

2025 Maurice R. Hilleman Essay Contest: Official Rules

VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT OF ANY KIND IS NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN THIS CONTEST. OPEN ONLY TO STUDENTS LIVING IN THE 50 UNITED STATES, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, U.S. TERRITORIES, OR CANADA WHO ARE ENROLLED IN GRADES 6-12 FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR.

General Rules

From November 14, 2024, through February 6, 2025 (the “Contest Period”), the Vaccine Education Center at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (“CHOP”) will conduct an essay contest open only to residents of the United States, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories (together the “United States”) and Canada on the essay topic, ***Not everyone will be a prolific scientist like Dr. Hilleman, but all citizens need to understand how science works. Use an example to discuss why this understanding is important given the role of science and technology in society today.*** (The “Contest”). The Contest will be administered through the Vaccine Education Center’s classroom program, the Vaccine Makers Project, and will be co-sponsored by, and administered in Canada by the Public Health Association of BC (“PHABC”) with assistance from Kids Boost Immunity and The Society for Intelligence Management (together, the “Assistant Entities”). The National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) is also a contest Co-Sponsor (PHABC and NABT will collectively be referred to as “Co-Sponsors”).

To enter, eligible students (see “Eligibility” section for requirements) must submit an essay entry (“Essay”) that follows the Submission Guidelines described in these Official Rules. All students entering the Contest and the parents/legal guardians of such students (collectively referred to as “Entrants” throughout, with “Entrant” referring to either the student and/or the parent/legal guardian as may be appropriate) agree to accept and be legally bound by all terms of these Official Rules and to accept and be bound by the decisions of CHOP, whose decisions are final with respect to all matters of the Contest.

Only one entry per student is permitted. Entries that are incomplete, are submitted late, or otherwise do not comply with these Official Rules will not be accepted or considered. By submitting an essay, Entrant is representing that the Essay is the student Entrant’s original content and that the Essay does not infringe the copyright of any third party. Entrant’s process for generating the essay, and any resources or references used, must be described in the appropriate section of the entry form. Any assistance from a parent/legal guardian, other individuals or artificial intelligence (AI) must be included in the description. In the spirit of the contest, it is required that any use of AI be limited to idea generation. The Essay must not previously have been published or won any award; the Essay must not contain any material that violates or infringes upon the rights of any third party, including without limitation any copyright, trademark or rights of privacy or publicity, or that is defamatory, unlawful or in violation of or contrary to any applicable law or regulation; and the Essay must not contain any material that CHOP, in its sole discretion, deems inappropriate for public viewing. CHOP reserves the right to forgo selecting a winner in one or more categories if none of the entries fulfill at least one of these criteria: a) meet the general rules requirements, eligibility requirements, and submission guidelines, or b) meet the minimum score to advance to round 2 judging as outlined in the official judging rubric. Previous Contest winners are not eligible to be named a winner in the 2025 contest.

By entering the Contest, the Entrant agrees that CHOP will own and administer 100% of the copyright in the Essay submitted, with the perpetual right to use such Essay and that said Essay is solely the work of the student Entrant for whom they are submitting an entry (and not the work of a parent/legal guardian, artificial intelligence, or other third party). Canadian Entrants agree to execute any additional documents required to confirm the assignment of copyright in the Essay. Further, by entering, Canadian Entrants waive any and all moral rights they may have in the Essay in favour of CHOP and the Co-Sponsors and the Assistant Entities. CHOP may edit for grammar or accuracy, modify for style only, and distribute the submitted entries with no additional notification or permission of the Entrant. CHOP may allow Co-Sponsors and the Assistant Entities to use excerpts from entries.

Eligibility

The Contest is open to all United States and Canadian students who are in grades 6-12 (grades 6-11 in Quebec) during the 2024-2025 school year. Students must reside in and attend school in the United States or Canada. Students must be enrolled in a public, private, cyber, religious or charter school, or attend a home school program.

Submission Guidelines

Each Essay submission must address the topic: *Not everyone will be a prolific scientist like Dr. Hilleman, but all citizens need to understand how science works. Use an example to discuss why this understanding is important given the role of science and technology in society today.* Each submission must be between 500 and 1000 words not including references. Essays under 500

words or over 1000 words must not be under or over by more than 25 words. Any more or less than this approved 25-word buffer will result in disqualification of the Essay. Essays must be typewritten in English for U.S. submissions and in English or French for Canadian submissions. Only one Essay per student will be accepted. Submissions will be accepted online or via U.S. or Canadian mail.

