must be set horizontally to the front of the venue.

## Visit

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

**for more information.**

\*The information provided above are general guidelines/ suggestions to be followed at your discretion.



# AAU CHEERLEADING



## Safety

The AAU Cheerleading Program follows the rules established by the USASF:

1. All athletes must be supervised during all official functions by a qualified director/coach.
2. Coaches must require proficiency before skill progression.
3. Athletes must always practice and perform on an appropriate surface. Technical skills (stunts, pyramids, tosses, or tumbling) may not be performed on concrete, asphalt, wet or uneven surfaces or , surfaces with obstruction.
4. Soft-soled shoes must be worn while competing.
5. Jewelry of any kind is not allowed; must be removed.
6. Any height increasing apparatus used to propel an athlete is not allowed (Exception: spring floor)
7. Flags, banners, signs, pom poms, megaphones, and pieces of cloth are the only props allowed.
8. On the level grid, all skills allowed for a particular level encompass all skills allowed in the preceding level.
9. Required spotters for all skills must be your own team's members
10. Competition routines shall not exceed 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

\*For more specifications and information please see the AAU Cheerleading handbook at [www.aacheerleading.org](http://www.aacheerleading.org).

## Facility Space

- The AAU Cheerleading program suggests approximately 8,000 sq. ft with a practice area of approximately 5,000 sq. ft. The minimum ceiling height is 35ft. high. The suggested air temperature is 68-78 degrees (F) with appropriate lighting.
- Additional suggestions for competitions/meets:
  - >PA System
  - >Meeting Room
  - >Hospitality Room
  - >Storage Room
  - >Awards Presentation Area
  - >Other space as necessary

## Competition Rules

The AAU Cheerleading program shall follow the competition rules of the United States All Star Federation (USASF) with the exceptions and modifications listed in the AAU Cheerleading handbook at [www.aacheerleading.org](http://www.aacheerleading.org).

## Categories of Competition

The AAU Cheerleading program offers the following:

1. Team Competition
2. Pom Squad Competition
3. Stunt Team Competition
4. Crowd Leader Competition
5. Solo Cheer Competition
6. Jump Competition
7. Tumble Pass Competition

These competitions are offered for Levels 1-5 for small, medium or large teams.

\*For more specifications and information please see the AAU Cheerleading handbook at [www.aacheerleading.org](http://www.aacheerleading.org).

## Eligibility

The AAU Cheerleading program eligibility requirements are as follows: 1) Age division range from 5 –18 years old. The age is determined by August 31, 2012 throughout the 2012/2013 competition year.

## Practice

Set a practice schedule that best fits your program, budget and facility. Create the schedule according to your number of athletes, time allotted, fee paid, staff availability and etc. as necessary.

\*The information provided above are general guidelines/ suggestions to be followed at your discretion.



# AAU CHEERLEADING



## Hosting an Event(s)

**Suggestions** for getting you started:

1. Create a budget for the event
2. Secure a facility and contract  
>Include equipment, supplies and other as you find necessary
3. Create an administrative team

Meet Director	Concessions Coordinator
Judges Coordinator	Sponsors/Marketing Coordinator
Hospitality Coordinator	Awards Coordinator
Registration Coordinator	Other as you find necessary
Ticket Sales Coordinator	

4. Sanction the event with the AAU
5. Solicit sponsorships
6. Secure housing arrangements and contracts
7. Set up registration process
8. Promote via AAU website calendar of Events, email blast, registration info, and other creative ideas
9. Set a tentative schedule
10. Secure judges
11. Secure scoring system
12. Purchase supplies, awards, concessions, office supplies, decorations and etc. as you find necessary.
13. Post final schedule.
14. Results
  - >post onsite throughout event
  - >post online
  - >submit to AAU post event
15. Wrap up/Review
  - >Review budget
  - >Create a pros and cons list for future events

## Scoresheets

The AAU Cheerleading program provides score sheets online at [www.aacheerleading.org](http://www.aacheerleading.org).

1. Choreography Score Sheet
2. Tumbling Score Sheet
3. Team Building Score Sheet

## Judges

The AAU Cheerleading program provides a simple test for individuals to become a judge. Once the individual has passed the judges certification, we will post his/her contact information online for event operators.

To request the AAU Cheerleading judge's test please contact [sursch@aausports.org](mailto:sursch@aausports.org) and request the information.

Please review the AAU Cheerleading handbook to study at [www.aacheerleading.org](http://www.aacheerleading.org).

