

## **Ham4Progress Award for Educational Advancement Contest**

### **Official Rules**

#### **Overview**

The Ham4Progress Award for Educational Advancement Contest (“**Contest**”) is designed to support college-bound high school juniors from communities that directly experience the consequences of social injustice and/or discrimination. In 2023, this Contest will provide seventeen (17) students with an individual prize of \$2,000 that must be allocated towards educational advancement (the “**Award**”).

The Contest is sponsored by Hamilton Uptown LLC, 145 W. 45th Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10036, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, 49 W. 45th Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10036 (“**Sponsors**”). The Award is privately funded.

#### **Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible for the Contest, students will be subject to the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a member of a community that directly experiences the consequences of social injustice and/or discrimination
- Be a college-bound high school junior
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale
- School must be registered as a Gilder Lehrman Affiliate School in the 50 United States and the District of Columbia

Submissions that fail to meet one or more of the requirements above will not be eligible for the Contest.

A student who has not reached the age of majority in his or her state of domicile as of the date on which the Contest commences must receive their parent’s or legal guardian’s permission to enter the Contest.

Employees of the Sponsors and members of their immediate family or persons living in the same household are not eligible for the Contest.

#### **Submission Requirements**

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. Students will be asked to submit the following in the application form:

- A letter of recommendation from a teacher. Teachers should answer the following questions in their letter:
  - How long have you known the student and in what capacity?
  - What qualifies the student for this award? Please provide specific examples.
- Official high school transcripts
- Personal statement, 350–500 words, on what the student is doing to further social justice and why it is an important issue for the student to address. Students should also explain how they exemplify Alexander Hamilton’s qualities of pursuit of knowledge, both inside

and outside of the classroom, as well as his qualities of resilience, hard work, and initiative. In addition, a short explanation of how the funds will be used for educational advancement is required.

The Application Form will open on **December 15, 2022**, and will close on **April 15, 2023**. The Application Form can be found on the Gilder Lehrman website. Students will also need to submit certain personal information (such as address and telephone number), school information, and parent/guardian information on the Application Form.

There is a limit of one (1) entry per person using only one (1) email address for the Contest. This limit will be strictly enforced. Incomplete entries or entries not complying with these Rules are subject to disqualification.

*There is no purchase necessary to enter the Contest or win the Award.*

### **Judging Criteria**

Eligible students being considered for the Award will be evaluated on three key areas:

- Interest in and work toward social justice
- Pursuit of knowledge
- Embodiment of resilience, hard work, and initiative

For each of these areas, students will be assigned a score of 1–3 in accordance with the “Judging Process” section below. Scores will be primarily based on what students share in their personal statements and will also take into consideration what teachers share in their recommendation letters.

Scores in each of these areas will be weighted, with interest in and work toward social justice being worth 50% of the final score, pursuit of knowledge being worth 25% of the final score, and resilience/hard work/initiative being worth 25% of the final score.

Below is a description of each rating category along with possible examples. Students may demonstrate their excellence in these categories in a variety of ways, and these examples are only meant to be illustrative.

<b>Interest in and work toward social justice (50% of overall score)</b>
<b>Strong evidence (3)</b>
Student provides <b>strong</b> evidence that they are committed to social justice and has provided <b>concrete</b> examples of how they have <b>led</b> work in their community toward this goal. Examples could include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leading voter registration initiatives focused on communities that directly experience the consequences of social injustice and/or discrimination</li></ul>

- Organizing letter-writing campaigns to elected officials focused on issues of racial, economic, religious, or other social injustice

Moderate evidence (2)

Student provides **moderate** evidence that they are committed to social justice and has provided **concrete** examples of how they have **participated** in work in their community toward this goal. Examples could include but are not limited to:

- Participating in voter registration initiatives, protests, or other campaigns related to social justice in their community
- Volunteering at organizations serving communities that directly experience the consequences of social injustice and/or discrimination

Weak evidence (1)

Student provides **weak** evidence that they are committed to social justice with only **general** examples of how they have **participated** in work in their community toward this goal.