For online submissions

All online entries must be submitted on the Website Contest Page, available at <https://hillemanfilm.com/contest>, by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 6, 2025. Entrants must use the appropriate form for the country in which they reside. Each Entrant who enters online will be required to complete and submit the Contest Entry and Permissions Form and upload their Essay to the Website Contest Page. In the event of a dispute regarding the identity of an Entrant, the entry will be considered to be made by the authorized account holder of the e-mail address submitted at the time of entry (i.e., the natural person who is assigned to an e-mail address by an Internet access provider, on-line service provider or other organization responsible for assigning e-mail addresses for the domain associated with the submitted e-mail address).

For mailed submissions

Entries must be sent to the following address:
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Vaccine Education Center
Roberts Center, 9th floor
3401 Civic Center Blvd
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Canadian entries must be sent to the following address:
The Public Health Association of BC
550-2950 Douglas Street
Victoria, BC V8T4N4

All mailed submissions must be postmarked by February 6, 2025. To enter the Contest by mail, Entrants must send, to the address specified, a typewritten copy of their Essay and a legibly completed Contest Entry and Permissions Form (found on the Website Contest Page). CHOP, Co-Sponsors and Assistant Entities are not responsible for entries that are lost in transit. U.S. submissions must be sent either via U.S. mail with proper postage affixed, or by FedEx or UPS with all delivery charges prepaid. Canadian submissions must be sent using Canada Post with proper postage affixed or by FedEx or UPS with all delivery charges prepaid.

For all submissions

All entry materials become the property of CHOP and will not be verified or returned. By participating in this Contest, Entrants agree to be legally bound by the Official Rules and the decisions of CHOP, which are final and binding in all respects.

By entering the Contest, each Entrant agrees that information submitted via the Website Contest Page or via mail therewith may be used as set forth herein and may also be used in connection with the administration of the Contest.

Judging

Judging will occur separately for the United States and Canada. After the submission deadline, a panel of three judges from each of the United States and Canada will review each eligible entry from that country and select the Contest prizewinners from that country subject to final review and approval by CHOP. All judges will evaluate entries using the same criteria and rubric. Entries that meet the Submission Guidelines will be evaluated based upon the following criteria, which shall be weighted equally: Creativity; Voice; Grammar; Use of language; Organization; Writing process; Content accuracy; Resources/References; and Overall quality of submission. Essay evaluation will also consider the age level of the submitting student. In the event of a tie, Dr. Paul A. Offit, MD – VEC director, vaccine inventor, and Hilleman biographer – shall review the Essays that are tied and choose the Essay that, in his opinion, best meets all nine judging criteria.

CHOP reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any individual it finds or believes to be tampering with the entry process or the administration of the Contest, acting in violation of the Contest rules, or plagiarizing content in any form. CHOP will select the three-judge panel for United States judging and PHABC shall select the three-judge panel for Canada judging. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the final selection of all judges is within the sole and absolute discretion of CHOP. Submissions will be judged on an anonymous basis. Judges will not know the identity of Entrants until winners are selected. CHOP reserves the right to forgo selecting a winner in one or more categories if none of the entries fulfill at least one of these criteria: a) meet the general rule requirements, eligibility requirements, and submission guidelines or b) meet the minimum score to advance to round 2 judging as outlined in the official judging rubric. The Judges will not provide any evaluation of or commentary on any Essay submitted in connection with the Contest.

Awards

Four winners will be selected from each of the United States and Canada. The winners shall be the highest two final scores from the high school (grade 9-12 (grades 9-11 for Quebec)) student submissions and the highest two final scores from the middle school (grades 6-8) student submissions. The highest score in each grade category will be the first-place winner and the next highest score will be the second-place winner. Winners will be notified by email the week of March 31, 2025 and announced on the Website Contest Page (<https://hillemanfilm.com/contest>) on or before June 2, 2025.

Winners will receive the following prizes:

- Monetary prize: First place winners will receive a US\$500 cash prize and second-place winners will receive a US\$250 cash prize. (For Canadian contest winners, the cash prize will be paid at the Bank of Canada exchange rate during the period of prize disbursement.)
- Winner certificate
- Recognition at a Virtual Award Event in May of 2025

The Virtual Award Event will be hosted by CHOP and will include special guests and either recordings or live readings of student winners presenting their Essays. Student winners must be able to participate in the Virtual Award Event activities.

CHOP reserves the right to substitute prizes if a particular item is unavailable. No substitution, cash redemption (except in the case of the cash prize paid by check) or transfer of the right to receive any prize is permitted.

