

Hamilton Education Program Online Competition

Official Rules

Overview

The goal of the Hamilton Education Program Online (“**Program**”) is to provide teachers and legal guardians with the necessary resources to help students in grades 6–12 see the relevance of the Founding Era by using primary sources to create a creative piece (e.g., a rap, poem, dramatic scene), following the model used by Lin-Manuel Miranda to create the musical *Hamilton*. The Program is sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History (“**Sponsor**”).

Interested teachers and legal guardians have the opportunity to enter their students in a Competition to win a trip to New York City to see a performance of *Hamilton*. Legal guardians do not have to be affiliated with a school to participate. However, students must be currently enrolled in grades 6–12 in the 50 United States, District of Columbia, Department of Defense Schools, and US Territories to participate in the National Competition. For more information, please read the rules below.

Hamilton Education Program Online Competition Rules

Teachers and legal guardians (“**Entrants**”) participating in the Hamilton Education Program Online may submit up to five of their best student creative pieces in the Hamilton Education Program Online Competition (“**Competition**”).

Eligibility

The Competition is open to all teachers and legal guardians of students currently enrolled in grades 6–12 in the 50 United States, District of Columbia, Department of Defense Schools, and US Territories.

Employees of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and *Hamilton* and members of their immediate family or persons living in the same household are not eligible for the Competition.

To participate in the Competition, Entrants will submit up to five of their best student creative pieces (“**Submission(s)**”), subject to the requirements below. Entrants are encouraged to submit a video recording of each piece. The Submission(s) should be based on the creative piece that the student(s) wrote during the implementation of the Program. For more information on the written creative piece and the implementation of the Program, please review the teacher and student guides.

The requirements for the Piece are as follows:

- Students may work in *groups of up to 3* to create the creative piece.
- If recorded, the Submission must be under 2 minutes long.
- If recorded, the Submission must be a performance by the students who researched and wrote the piece. The creative piece must not violate any party’s copyrights or trademark rights.

- Students must enter through a teacher or legal guardian who is at least 23 years old. Entrants are limited to making **5 submissions** per school year. It is up to the discretion of the Entrant to select the best student creative pieces for the Competition.

Any submission that fails to meet one or more of the requirements listed above will be ineligible for the Competition and will not be considered.

Criteria

Submissions will be judged on the following components as outlined in the Project Rubric in both the teacher and student guides:

- **Research:** The creative piece must be based on identified primary sources from the Hamilton Education Program Online website or found through independent research and show the students' understanding of a person, event, or document from the Founding Era.
- **Historical Integrity:** The creative piece must capture the meaning and message of the identified primary sources, although artistic license may be used to change certain facts or context.
- **Artistic Expression:** The creative piece must provide an original interpretation of the students' chosen topic through song, rhyme, or prose that conveys to the audience a clear, engaging message. It must be a unique expression of ideas that arises from the students' inventiveness and creativity in their choice of character or topic, their story-telling, their lyrics, rhyme, or prose, and/or their musical compositions. The student may not copy another work or violate any party's copyrights or trademark rights.

Competition Materials and Submission

All Submissions must be submitted using the online Application Form. First-time users of the site will be asked to create a profile before proceeding to the application form. Entrants will be asked to submit the following in the application form:

- The number of students in the Submission(s)
- The state where the student(s) reside(s)
- A copy of the text of the student creative piece
- The student performance video (OPTIONAL)

Once an application is submitted, it will be considered for the Competition subject to the rules and regulations outlined here. Should an Entrant choose to submit more than one Submission, they must complete the application form for each individual Submission. As a reminder, Entrants can submit up to five Submissions per school year.

The Application Form will open on **August 1, 2026**, and close on **December 15, 2026**. The form can be found [here](#).

There is no purchase necessary to enter or win the Competition.

Selection Process

A panel of 3 to 5 qualified judges with knowledge of the expectations of the Program will review all Submissions against the criteria listed above and provide a score for each of the components on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the best score, as fully outlined in the Project Rubric in the teacher and student guides. The scored Submissions will then be provided to a finalist committee composed of 3 to 5 qualified judges with knowledge of the expectations of the Program for final determination. Each year, **10** Submissions will be selected. The students who wrote those 10 Submissions will be named **Competition winners**.

In the event of a tie, the submissions will be returned to the panel for a vote to break the tie.

Submissions that are not awarded through the Competition may be considered for the Lottery at the Entrant's request. This request should be made by checking the box in the application form.

Announcement of Competition Winners

Winners of the Competition will be notified by email by **February 28, 2027 ("Award Date")**. Winners will also be listed on the Gilder Lehrman Institute website by the end of **March 2027**.

Competition Prizes

Winners will be flown to New York City in May 2027 with a designated number of adult chaperones, as outlined below, to attend a Hamilton Education Program theater experience with middle and high school students from the tri-state area, including a matinee performance of *Hamilton* ("**Prize**"). Competition winners will also receive *Hamilton* merchandise signed by Lin-Manuel Miranda, which will not be provided to Lottery winners.

Winners may have their performance showcased at certain Gilder Lehrman events during the school year.

Winners will have the opportunity to submit questions for consideration at the cast Q&A.