## Visit

[www.aacheerleading.org](http://www.aacheerleading.org)  
**for more information.**



# THE REAL AAU

# AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION

## Why Should I Join AAU?



### Our Membership is good for all of our 30+ sports

- For only \$14 for youth athletes, and \$16 for non-athletes, you can participate in any or all of our offered sports.



### Places to Play

- The AAU believes that our events should be hosted at the best facilities. That is why we are partnered with the ESPN Wide World of Sports the premier multi-sport facility in the USA.

### High Level of Competition

- The AAU is proud to have some of the best young athletes in the country competing in all of our 30+ sports.
- Former AAU athletes are now in the NBA, WNBA, MLB, as well as many Olympians.



### Events

- The AAU has many types of events to offer: Local Invitational Tournaments, Leagues, Sports Festivals, District Championships, Super Regionals, Showcase Events, and National Championships.
  - Whether you want to play close to home, or play across the country, the AAU can make it happen.
- AAU Junior Olympic Games
  - The largest youth multi-sport event in America with over 20 sports.
  - Current cities hosting: Des Moines, IA; Greensboro, NC; Virginia Beach, VA; Houston, TX; and Detroit, MI.

### Insurance

- Participant Insurance
  - Your AAU Membership comes with the benefit of secondary sports accident insurance in the event you are injured while competing or participating
- Practice and Event Insurance
  - Coverage Limit: \$10,000,000 of general liability

## All of this for \$14\* per year!

# What are the benefits of AAU Membership?

The Amateur Athletic Union has over **600,000 total members** and still growing! The Amateur Athletic Union's motto is "Sports For All, Forever!;" we believe in sport activity from ages 2-99. By joining the AAU, you will have the resources of a multi-million dollar organization while maintain administrative control of your event. The AAU is a nationally recognized brand, logo with established and recognized sport rules.

Your club and members will receive benefits of a multi-million dollar insurance program with convenient online services. If you sanction your event with the AAU, you will have marketing opportunities and eblast promotions of your event **to the 1 million** plus current and past members of the AAU as well as listing the event on our local and national websites.

Our membership fees are low and we offer a variety of sports. Your one (1) membership is valid for any of our 30+ sports! We offer two types of individual AAU memberships and three levels of club AAU memberships.

## **Individual Memberships** (See AAU Insurance Program Summary of this packet)

### **1. Athlete Memberships** with Sport Accidental Insurance Benefits

- a. \$14 Regular membership
- b. \$16 Extended Coverage (AB) membership

Allows AB members to participate in non-AAU sanctioned events (\*See separate handout)

### **2. Non –Athlete Memberships** with Sport Accidental Insurance Benefits

- a) \$16 Regular membership
- b) \$18 Extended Coverage (AB) membership

Allows AB members to participate in non-AAU sanctioned events (\*See separate handout)

## **Club Memberships** (See AAU Insurance Program Summary of this packet) **Note: In order to purchase a club membership you must first purchase individual non-athlete memberships for your club contacts.**

### **1. Club Level 1** with Liability Insurance Benefits

- a) Eligible to participate in events
- b) Eligible to vote at appropriate District meetings
- c) Eligible to receive sanction for practice insurance

### **2. Club Level 2** with Liability Insurance Benefits

- a) Eligible to participate in events
- b) Eligible to vote at appropriate District meetings
- c) Eligible to receive sanction for practice insurance
- d) Eligible to receive sanction to host an event
- e) Eligible to use AAU Name & Logo in AAU sanctioned events

### **3. Club Level 3** with Liability Insurance Benefits

- a) Eligible to participate in events
- b) Eligible to vote at appropriate District meetings
- c) Eligible to receive sanction for practice insurance
- d) Eligible to receive sanction to host an event
- e) Eligible to use AAU Name & Logo in AAU sanctioned events
- f) Eligible for tax-exempt status
- g) Eligible to accept tax-exempt donations
- h) Eligible to become sales tax exempt in your state





### **Club Level 1 : \$30.00 Youth | \$50.00 Adult or both Adult & Youth**

- Eligible to participate in events
- Eligible to vote at appropriate district biennial meetings
- Eligible to apply for practice insurance certificate
- \$30.00 - Youth Club Per Membership Year
- \$50.00 - Adult Club or Both Youth and Adult Club Per Membership Year