All taxes, expenses or costs associated with the acceptance or use of the prizes are the responsibility of the winner. All federal, state, provincial/territorial and local taxes on the value of a prize, if applicable, are the responsibility of the winner.

Potential winners, along with their parent or guardian, will be notified via email the week of March 31, 2025. Each potential winner is subject to verification of eligibility by CHOP. If a potential winner cannot be reached or does not respond within 5 business days of the initial notification attempt, or if any attempted notification is returned as undeliverable, or if a potential winner is deemed ineligible by CHOP, or if a potential winner does not otherwise comply with these Official Rules and/or cannot attend the Virtual Award Event activities for any reason, then the potential winner may be disqualified and an alternate winner may, at CHOP's discretion, be selected from among the remaining eligible Essays from that country as specified in these Official Rules (in which case the foregoing provisions will apply to such newly-selected Entrant).

By accepting a prize, winners release the Released Parties (as defined below) from any and all liability, loss or damage incurred with respect to the awarding, receipt, possession and/or use or misuse of the prize or any portion thereof, and acknowledge that the Released Parties have neither made nor are in any manner responsible or liable for any warranty, representation or guarantee, express or implied in fact or in law, including but not limited to its quality, mechanical condition or fitness for a particular purpose.

Teachers

Teachers named in winning entries will receive a signed copy of a book written by Paul A. Offit, MD. CHOP reserves the right to substitute teacher prize if a particular item is unavailable. No substitution, cash redemption or transfer of the right to receive any prize is permitted. If any attempted notification is returned as undeliverable or the teacher does not respond after 2 contact attempts, if the book shipment is returned as undeliverable, or if the teacher or teacher's winning student is deemed ineligible by CHOP, the teacher will no longer be eligible to receive the book at CHOP's discretion. Teachers named in winning entries will also receive a 1-year complimentary membership to the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT), provided by and coordinated through NABT.

Release of Privacy Rights

Upon submission of an entry, the submission becomes the property of CHOP. By entering the Contest, Entrants, their parents/legal guardians and named teachers grant CHOP the right, unless prohibited by law, to use their names, cities and states/districts or territories/providences and countries of residence, pictures, and likenesses without compensation, for the express purpose of advertising, publicity, or educational programming of CHOP and the Contest in any and all media, now or after. In addition, any and all information collected through the Website Contest Page (as a CHOP-sanctioned and affiliated website) is subject to the Privacy Policy of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Web site. The Privacy Policy can be found at <https://www.chop.edu/pages/privacy-policy>. CHOP may grant Co-Sponsors and the Assistant Entities the right, unless prohibited

by law, to use some of the same information for the express purpose of advertising, publicity, or educational programming of the Co-Sponsors and/or the Assistant Entities.

Nondiscrimination Policy

In administering the Contest, neither CHOP nor the Co-Sponsors will discriminate in any manner. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia complies with applicable civil rights laws and prohibits unlawful discrimination and discriminatory harassment on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, culture, language, sex (including sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, pregnancy or related conditions, sex characteristics, and sex stereotypes), age, national origin (including limited English proficiency and primary language), ancestry, marital status, familial status, disability, socioeconomic status, veteran's status, genetic information, victim of domestic or sexual violence status or other protected classifications.

Availability Disclaimer

Ultimately, the administration of the Contest, including, without limitation, determining the eligibility of a student or Essay, selecting of a judge, evaluating any submitted Essay, and awarding of the prizes, is within the sole and absolute discretion of CHOP. No student or teacher, or person or organization related thereto, has a right to appeal, contest, dispute, or otherwise challenge any aspect of the administration of the Contest, and any decision of CHOP is final in all respects.

No responsibility is assumed for incorrect or inaccurate Essay information whether caused by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized by this Contest or by any human error which may occur in the processing of Essays into this Contest. None of CHOP, Co-Sponsors or the Assistant Entities are responsible for lost, or misdirected, Essays or any problems or technical malfunctions of any telephone network or lines, computer on-line systems, servers or providers, computer equipment, software, or traffic congestion on the Internet or at any website, including the Website Contest Page, or combination thereof.

If, for any reason, the Contest is compromised, including by infection with computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failures, or any other causes beyond the control of CHOP, which corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity or proper conduct of this Contest or for any reason CHOP deems it necessary, CHOP reserves the right to cancel, modify, or delay the Contest.

