

WHAT IS THE YEAR OF LANGUAGES?

The Year of Languages initiative is a yearlong national celebration of language and culture sponsored by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). The goal of the YOL celebration is to advance the concept that every American should develop proficiency not only in English, but in other languages as well.

OBJECTIVES OF THE YEAR OF LANGUAGES

- To promote multilingualism and cultural understanding in the United States
- To provide information about the teaching and learning of languages
- To support the lifelong learning of languages
- To motivate people to learn languages, and to raise awareness of the benefits of knowing another language
- To celebrate the history and use of all languages in the United States including those languages indigenous to the country
- To sponsor workshops, conferences, competitions, and internships
- To create an atmosphere in the American business community that fosters the importance of Americans learning other languages for business purposes



CELEBRATE...

the rich linguistic and cultural heritage found in all American communities.

EDUCATE...

students, parents and the public in general about the benefits that students gain from studying and learning other languages.

COMMUNICATE...

the importance of language programs in American education and society.

For more information about this national initiative, visit the Year of Languages website at www.yearoflanguages.org or contact ACTFL headquarters at (703) 894-2900.



For more information about Year of Languages events in South Carolina, visit the South Carolina Foreign Language Teachers' Association website:

www.scflta.org



Celebrate...

Educate...

Communicate...

**The Power of
Language Learning!**



2005: The Year of Languages ACTFL Monthly Focus Calendar



November 2004 Kick-Off

ACTFL will kick-off the 2005 Year of Languages at its Annual Convention in Chicago with announcements of the ACTFL-sponsored events and testimonials of support from noted people from the political, business, and entertainment arenas.

December 2004 Media

Press conference held at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. with public statements of support from the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Education, Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Defense.

January 2005 Language Policy

The focus on language policy will encourage local, state and national policy makers to examine the role of languages in their schools, and work and business environments.

February 2005 International Engagement

Activities that highlight the importance of international engagement will be encouraged by participating organizations. Building relationships with countries around the world will be featured as well as sister city initiatives and study abroad programs.

March 2005 Connecting Languages to Other Areas

This focus will encourage activities that show the interrelationships between languages and other subject areas or professional fields.

April 2005 Higher Education

This focus will provide a forum for discussion of enrollments, curricula, programs, and initiatives in the higher education institutions in the United States. Symposia that focus on higher education initiatives that promote advanced levels of languages will be featured.

May 2005 Language Advocacy

This month participating organizations are encouraged to identify ways that language learning and multilingualism can be promoted in their own communities. Highlighting languages in the media will be a primary mechanism for promotion.

June 2005 Adult Learning and Language Use

During this month, language learning and language use by adults will be featured. Organizations that offer programs for adults to learn languages will be highlighted as well as ways that languages are used in work and leisure situations.

July 2005 Languages and Communities

This focus will encourage participants to feature the languages and cultures found in their own communities. Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Clubs and other service organizations, as well as libraries should be tapped for participation at the local level.

August 2005 Parents

The important role that parents play in providing language opportunities for their children will be highlighted. Information on brain research and other important benefits for students will be emphasized as well as the important role that parents play in supporting language programs.

September 2005 Heritage Languages

Emphasis will be on promoting the learning and maintenance of heritage languages including Native American as well as endangered languages and American Sign Language.

October 2005 Early Language Learning

The benefits of early language learning will be emphasized as well as various program models that can be used at the elementary level. Participating organizations will be encouraged to make presentations at PTA meetings and to School Boards highlighting the rationale for beginning language programs in elementary schools.

November 2005 Celebrating Accomplishments and Looking Ahead

Culmination of 2005 Year of Languages at the ACTFL Annual Convention in Baltimore. The first National Language Teacher of the Year winner will be announced.

December 2005 Culture

Participating organizations are encouraged to highlight the learning of culture during this month.