

Official Rules for the Quizstory Podcast Award

Overview

The Quizstory Podcast Award (“**Award**”) is designed to promote historical learning and creative thinking. The Award is open to high school students in Louisiana and Massachusetts who will be at least sixteen or seventeen years old by June 21, 2026, are citizens of the United States or Spain, or hold dual citizenship in the United States and Spain, and possess or will possess a valid United States or Spanish passport by June 21, 2026. Working in pairs, students will use primary sources to create and submit a three to five-minute podcast episode that highlights (i) one or more historical figures mentioned in Quizstory: Spanish Friendship; or (ii) one or several of the historical events featured in the educational platform Spanish Influence on the American Revolution. Two pairs of students, one pair from Louisiana and one pair from Massachusetts, will be awarded spots in the summer 2026 Camino de Santiago program—a ten-day journey that combines culture, history, and personal growth.

The Award is sponsored by the Queen Sofia Spanish Institute, International Studies Foundation, CIS University, and Iberdrola España (“**Sponsors**”). Sponsors will administer the Award through the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History (“Gilder Lehrman”), which will provide the entry submission platform via its website.

About the Sponsors

The [Queen Sofia Spanish Institute](#) is a New York–based nonprofit corporation founded in 1954 by a group of American Hispanophiles who sought to stimulate American interest in the art, culture, customs, language, literature, and history of Spain and the Spanish-speaking world. The QSSI maintains this vision by striving to share the contributions of Spanish speakers to the history and culture of the United States, and by showcasing the excellence of the Spanish-speaking world in numerous fields, so that lasting ties of friendship may be formed, mutual understanding promoted, and bonds of peace strengthened.

[International Studies Foundation](#) (ISF) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in Miami, Florida, United States, and Madrid, Spain. Founded in 2007, its mission is to provide social and educational projects for young people from underprivileged backgrounds, with the goal of promoting equal opportunities and contributing to social progress through personal and educational development.

Among its most notable initiatives is the [Camino de Santiago Program](#), a transformative experience that offers young participants the opportunity to embark on a journey of personal growth and self-discovery. Over the course of ten days, they walk one of the world’s most

historic pilgrimage routes, engaging in a cultural, spiritual, and educational experience in the heart of Spain.

[CIS University](#) is an American higher education institution based in Madrid, Spain, offering a transformative academic experience grounded in humanistic values and personalized education. With a strong commitment to cultural exchange and global learning, CIS University prepares students to become ethical, conscious, and purpose-driven leaders ready to make a positive impact on society. The university actively promotes partnerships and scholarships that connect education, culture, and personal development across continents.

[Iberdrola España](#), with more than 120 years of experience, is a leader in renewable energies in the Spanish energy sector thanks to its wide variety of business lines and its strategic vision of the future. Patronage, supporting new forms of artistic expression and the restoration of cultural heritage are the main channels through which Iberdrola group's commitment to culture finds expression. The company fulfills this commitment sustainably, supporting initiatives and programs geared to conserving and promoting cultural heritage and actions that foster and contribute to spreading the creative force of contemporary culture.

Eligibility Requirements

The Award is open to pairs of high school students in Louisiana and Massachusetts, provided each student in the pair must be at least sixteen or seventeen years old by June 21, 2026, must be citizens of the United States or Spain or hold dual citizenship in the United States and Spain, and must possess a valid United States or Spanish passport by June 21, 2026 ("Entrants").

In order to participate, Entrants must also create a profile on the Gilder Lehrman website, and must submit certain personal information (such as email address, student names, school information, parent/guardian information, and telephone number).

Award Winners (as defined below) grant to Sponsors and Gilder Lehrman a non-exclusive, irrevocable, perpetual, worldwide right and license to use and permit others to use Entrant's name and likeness, including the Entrant's podcast, for non-commercial purposes, in all media, whether now known or hereafter developed, including use in print, on the internet (including social media), and not for any commercial or general fundraising purposes unrelated to the Quizstory Podcast Award. For clarity, the Entrants retain ownership of the copyright of their original work in their podcasts.

Students who do not meet these eligibility requirements are not eligible for the Award.

Employees of the Sponsors and Gilder Lehrman and members of the employees' immediate families or persons living in the employees' households are not eligible for the Award.

Submission Requirements

All entries must be submitted using the online form found on Gilder Lehrman's website ("Submission Form").

The Submission Form will open on **December 1, 2025**, and will close on **February 16, 2026**. The entry must be submitted by one of the two students who created the podcast.