**Pursuit of knowledge (25% of overall score)**

Strong evidence (3)

Student provides **strong** evidence that they are committed to the pursuit of knowledge in and outside the classroom and has provided **several examples** of how they are driving their own learning. Examples could include but are not limited to:

- Leading a book club focused on social justice or historically marginalized and/or oppressed groups
- Engaging in school-based extracurricular activities related to academics
- Taking online classes outside of school
- Internships in a field of interest

Moderate evidence (2)

Student provides **moderate** evidence that they are committed to the pursuit of knowledge in and outside the classroom and has provided **1-2 examples** of how they are driving their own learning. Examples could include but are not limited to:

- Participating in a book club focused on social justice or historically marginalized and/or oppressed groups
- Engaging in school-based extracurricular activities related to academics
- Taking online classes outside of school
- Internships in a field of interest

Weak evidence (1)

Student provides <b>weak</b> evidence that they are committed to the pursuit of knowledge, with any examples provided focused primarily on learning inside the classroom.
<b>Embodiment of resilience, hard work, and initiative (25% of overall score)</b>
Strong evidence (3)
<p>Student provides <b>strong</b> evidence that they embody characteristics of resilience, hard work, and initiative with concrete examples. Examples could include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building and leading a civic initiative in their community over time</li> <li>• Leading efforts to raise the profile of social justice issues within and beyond their community</li> <li>• Long-term commitment to a big goal</li> <li>• Facing and overcoming setbacks related to a big goal</li> </ul>
Moderate evidence (2)
<p>Student provides <b>moderate</b> evidence that they embody characteristics of resilience, hard work, and initiative with concrete examples. Examples could include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participating in a civic initiative in their community</li> <li>• Participating in efforts to raise the profile of social justice issues within and beyond their community</li> <li>• Commitment to a big goal</li> <li>• Facing and overcoming setbacks related to a big goal</li> <li>• Convincing parents or others about the importance of a big goal</li> </ul>
Weak evidence (1)
Student provides <b>weak</b> evidence that they embody characteristics of resilience, hard work, and initiative, and only provides general examples.

### Judging Process

A panel of three to five qualified judges with knowledge of the expectations of the Award will review all submissions against the judging criteria listed above and provide a score for each of the components on a scale of 1 to 3, with 3 being the best score. Based on the weighted average, the breakdown of a perfect is as follows:

Score	Category	Weight	Weighted Score
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3	Interest in and work toward social justice	Score multiplied by .50 (weighted at 50%)	1.5
3	Pursuit of knowledge	Score multiplied by .25 (weighted at 25%)	.75
3	Resilience/hard work /initiative	Score multiplied by .25 (weighted at 25%)	.75
<b>Overall Score (Sum of the 3 weight scores)</b>			3

The highest scored submissions will then be provided to a finalist committee composed of three to five qualified judges with knowledge of the expectations of the Award for final determination of award recipients. Using the same judging criteria, the finalist committee will review all of the finalist applications and issue an overall score for each application. The seventeen submissions with highest scores provided by the finalist committee will be selected as the Award winners (“**Award Winners**”).

In the event of a tie in the finalist committee round, the submissions will be returned to the finalist committee for a vote to break the tie. The finalist committee will re-review the tied submissions in question and vote to determine the winner. Should a vote result in a tie, the head of the finalist committee will determine the winner.

**Announcement of Award Winners**

The Award Winners will be notified by email by **June 9, 2023** (“**Award Date**”). The Award Winners will also be listed on the Sponsors’ websites by **July 30, 2023**.

**The Award**

The Award Winners will each receive the Award, which consists of \$2,000, which must be used for educational purposes and which may include:

- Test preparation courses
- Tutoring
- College visits
- Technology including laptops, tablets, or other electronic devices used for learning

**Privacy Policy**

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

### **Award Redemption**

In order to redeem the Award, each potential Award Winner (and/or their parent or legal guardian, if the entrant has not reached the age of majority in their state of domicile) MUST sign and return the required consents, forms, and releases of liability that include a publicity release (except where prohibited by law) by **June 30, 2023**. Sponsors may also require a potential Award Winner to complete, sign, have notarized, and return to Sponsors an IRS W-9 and such other documents as may be required by Sponsors prior to the redemption of the Award. Failure to complete and submit paperwork by this deadline will result in forfeiture of the Award, and the Sponsors shall have the option to award the Award to an alternate winner. The bounceback or return of any prize notification may result in disqualification if Sponsors are unable to reach the Award Winner or the Award Winner's guardians. An alternate winner may be selected. If a potential Award Winner forfeits the Award for any reason, the entry that received the next highest score total may be chosen as a potential winner, or the Sponsors may elect not to award such Award to any student, in Sponsors' sole discretion. By entering this Contest, each entrant accepts and agrees to these Rules and the decisions of the Sponsors, which shall be final in all matters.

All expenses incurred in claiming or using an element of the Award, including without limitation taxes and any other costs, are the sole responsibility of the Award Winner.