### **Club Level 2 : \$60.00 Youth | \$80.00 Adult or both Adult & Youth**

- Eligible to participate in events
- Eligible to vote at appropriate district biennial meetings
- Eligible to apply for practice insurance certificate
- Eligible to apply for a license to host an event
- Eligible to use the AAU logo & Name in AAU licensed events
- \$60.00 - Youth Club Per Membership Year
- \$80.00 - Adult Club or Both Youth and Adult Club per Membership Year

### **Club Level 3 : \$300.00 Youth | \$320.00 Adult or both Adult & Youth**

- Eligible to participate in events
- Eligible to vote at appropriate district biennial meetings
- Eligible to apply for practice insurance certificate
- Eligible to apply for a license to host an event
- Eligible to use the AAU logo & Name in AAU licensed events
- Eligible for tax-exempt status
- Eligible to receive tax-exempt donations
- Eligible to become sales tax exempt in your state

**WE ARE AAU**





# AAU Insurance Program Summary

AAU Insurance is a benefit of membership.

Club Membership insures practices and an event sanction insures competitions/clinics etc., Everyone participating must also have an individual AAU Athlete or Non Athlete Membership

**SPORTS ACCIDENT:** Coverage is provided for properly registered members that are injured during an approved event. Coverage is excess medical and becomes primary if there is no other coverage.

Excess Medical	\$50,000
Youth/Non Athlete Deductible (can be removed or disappear with primary insurance)	\$200
Adult Athlete Deductible (can be removed or disappear with primary insurance)	\$500
Accidental Death & Dismemberment	\$10,000
Dental Insurance	100% U&C Included in Policy Max

**Who is insured? (The following categories include but are not limited to)**

Athletes and Non-Athletes  
Registered Members residing in foreign countries are covered while participating on U.S. Soil.

**Covered events**

**Sanctioned Events:** This is an event that has been applied for and received a sanction from the AAU of the U.S. Inc.  
**Supervised Practices** for member clubs.

**GENERAL LIABILITY COVERAGE**

**LIMITS**

Each Occurrence - <b>per club/team</b>	Up to \$10,000,000
Aggregate - <b>per club/team per year</b>	Up to \$12,000,000
Products/Completed Operations Aggregate	Up to \$12,000,000
Personal and Advertising Injury	Up to \$10,000,000
Participant Legal Liability	Part of Per Occurrence Limit
Damage to Premises Rented to you	\$1,000,000
Medical Expenses (any one person)	\$5,000
Sexual Abuse & Molestation - Each Occur	\$1,000,000
Sexual Abuse & Molestation - Aggregate	\$2,000,000
Crisis Management Coverage/Bell Endorsement	Included
Participant vs. Participant	Up to \$1,000,000

**Who is insured? (The following categories include but are not limited to)**

Athletes and Non-Athletes  
Member clubs/teams when all participants are registered as athletes or non athletes  
Event organizers, promoters, sponsors and managers of AAU sanctioned events  
Volunteers while acting in their capacity at an AAU sanctioned event  
AAU of the USA, Inc.  
AAU Districts, AAU Governors and Administrators, AAU Directors & Officers  
Officials while acting in their capacity at an AAU sanctioned event  
Spectators

**Covered events**

**Sanctioned Events:** This is an event that has been applied for and received a sanction from the AAU of the U.S. Inc.  
**Supervised Practices** for member clubs.

**EXTENDED COVERAGE (AB) INSURANCE PROGRAM**

The Extended Coverage (AB) program was developed to extend coverage for AAU members while participating in events hosted by organizations that are not member clubs of the AAU. Coverage in this program is provided for properly registered athletes or non-athletes.

Sports Accident	\$50,000
Liability Coverage	Up to \$10,000,000
Aggregate - per club/team per year	Up to \$12,000,000

Extended Coverage (AB) Is not available in the sport of Adult Taekwondo  
Any organization that is a member of the AAU and hosts an event that is not sanctioned by the AAU would not have any coverage for the event, even if its members are AAU AB Registered.