There is a limit of one (1) entry per student pair. Once submitted, the entry cannot be revised, substituted, or resubmitted.

Incomplete entries or entries not complying with these Rules will be disqualified.

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

Entry Requirements

To be considered for the Award, Entrants must submit their podcast using the online Submission Form by February 16, 2026, 11:59 p.m. PT. Entries must comply with the following requirements:

- Submissions must highlight one or more historical figures mentioned in *Quizstory: Spanish Friendship* **or** one or several of the historical events featured in the educational platform *Spanish Influence on the American Revolution*.
- Students must work in **pairs**. Submissions by a group of more or fewer than two students will not be accepted.
- The submission must be between three and five minutes long.
- The submission must be accompanied by a primary source (such as a map, painting, letter, or receipt) related to the podcast's content.
- The submission must not violate any party's copyright or trademark rights.

Judging Criteria

Eligible entries for the Award will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Usefulness and relevance of the podcast
- Clarity of objective and overall structure
- Original and engaging presentation of historical content
- Quality of the narration
- Clear audio and appropriate volume with proper editing of the podcast
- Length between 3 and 5 minutes
- Inclusion of an image of a related historical document

- Connection to the resources provided in this contest

Judging Process

A panel of judges appointed by the Queen Sofia Spanish Institute, with knowledge of the competition's expectations, will review all entries against the listed criteria and select one winning pair from Louisiana and one winning pair from Massachusetts.

Announcement of Award Winners

The Queen Sofia Spanish Institute will notify the winning pairs via email **by March 30, 2026** (the “Award Winners”).

The Award

Sponsors will provide Award Winners spots in the summer 2026 [Camino de Santiago program](#)—a ten-day journey that combines culture, history, and personal growth. Award Winners will depart for Madrid on Sunday, June 21, 2026, and return on Friday, July 3, 2026. The dates cannot be adjusted. Award Winners will spend three days in Madrid before embarking on the Camino de Santiago for a six-day period. An itinerary can be found [here](#).

Travel arrangements, meals, and other incidentals will be arranged and paid for by [International Studies Foundation](#), the philanthropic arm of [CIS University](#). Only the Award Winners will be allowed to participate in the trip. The Award does not include funding for any parents or guardians to attend.

Privacy Policy

All information submitted for the Award 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](#).

Questions

If you have any questions regarding eligibility, the podcast requirements, or submitting your pair's entry, please email education@gilderlehrman.org. Questions about the Award can be directed to info@queensofiasi.org.

General Conditions

All information submitted by the Award Winners (including, without limitation, name and other eligibility requirements) is subject to verification by Sponsors.

Sponsors retain the right to disqualify an Entrant if all Award rules are not followed.

By applying for the Award, each Entrant waives all right to, and agrees to indemnify and hold the Sponsors, Gilder Lehrman, 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 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 Entrant in connection with the Award; (iii) any non-compliance by Entrant with these Rules; and (iv) acceptance, possession, misuse or use of the Award, or participation in the Award. **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 and Gilder Lehrman will not be responsible for: (i) late, incomplete, technically corrupted, damaged, not delivered, or incorrect entries; (ii) Entrant's failure to receive notices due to Entrant's spam, junk e-mail, or other security settings or for Entrant's 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 Gilder Lehrman's equipment, software, or other programming associated with or used in the Award; (iv) by any error which may occur in the transmission, receipt, or processing of the entries or in the administration of the Award; (v) any typographical, technological, or other error in the publishing of the offer, administration of the Award, or announcement of the Award, (vi) unauthorized human intervention in the Award; 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 Award or acceptance of the Award.

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

If, for any reason, the Sponsors are not capable of completing or running the Award 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 Award 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 the Sponsors' opinion, corrupts, threatens, or impairs the administration, security, safety, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of the Award, the Sponsors reserve the right to modify or suspend the Award at the Sponsors' discretion. Sponsors and Gilder Lehrman 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 Award, (ii) in any related advertising or promotions of the Award; 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 Award.

Entrant agrees that: (i) any and all disputes, claims, controversies, and causes of action arising out of or connected with 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 Award 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 Award, 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 Entrant, Sponsors, and Gilder Lehrman in connection with the Award, 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 Award, submit malicious code, or undermine the legitimate operation of the Award may be in violation of criminal and civil laws and should such an attempt be made, Sponsor and Gilder Lehrman 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.