Travel arrangements and costs (including flights, transportation to/from airport, hotel stay, and a per diem for meals) will be covered for arrival the day before the Prize through the day after the Prize (three days, two nights). If winners intend to stay longer or arrive earlier than the days that are covered by the Program, it will be at their own expense.

The Sponsor will only provide matinee tickets, make arrangements, and cover the travel cost for winners and their designated chaperones. Should winners travel to New York with additional individuals, those additional individuals will not be able to participate in the Prize activities.

Requirements for Prize

All winners and their chaperones **MUST** sign and return the required releases, consents, and forms by **March 15, 2027**. Failure to complete and submit paperwork by this deadline will result in forfeiture of the Prize, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute shall have the option to award the Prize to an alternate winner. The bounceback or return of any Prize notification may result in disqualification and an alternate winner may be selected. By entering this Competition, Entrant accepts and agrees to these Official Rules and the decisions of the Sponsor, which shall be final in all matters. All winners must also abide by the outlined chaperone and housing policies.

Sponsor's Policies

All winners must comply with Sponsor's policies to participate in the Prize activities.

Chaperone Policy

The required number of chaperones per student in **grades 9–12** is as follows:

- 1 student: 1 chaperone
- 2 students: 2 chaperones
- 3 students: 2 chaperones

The required number of chaperones per student in **grades 6–8** is as follows:

- 1 student: 1 chaperone
- 2 students: 2 chaperones
- 3 students: 3 chaperones

Chaperones must be adults over the age of 23. The decision of who will be a chaperone(s) is at the sole discretion of the Entrant and their affiliated school, if any. In all cases, the Entrant who submitted the winning Submission should be prioritized as a chaperone.

Housing Policy and Guidance

All students and chaperones will be housed in a local hotel. In addition to the required student-to-chaperone ratios, students and chaperones who are affiliated with a school will be housed according to each school's policies as implemented and conveyed to the Sponsor via instruction from the students' teacher, who must have obtained and recorded approval from the individual student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s). Students who enter through an Entrant that is not affiliated with a school must be chaperoned by a parent or legal guardian.

Competition Timeline

August 1, 2026 - Submission Form opens

December 15, 2026 - Deadline for Submissions

February 28, 2027 - All winners notified

March 15, 2027 - Required paperwork for Prize winners due

May 2027 - Prize winners will be brought to New York City for the Prize (exact dates to be provided at a later date).

If you have any questions, please email hamilton@gilderlehrman.org.

The Sponsor of the Hamilton Education Program Online is

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
49 W. 45th Street
New York, NY 10036

Postponement of Prize

Sponsor reserves the right to postpone the Prize for any reason. If the Prize is postponed, winners will be notified by email. Sponsor will award the Prize as soon as practicable.

If any of the winners' schools place restrictions on field trips that prohibit the winners from participating in the Prize on the dates the Prize is offered, those winners may participate in the Prize at a later date, provided that the winners notify Sponsor of the restriction by March 15, 2027.

Privacy Policy

All information submitted for the Competition and through the Hamilton Education Program Online website is in compliance with the Gilder Lehrman Institute's Privacy Policy. A copy of the Privacy Policy can be found [here](#).

Ownership of Materials and Copyright/Use License

By submitting a Submission to the Competition, the Entrant understands and agrees that all materials submitted in connection with the Hamilton Education Program Online will become the property of Sponsor and will not be acknowledged or returned. Participation in the Competition confers non-exclusive irrevocable and perpetual permission and consent, without further compensation or attribution, for Sponsor and/or others authorized by Sponsor to use, edit, adapt, modify, reproduce, print, publish, transmit, distribute, sell, perform, enhance, or display the materials for any purpose, including but not limited to editorial, advertising, trade, commercial, and publicity purposes, in any and

all media now in existence or hereinafter created, throughout the world, in perpetuity. Nothing herein shall operate to transfer any person's copyright interest in any submission materials to Sponsor.

Waiver, Hold Harmless, and Limitation of Liability

By entering the Competition, Entrants waive all right to, and hold the Sponsor, its employees, independent contractors, agents, members, directors, officers, trustees, Board, donors, and other representatives, harmless from, any claim, liability, loss, damage (including punitive, incidental, and consequential damages), or expense (including attorneys' fees) arising out of or in connection with participation in this Competition or the acceptance, use, or misuse of the Prize[s]. SOME JURISDICTIONS DO NOT ALLOW THE LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSION OF LIABILITY FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, SO THE ABOVE MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU. Sponsor will not be responsible for: (i) late, incomplete, or incorrect entries; (ii) an Entrant's failure to receive Prize notices due to Entrant's spam, junk e-mail, or other security settings or for Entrants' provision of incorrect or otherwise non-functioning contact information; (iii) technical, hardware, or software malfunctions, lost or unavailable network connections, or failed, incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete, garbled, or delayed electronic communications however caused and even if caused by any of Sponsor's equipment, software, or other programming associated with or used in this Competition; (iv) by any human error which may occur in the processing of the entries in this Competition; (v) or any typographical, technological, or other error in the publishing of the offer, administration of the Competition, or announcement of the Prize[s]. Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify this Competition in a manner it deems appropriate. In the event of any modification, Entrants will be timely notified by email.