## VERIFICATION OF INSURANCE AVAILABLE

ALL INSURANCE CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE AT WWW.AAUSPORTS.ORG UNDER THE INSURANCE OVERVIEW TAB

**Verification of Insurance:** This document verifies the club has insurance coverage as defined by the AAU policy and extends the club's coverage to a third party (if accepted by the third party). Your specific club name will appear on the document. **Free-Documents Available immediately.**

## THIRD PARTY/ADDITIONAL INSURED INSURANCE CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

ALL INSURANCE CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE AT WWW.AAUSPORTS.ORG UNDER THE INSURANCE OVERVIEW TAB

**This program is designed to provide member clubs the ability to obtain certificate(s). The fee structure is based on requesting the third party/additional insured certificate(s) at least 30 days before coverage start date or incurring an expedite fee**

Fee Structure	Fee	Expedite Fee	Total
Start Date is 31 + days from today	\$35	NA	\$35
Start Date is 16-30 days from today	\$35	\$65	\$100
Start Date is 0-15 days from today	\$35	\$100	\$135

For the fees listed above, you may request up to 200 third party/additional insured certificate(s) in one transaction. If you do not list all requests on your initial submission, there will be a \$25.00 transaction fee each time you return to list additional requests. For each facility/entity over 200 there is a \$10.00 per facility/entity fee.

**PRACTICE CERTIFICATES:** Fees apply. This certificate extends coverage for members during practice and practice only. The practice must be scheduled & supervised by an AAU non-athlete member. It specifically names the third party/additional insured, confirms the club has coverage as defined by the AAU policy and extends the club's coverage to the third party/additional insured. (This certificate is applicable where needed for CG 2026 1185).

**Available 2 hours after certificate request**

**EVENT CERTIFICATES:** Fees apply. This certificate extends coverage for activities such as leagues, tournaments, clinics and other events approved by the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, Inc. There must be a sanction number relative to this event. Sanctions may take up to 16 days for approval. It specifically names the third party/additional insured, confirms the club has coverage as defined by the AAU policy and extends the club's coverage to the third party/additional insured. (This certificate is applicable where needed for CG 2026 1185).

**Available 2 hours after Approval of Event Sanction Application**

**SPONSOR:** Fees apply. This certificate extends coverage to a benefactor or donor who supports a member club. The sponsor name will appear on the certificate(s). It confirms the club has coverage as defined by the AAU policy and extends the club's coverage to the third party/additional insured. (This certificate is applicable where needed for CG 2026 1185). This type of certificate request must be submitted to the AAU National Office for processing.

**Available 24-48 hours after request has been submitted and accepted.**

**EXTENDED COVERAGE (AB) CERTIFICATE:** Fees apply. This certificate is for AAU member clubs while participating in events hosted by organizations that are not member clubs of the AAU. These non-AAU events include leagues, tournaments, clinics, etc. This certificate must be obtained by an AAU member club. This certificate insures the named third party in regards to the AAU member club's sole negligence. The entire competing team and coach (non-athlete) must be AAU AB members. If you are a member of the AAU in the AB category and conduct an event that is not sanctioned by the AAU, you forfeit your rights of AB coverage for said event. This type of certificate request must be submitted to the AAU National Office for processing.

**Available 24-48 hours after request has been submitted and accepted.**



**This brochure is only a brief description of the coverage available under the AAU Policies. The policies may contain reductions, limitations, exclusions and termination provisions. If there is a conflict between the contents of this document and the policy, the terms and conditions of the policy will govern in all cases.**



## Suggestions to get you started

Forming a team can be a little overwhelming so the following are a few things to consider when beginning the process.

### Important Considerations

The four most important considerations in forming a team are developing a philosophy for your team, finding committed players, finding a coach and finding a practice facility.

### Develop Philosophy

Will it be a participation team where everyone gets equal playing time or a performance team where playing time must be earned? If the coach and the players don't buy into the philosophy of the team it will eventually lead to problems and hard feelings.

### Selection of Players

- Will you run area wide or local tryout?
- Will they be open tryouts or by invitation only?
- Are tryouts necessary or will you just select your own team?
- You will also need to decide how many players you will have on your teams' roster. Cost, which is addressed in the next section (click on Financial Obligations of Clubs/Teams) have some impact on that decision.

### Review AAU Cheerleading Handbook and AAU Code Book

Visit [www.aacheerleading.org](http://www.aacheerleading.org) and obtain a Cheerleading Handbook with all the rules and regulations by clicking on the Handbook link under the Rules/Info Tab. This will help you with you all age/divisions questions and make you knowledgeable of AAU rules and regulations. You should then contact your Cheerleading Sports Director or visit their website, which you can find at [www.aacheerleading.org](http://www.aacheerleading.org). By visiting this website you will be able to get information on local upcoming events.

