

2017 Storyfest Award and Contest

Official Rules

NO ENTRY FEE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN.

VOID WHERE PROHIBITED.

1. **Description.** The George Washington University (“University”) through Planet Forward (a project within the Center for Innovative Media at the University’s School of Media and Public Affairs) offers the 2017 Storyfest Award and Contest (the “Contest”) as an opportunity for current undergraduate and graduate students in the United States.
2. **Eligibility.** The Contest is open to any person who (i) is eighteen (18) years of age or older at the time of participation, or a team of up to four (4) such persons, and (ii) currently enrolled in an accredited undergraduate or graduate program located within the United States (“Entrants”). The Contest is void where prohibited or otherwise restricted by law, rule, or regulation. All applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations apply. By participating, Entrants agree to be bound by these Official Rules.
3. **How to Enter and Qualify.** To enter and qualify for the Prize, Entrants must complete and submit (i) an online Contest entry form and (ii) write an original story about inventions and/or innovations that can move the planet forward (the “Story”). The Story should:
 - a) be on any of the following six (6) topics:
 - i. *Food*: How can people feed the planet, grow better food, and stop wasting so much of it?
 - ii. *Water*: How should people use water, conserve it, clean it, and get it to places that don’t have enough of it?
 - iii. *Energy*: What are new ways to generate energy, make it cleaner, and use it more efficiently?
 - iv. *Mobility*: What is a better way for people to get around, reduce congestion, and minimize the impact on the environment and the climate?
 - v. *The built environment*: To build for the future, what are new materials, technologies or design that will make better homes, offices, neighborhoods and cities?:

- vi. *Biodiversity*: How do we recognize life, nature and climate as a varying, but integrated system?

b) fit into any of the following award categories:

- i. *The Innovator Award*: The Story Featuring the Most Compelling Character (or Characters) — the Innovator. The story of a character, told in a compelling way, is one of the key elements to a great story, no matter the topic. This prize will go to the story that best exemplifies this element.
- ii. *The Right Brain Award*: Most Creativity in the Art of Environmental Storytelling. This prize will go to the story that most creatively tells an environmental story, either through media format or storytelling technique.
- iii. *The Left Brain Award*: Best Use of Science or Data in Environmental Storytelling. This prize exemplifies explanatory storytelling, telling the story behind an innovation or using data to convey a story.
- iv. *The Visionary Award*: Best Story about a Scalable Innovation That Can Change the World Now. This prize will go to the best story about a scalable and inspiring innovation that has the greatest chance to change the world within the next five years.
- v. *The 22nd Century Award*: The Best Story about the Most Ambitious Idea That Can Move the Planet Forward. Steve Jobs was a dreamer. Thomas Edison was an inspired inventor. Tell a story about what today's dream teams are working on for the future.

c) be presented in one (1) or more mediums that best convey the Story including:

- i. *Video/Audio*: All video and audio submissions are limited to four (4) minutes of run time. If the entry is a documentary or a longer podcast, a trailer must also be created that satisfies the run time requirement.
- ii. *Writing*: All written submissions should not exceed one thousand (1,000) words.
- iii. *Photograph*: All photograph submissions should be a minimum of one hundred and fifty (150) dots per inch (dpi) and consist of between five (5) and fifteen (15) photographs with detailed captions.

All Story submissions must be original works produced by the Entrant that do not infringe the ownership rights of any other person or entity. All data, facts, and claims must be cited through reliable sources in order to be eligible for the Contest and Prize.

All Story submissions must be submitted in a format that easily allows for posting on to the Planet Forward website. Each Entrant is allowed a maximum of three (3) Story submissions. The period to submit a Story for the Contest begins on Wednesday, November 16, 2016, at 12:00 AM EDT and ends Friday, March 3, 2017, at 11:59 PM EST ("Submission Period"). Only Story submissions posted during the Submission Period will be considered for the Contest.

4. **Selection of Winners.** A committee of journalists and sustainability experts unaffiliated with Planet Forward or GW will select and award the Prize to the Entrants with the best overall Story submissions (the "Winners"). The selection of the Winners will be at the sole discretion of the selection committee and based on the following criteria:
 - a) Quality of information and production;
 - b) Creativity in presentation;
 - c) Impact of storytelling; and
 - d) Scalability of the innovation shared.

There will be five (5) Winners from among the Entrants who compete in the Contest. A Winner shall be selected for each of the categories noted in Section 3.b.

