SVS conducts vision evaluations at Jr. Olympics

The AOA Sports Vision Section (SVS) conducted free vision evaluations July 28-31 for 294 of the athletes competing in the 2011 Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Junior Olympic Games in New Orleans, La., thanks to a generous sponsorship grant from Vistakon®, Division of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc.

The program, co-chaired by Steven Hitzeman, O.D., and Stephen Beckerman, O.D., provided 36 volunteers the opportunity to establish testing protocols, gather data, and aid in identifying the best types of sports vision evaluation equipment.

In addition, it provided an excellent opportunity to receive hands-on training and experience in the latest sports vision evaluation and enhancement techniques.

The AAU Junior Olympic Games is the largest national multisport event conducted annually for youth in the United States.

More than 4,200 Junior Olympic athletes have received free vision evaluations from the SVS in the last 15 years.

The SVS plans to publish the results of the 2010 and 2011 programs in the near future.

To receive a copy of the 2011 SVS Junior Olympics Protocols, visit the SVS webpage at *www.aoa.org/svs.xml*.

AAU Junior Olympic Games future dates are as follows: Houston, Texas, July 25 – Aug. 4, 2012; Detroit, Mich., July 24 – Aug. 3, 2013; and Des Moines, Iowa, July 23 – Aug. 2, 2014.

Volunteers for the AOA Sports Vision Section conducted vision evaluations at the 2011 Junior Olympic Games in New Orleans in July.

Elizabeth Geary from Southern College of Optometry tests eye alignment.

Danielle Kalberer from the State University of New York State College of Optometry and Amanda Gajewski of the New England College of Optometry test athletes' eye movement using the Wayne Saccadic Fixator.

Alicia Nehls, O.D., tests eye alignment.

From left, Andrew Congdon and Scott Lewis, O.D., use the visagraph 3 test to evaluate the athletes' fixation, stability and eye movement accuracy.