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SUBMISSIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR NEARLY \$200,000 IN CASH PRIZES TO STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS IN PHILADELPHIA AND ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

Philadelphia, PA (October 25, 2016) – The National Constitution Center will award nearly \$200,000 to students and schools through short-story, playwriting, and essay contests for students and a civic literacy lesson plan contest for teachers. The contests include cash prizes ranging from \$100 to \$100,000 for a total of 11 winners.

The contests are part of a multi-year, multi-project \$5.5 million grant awarded to the National Constitution Center from the John Templeton Foundation to increase awareness of the rights established by the U.S. Constitution and founding documents.

The Civic Literacy Contest – Open to Schools in Philadelphia

The National Constitution Center's Civic Literacy Contest challenges public and private middle schools and high schools located in Philadelphia County to develop multi-year plans to improve constitutional literacy, with the chance to earn cash prizes to implement the plans in their schools. Cash prizes ranging from \$100,000 for first place, \$50,000 for second place and \$25,000 for third place will be awarded to the winning schools.

The contest requires teachers and school administrators to jointly develop instructional materials in their schools that incorporate the Center's online [Interactive Constitution](#) tool within their classroom and school to enhance student learning.

The Center will hold a series of workshops that will provide teachers and administrators with hands-on support in the development of their submissions. The workshop dates are November 5, 10-11 a.m., November 14, 4:30-5:30 p.m., and November 21, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

The submission deadline for the Civic Literacy Contest is December 1, 2016. For additional information on the contest criteria or to sign up for a workshop, visit constitutioncenter.org/civic-contests.

Coalition of Freedom Short Story Contest – Open to Students Enrolled in Pennsylvania Schools

The National Constitution Center's Coalition of Freedom Short Story Contest invites 11th grade students to compose short stories exploring the civic virtues embodied and demonstrated by the Founders during the drafting and ratification of the U.S. Constitution. The contest is open to 11th grade students enrolled in public and private schools, as well as home schooled students, located in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The National Constitution Center will award two cash prizes of \$10,000 and \$5,000.

The submission deadline is December 2, 2016. Click [here](#) for entry guidelines and criteria.

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Founding Freedoms Essay and Playwriting Contest – Open to Students Nationwide

This year, the National Constitution Center’s Founding Freedoms Essay and Playwriting Contest is open to students enrolled in public, private and parochial schools, as well as registered home-study programs, throughout the United States. The contest invites 6th, 8th and 12th grade students to submit an essay in response to a grade-specific prompt for the chance to win a cash prize. Twelfth grade students have the option of writing a play. Six cash prizes ranging from \$100 to \$2,500 will be awarded to the winning submissions.

The deadline for this contest is February 17, 2017. Click [here](#) for more information on entry guidelines and criteria.

About the National Constitution Center

The [National Constitution Center](#) in Philadelphia inspires citizenship as the only place where people across America and around the world can come together to learn about, debate, and celebrate the greatest vision of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution. A private, nonprofit organization, the Center serves as America’s leading platform for constitutional education and debate, fulfilling its Congressional charter “to disseminate information about the U.S. Constitution on a nonpartisan basis.” As the **Museum of We the People**, the Center brings the Constitution to life for visitors of all ages through interactive programs and exhibits. As **America’s Town Hall**, the Center brings the leading conservative and liberal thought leaders together to debate the Constitution on all media platforms. As a center for **Civic Education**, the Center delivers the best educational programs and online resources that inspire, excite, and engage citizens about the U.S. Constitution. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit [constitutioncenter.org](#).

About the John Templeton Foundation

The [John Templeton Foundation](#) serves as a philanthropic catalyst for discoveries relating to the Big Questions of human purpose and ultimate reality. The Foundation supports research on subjects ranging from complexity, evolution, and infinity to creativity, forgiveness, love, and free will. It encourages civil, informed dialogue among scientists, philosophers, and theologians and between such experts and the public at large. The Foundation’s vision is derived from the late Sir John Templeton’s optimism about the possibility of acquiring “new spiritual information” and from his commitment to rigorous scientific research and related scholarship. The Foundation’s motto, “How little we know, how eager to learn,” exemplifies its support for open-minded inquiry and its hope for advancing human progress through breakthrough discoveries.

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