5. **Prize.** The Winners will receive a trip to Camp 41 in the Amazon rainforest with Thomas Lovejoy, "the godfather of Biodiversity," for a storytelling expedition (the "Prize"). The Prize specifically consists of air transportation from Miami, Florida, to Brazil; ground transportation while in Brazil; a week's worth of lodging, food, and tuition at Camp 41; and costs associated with relevant expedition-led experiences in the Amazon. Winners shall be responsible for costs associated with transportation to and from Miami, Florida, and all other personal expenses.

For Winners that are part of a team, only one Prize will be available for the entire team. For the avoidance of doubt, the Winners from a team must designate only one team member to receive the entire Prize. In no instances shall a cash equivalent be provided to Winners from a team in lieu of the Prize or in exchange for the Prize's cash value.

All federal, state, local, and other taxes associated with the acceptance and use of the Prize are the sole responsibility of the Winners. There are

no Prize substitutions or options available. The Winners shall not be permitted to replace the Prize with another item. The Prize is not transferable. Planet Forward reserves the right, exercisable at any time in its sole discretion, to substitute a prize (or portion thereof) of comparable or greater value if the Prize becomes unavailable. All Prize awards are at Planet Forward's sole discretion.

6. **Winner Notification.** Finalists for the Prize will be announced on Monday, March 6, 2017 via email. The Winners will be notified at the Planet Forward Summit hosted at the University on Thursday, April 6, 2017 and Friday, April 7, 2017.

Additionally, if a potential Winner is found to be ineligible or if the potential Winner does not comply with these Official Rules, such potential Winner will be disqualified and, at Planet Forward's discretion, an applicable runner-up will be notified. All Entrants agree to comply fully with each provision in these Official Rules. Any Entrant attempting to defraud or in any way tamper with this Contest and any Entrant who does not comply with these Official Rules, will be ineligible for the Prize. If, during either the Submission Period, for reasons beyond Planet Forward's control, the Contest is not capable of running as originally planned, Planet Forward, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to cancel or modify the Contest without liability, and to the extent feasible, will determine the Winners and award the Prize among Story submissions received prior to cancellation or modification.

7. **University License.** Each Entrant, and specifically each Winner as a condition of receiving the Prize, hereby grants University a transferable, irrevocable, perpetual, non-exclusive, fully paid-up and royalty-free license to copy, distribute, publish, and display their individual Story on the Planet Forward website, at the Planet Forward Summit, and in other Planet Forward marketing materials.
8. **Use of Name and Likeness.** The Winners agree to allow the University and Planet Forward to use their names and images on future Contest promotional materials and with regards to the Planet Forward Summit.
9. **Release of Liability and Issues of Law.** By participating, all Entrants release the University and its respective officers, directors, employees, and agents (collectively, "Released Parties") from any and all liability with respect to and in any way arising from participating in this Contest and/or acceptance or use of the Prize. Released Parties are not responsible for lost, late, incomplete, inconsistent, damaged, inaccurate, stolen, delayed, undelivered, or garbled Story submissions; or for lost, interrupted or unavailable network, server, internet service provider, website; or for other errors or difficulties of any kind whether human, mechanical, electronic, computer, network, typographical or otherwise relating to or in connection with the Contest, including, without limitation, errors or

difficulties which may occur in connection with the administration of the Contest, the Story submission, or the announcement of the Winners. Released Parties are also not responsible for any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by other Entrants, tampering, hacking, or by any equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the Contest. Released Parties are not responsible for injury or damage to any Entrant's computer or tracking device related to or resulting from participating in this Contest. Entrants who tamper with or abuse any aspect of the Contest, who act in an unprofessional or disruptive manner or who are in violation of these Official Rules, as solely determined by the University, will be disqualified. Should any portion of the Contest be, in the University's sole opinion, compromised by virus, worms, bugs, non-authorized human intervention or other causes which, in the sole opinion of the University, corrupt or impair the administration, security, fairness or proper play, the University reserves the right at its sole discretion to suspend, modify, or terminate the Contest and, if terminated, at its discretion and to the extent possible, determine Winners from all eligible Story submissions received prior to action.

10. **Governing Law.** This Contest is governed by all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. The local and federal courts of the District of Columbia shall have sole jurisdiction of any controversies regarding the Contest and laws of the District of Columbia shall govern the Contest. Each Entrant waives any and all objections to jurisdiction and venue in those courts and hereby submits to the jurisdiction of those courts.
11. **Communications.** Any Entrant with questions or comments regarding the Contest should contact storyfest@planetforward.org.