Each Award Winner is solely responsible for federal, state, and local taxes on the Award and may be issued an IRS Form 1099 for the approximate retail value of the Award.

The Award is privately funded.

### **Questions**

If you have any questions about the Contest or the Award, please email [hamilton@gilderlehrman.org](mailto:hamilton@gilderlehrman.org).

### **General Conditions**

All information submitted by each potential Award Winner (including without limitation name and other eligibility requirements) may be subject to verification by Sponsors.

Sponsors retain the right to disqualify an entrant if all Contest rules are not followed.

By entering the Contest, an entrant waives all right to, and agrees to indemnify and hold the Sponsors, their 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: (i) any material submitted by the entrant that infringes any copyright, trademark, trade secret, trade dress, patent, or other intellectual property right of any person or defames any person or violates their rights of publicity or privacy; (ii) any misrepresentation made by the entrant in connection with the Contest; (iii) any non-compliance by the entrant with these Rules; and (iv) acceptance, possession, misuse or use of the Award, or participation in any Contest-related activity or participation in the

Contest. SOME JURISDICTIONS DO NOT ALLOW THE LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSION OF LIABILITY FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, SO THE ABOVE MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU.

Sponsors will not be responsible for: (i) late, incomplete, technically corrupted, damaged, not delivered, or incorrect entries; (ii) an entrant's failure to receive 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 Sponsors' equipment, software, or other programming associated with or used in the Contest; (iv) by any error which may occur in the transmission, receipt, or processing of the entries or in the administration of the Contest; (v) any typographical, technological, or other error in the publishing of the offer, administration of the Contest, or announcement of the Award, (vi) unauthorized human intervention in the Contest; or (vii) injury or damage to persons or property which may be caused, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, from participation in the Contest or acceptance of the Award.

In addition, the Sponsors are not responsible for any injury or damage to an entrant's or any other person's computer related to or resulting from entering the Contest or downloading or printing any material for the Contest. Without limitation of the foregoing, everything on the website associated with the Contest is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either express or implied.

If, for any reason, Sponsors are not capable of completing or running the Contest as planned, including without limitation by reason of suspected tampering, technological corruption, infection by virus, bug, worm or other malicious code, unauthorized human intervention, fraud, acts of God, strikes, terrorist acts, criminal acts of third parties, an insufficient number of qualified Contest entries, safety concerns, inability to obtain adequate insurance coverage, force majeure or technical or mechanical failures of any sort, or any other causes which, in Sponsors' sole opinion, corrupts, threatens, or impairs the administration, security, safety, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of the Contest, Sponsors reserve the right to cancel, terminate, modify, or suspend the Contest at its sole discretion. Sponsors assume no liability and are not responsible for, and entrants hereby forever waive any rights to any claim in connection with, errors and/or ambiguity: (i) in the Contest; (ii) in any related advertising or promotions of the Contest; and/or (iii) in these Rules. In the event of any ambiguity(s) or error(s) in these Rules, Sponsors reserve the right to modify these Rules for clarification purposes or to correct any such error(s) without materially affecting the terms and conditions of the Contest.

An entrant agrees that: (i) any and all disputes, claims, controversies, and causes of action arising out of or connected with the Contest or the Award shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action; (ii) any and all disputes, claims, controversies, and causes of action arising out of or in connection with the Contest shall be resolved by binding arbitration before a single arbitrator in New York City, in accordance with the rules of JAMS, and judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof; (iii) 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 (iv) under no circumstances will entrant be permitted to obtain awards for, and entrant hereby waives all rights to claim, injunctive relief, indirect, punitive, incidental and consequential damages and any other damages, other than for actual out-of-pocket expenses, and any and all rights to have damages multiplied or otherwise increased. SOME JURISDICTIONS DO NOT ALLOW THE LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSION OF LIABILITY FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, SO THE ABOVE MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU. All issues and questions

concerning the construction, validity, interpretation, and enforceability of these Rules, or the rights and obligations of the entrant and Sponsors in connection with the Contest, shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York, without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules (whether of the State of New York or any other jurisdiction), which would cause the application of the laws of any jurisdiction other than the State of New York.

Any attempt by an entrant to deliberately damage the website associated with the Contest, submit malicious code, or undermine the legitimate operation of the Contest may be in violation of criminal and civil laws and should such an attempt be made, Sponsors reserve the right to seek remedies and damages (including attorneys' fees) from any such entrant to the fullest extent of the law, including criminal prosecution.