### Develop a Budget

You must first figure out how much money you need to run your club. You have an option of dividing the cost of running your club amongst the number of players on your team. If you want to supplement the amount of money the players are responsible to contribute or if you do not want the players to contribute any money then you must do one of the following action points.

### Get a Sponsor

Find a local business or person in your area that would like to sponsor your team either with money or merchandise.

### Solicit Donations

Your first step in this process is to visit [www.aausports.org](http://www.aausports.org) and get a Club Level 3 membership. Selecting a Club Level 3 membership makes your club a subordinate under the AAU's Group exemption program, making the entity a tax-exempt organization. Level 3 Clubs are eligible to accept tax-exempt donations directly. (See club memberships).

### Host a Tournament

Hosting a tournament can give your club an opportunity to raise money for your team.

Questions? For further information on how you can begin running AAU leagues, tournaments, and clinics, please contact [anastasia@aausports.org](mailto:anastasia@aausports.org) for more info.

**The information provided above are general guidelines to be followed at your discretion. The AAU does not endorse any particular organizational process or Claim to have exact knowledge on how to start or find a team.**

\*The information provided above are general guidelines/suggestions to be followed at your discretion.

**DISTRICT AAU**  
**Cheerleading**  
**EVENT NAME**  
**EVENT DATE**  
**Hosted by CLUB NAME**  
**CITY, STATE**



**AGE GROUPS:**

**ENTRY FEE:** \$

**ENTRY DEADLINE:** DATE

**AWARDS:**

**FORMAT:**

**RULES:** Meet will follow current AAU Rules

**ENTRY FEES PAYABLE TO:**

- This event is sanctioned by the Amateur Athletic Union of the U. S., Inc.
- All participants must have a current AAU membership.
- AAU membership may not be included as part of the entry fee to the event.
- AAU Youth Athlete membership must be obtained before the competition begins except where the event operator has a laptop available with an internet connection. **Be Prepared:** Adult and Non Athlete memberships are no longer instant and cannot be applied for at event. Please allow 10 days for membership to be processed.
- Participants are encouraged to visit the AAU web site [www.aausports.org](http://www.aausports.org) to obtain their membership.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
(CONTACT INFO)

# AAU is...

**Boys and Girls, Men and Women.** AAU is local and global. AAU is **laughter**, challenges, and opportunities. AAU is **the place** where you learn discipline, team work and persistence. AAU is an organization where **problem solving** and cooperation are taught through the medium of sports.

AAU is the oldest not-for-profit organization in the world dedicated exclusively to the **development** of sports. AAU is **32 different** sports programs. AAU is grassroots, local, national and global events.

AAU is athletic programs where striving to be your best is far more important than being the best. AAU is **educational programs** taught in both the written form and through example.

AAU is alumni from **Shaquille O'Neal** and Carmello Anthony, through Swin Cash and Sheryl Swoopes, to Carl Lewis, Jackie Joyner Kersee, and **Muhammad Ali**.

AAU is the AAU Junior Olympic Games. AAU is National Championships, and the **local and global** competition leading up to them. AAU is **289,860,028 million** people at practices and athletic events annually.

AAU is the AAU Sullivan Award, honoring the **top amateur athlete**. AAU is the arm of the **President's Challenge**, enhancing the fitness levels of America's youth.

AAU is impacting **communities** today and tomorrow. AAU is **building America's future one athlete at a time.**

# AAU is...

*“AAU was a springboard to everything I have achieved.”*

- Van Chancellor  
Basketball Legend

*“It’s not about being the best. It’s about discovering what your best is.”*

- Peyton Manning  
Indianapolis Colts

*“I have always admired the organization. The AAU does wonderful work.”*

- Eddie Einhorn  
Owner of Chicago Bulls and Chicago White Sox

*“Our NFHS strategic plan called on us to reach out to organizations such as the AAU.”*

- Robert F. Kanaby  
Executive Director, NFHS

*“For me to win the AAU James E. Sullivan Award – Wow, people really respect me.”*

- Chamique Holdsclaw  
WNBA Player

*“What I respect about the AAU is it's well organized and well put together. Keep it up AAU.”*

- Shaquille O’Neal  
NBA Player

*“You know what I like about AAU? AAU saves lives! It takes kids off street corners and away from drugs. AAU is a great organization!”*

- Percy “Master P” Miller  
Entrepreneur

*“The AAU has been a powerful force in the great athletic success the United States has enjoyed.”*

- Gerald R. Ford  
38th President of the United States