Grant of Rights

By entering the Contest, Entrant assigns and transfers to CHOP all right, title, and interest in and to the copyright in the Essay and all renewals and extensions of the copyright that may be obtained under the laws now or hereafter in effect under the laws of the United States and Canada or any other country or countries. Entrant further agrees that, by entering the Contest, Entrant is representing that the Essay is the student Entrant's original content and that the Essay does not infringe the copyright of any third party. CHOP may freely edit, adapt, modify, or translate the Essay, and may license, assign or transfer its rights in the Essay to any person or entity without notice to Entrant. Canadian residents agree to execute any additional documents that may be required by CHOP to confirm the assignment hereunder. Further, Canadian Entrants waive any and all moral rights they may have in the Essay in favour of CHOP and the Co-Sponsors and the Assistant Entities. By entering the Contest, Entrant also agrees that CHOP may use, in connection with the Essay, Entrant's name, likeness, and biographical information in any media, without compensation to or further authorization from Entrant.

Release and Limitation of Liability

CHOP, Co-Sponsors, the Assistant Entities and any and all other companies involved in the development or operation of the Contest or the provision of the prizes, and the directors, officers, employees and agents of each of the foregoing (collectively, the "Released Parties") are not responsible for, and will have no liability for, (a) late, lost, delayed, illegible, stolen, mislaid, damaged, corrupted, postage-due or incomplete entries or Essays, incorrect or inaccurate capture of, damage to, or loss of entries or Essays, or any other human or technical errors of any kind relating to the operation of the Website Contest Page, communications or attempted communications with any Entrant, the submission, collection, storage or processing of entries or Essays or the administration of the Contest, (b) undeliverable e-mails resulting from any form of active or passive e-mail filtering by a user's Internet service provider and/or e-mail client or for insufficient space in user's e-mail account to receive e-mail or (c) any damage to any computer system resulting from participation in or accessing or downloading information in connection with the Contest.

By entering the Contest, each Entrant releases and agrees to hold each of the Released Parties harmless from and against any and all claims, losses, actions, damages, liabilities and expenses (including, without limitation, attorneys' fees) of any kind that the Entrant ever had, now has or might in the future have arising out of or relating to (a) the Contest, (b) participation in the Contest, (c) the use of the Website Contest Page, (d) the Essays, (e) the acceptance of any prize, including without limitation all claims and liabilities arising from any loss or damage to person or property, and/or (f) any use of the Entrant's name, likeness, voice and/or biographical

information as permitted pursuant to these Official Rules, including without limitation all claims and liabilities based on any violation of the right of privacy or right of publicity, copyright infringement, misappropriation or violation of any other personal or proprietary right. Entrants assume all liability for any injury or damage caused, or claimed to be caused, by (a) the Contest, (b) participation in the Contest, (c) the use of the Website Contest Page, (d) the Essay, (e) the acceptance of any prize, including without limitation any loss or damage to person or property, and/or (f) any use of the Entrant's name, likeness, voice and/or biographical information as permitted pursuant to these Official Rules. The Released Parties are not responsible for any typographical or other error in the printing of the offer, or administration of the Contest.

Disputes

By entering the Contest, each Entrant agrees that, to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, (a) any and all disputes, claims, and causes of action arising out of or connected with the Contest shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action (Note: Some jurisdictions do not allow restricting access to class actions. This provision will not apply to you if you live in such a jurisdiction.); and (b) any and all claims, judgments and awards shall be limited to actual out-of-pocket costs incurred, including costs associated with entering the Contest, but in no event attorneys' fees; and (c) under no circumstances will any Entrant be permitted to obtain any award for, and Entrant hereby waives all rights to claim, punitive, special, incidental or consequential damages and any and all rights to have damages multiplied or otherwise increased and any other damages, other than for actual out-of-pocket expenses.

All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation and enforceability of these Official Rules, or the rights and obligations of the Entrants, CHOP, Co-Sponsors and the Assistant Entities in connection with the Contest, shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules or provisions that would cause the application of the laws of any jurisdiction other than the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Any legal proceedings arising out of this Contest or relating to these Official Rules shall be instituted only in the federal or state courts located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, waiving any right to trial by jury, and each Entrant consents to jurisdiction therein with respect to any legal proceedings or disputes of whatever nature arising under or relating to these rules or the Contest. In the event of any conflict between these Official Rules and any Contest information provided elsewhere (including but not limited in advertising or marketing materials), these Official Rules shall prevail. In the event of any conflict between the English version of these Official Rules and the French version of these Official Rules, the English version of these Official Rules shall prevail and govern. All entries are subject to verification at any time.