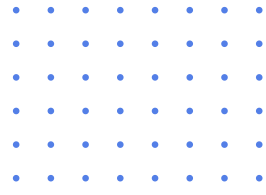




Brilliant Blue Challenge Judge Manual 2024

Welcome to the Judge Manual for the 2024 Brilliant Blue Challenge, hosted by Brilliant Labs. This document serves as a comprehensive guide for our valued judges who play a pivotal role in steering this international competition. Set to take place on October 24th and 25th virtually, the event involves remote judging to accommodate participants globally.

About The Program



Brilliant Blue Challenge

This is an annual global competition that sparks interest in oceanic sectors, convenes youth, academia, and industry and inspires students to develop innovative solutions to solve ocean challenges.

Mission of Brilliant Blue

Brilliant Blue champions the engagement and education of youth in understanding the importance of maritime stewardship and the sustainable use of ocean resources. As an initiative within Brilliant Labs, it upholds the core principles of fostering innovation and technological fluency, with a special emphasis on the blue economy, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). Our mission is to ignite a passion for the world's oceans and waterways, equipping youth with the skills and knowledge necessary to effect meaningful change in marine conservation and oceanic industries.

Highlighting the blue economy's pivotal role, Brilliant Blue emphasizes the synergy between environmental health and economic progress. The challenge is designed to prepare young people to become influential in maritime sustainability, nurturing an appreciation for the ocean's resources and the importance of their preservation. Through education and innovation, we aim to cultivate a 'Blue Generation' of future leaders and innovators.

Overview

Empowering Youth in the Blue Economy

About

After consulting with key players in different sectors of the Blue Economy in Canada, we, at, Brilliant Labs, have recently launched the Brilliant Blue Challenge. A global annual ocean innovation competition for students aged 12 - 18 that is endorsed by the UN Ocean Decade. The inaugural competition was held virtually on the 16th of December, 2023.

To learn more about the program, please check out the [program's deck](#).



WHEN & WHERE

Join us remotely on October 24 & 25, 2024 for the 2024 Brilliant Blue Challenge.

ROLE

JUDGE. This is a volunteer position.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The JUDGES are responsible for reviewing submitted materials from the teams (proposal, business plan, video of prototype and if applicable, code), interviewing assigned teams as part of a panel, scoring the rubrics and deliberating in groups to decide which teams are most deserving of awards. There are roles for remote Judges.

Expectations

Judging In-Person & Remote

Last year – 2023 – was the inaugural year of the competition. The Challenge event was held virtually and there were many lessons learned. This year the event will involve remote judging once again. The rubrics used for judging have been redesigned to better help both the Judges and the teams and to better reflect the goals of the competition. Completed rubrics will be returned to the teams.

HOW & WHEN

Judging will take place remotely via an on-line platform on **Thursday October 24 and 25th 2024**.

01

Overview of Responsibilities

Pre-Event Responsibilities:

- Complete the Volunteer Registration. To be sent.
- Sign a Conflict of Interest Statement. To be sent.
- Attend 1-hour Virtual Training with Judges Advisors prior to the event. Date: Thursday October 17, 2024, at 19:00 ADT.

During the Event Preparation:

- Review the Judge Manual, including rubrics and award definitions.
- Monitor Email Communications from the competition organizers.
- Review Google Folders containing the competition materials:
 - 1. Proposal
 - 2. Logbook
 - 3. Business plan
 - 4. Video of prototype
 - 5. Code/ Software (if applicable)

This review is to help prepare for the judging the assigned teams.

Event Days Responsibilities:

- Ensure Completion of Judging Rubrics: One master copy of the rubric for each team to be completed by the Judges and returned to the teams after the final awards ceremony.
- Be Available: On Thursday, October 24 and Friday, October 25, until after the awards ceremony.
- Collaborate in Panels of 2-3 Judges on interviews, working together as a team
- providing written feedback
- Interview the assigned teams on-line or in-person. Interviews will include a 15-minutes presentation and 5-minute Q & A.

Confidentiality and Compliance:

- Maintain Confidentiality of all deliberations and participant information.



02

Desired Abilities/Skills/Experience

- **Age Requirement:** Must be at least 21 years of age.
- **Educational Engagement:** Experience working with high school students, particularly in STEM competitions, is highly valued. Experience within the blue economy, encompassing academic and/or industry expertise.
- **Cultural Competence:** Experience with cross-cultural and international programs is advantageous.
- **Organizational Skills:** Must possess strong organizational abilities.
- **Availability:** Available for the judging days.
- **Adaptability:** Capable of adapting to fast-moving changes and tight deadlines.
- **Bilingual:** French speaker is highly desirable.



03

Time Commitment and Responsibilities

Application Process:

- Complete Application and Conflict of Interest Statement: Estimated time 15-30 minutes.

Training:

- Review of Judge Manual & Rubrics: Approximate duration of 30 minutes.
- Attend Remote Training with Judges Advisors: Scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 19:00 ADT, lasting 60 minutes.

Judging: Total of 11-13 Hours

- Pre-Event Review (October 17-23, 2024): Judges will spend 4-5 hours (approximately 30 minutes per team) reviewing the following materials, which will be made available at specific times:
 - Proposal and Logbook: Available from October 15, 2024.
 - Prototype Video, Business Plan, and Code/Software (if applicable): Available from October 22, 2024.
 - These submissions are essential for preparing for the interviews, with rubrics completed post-interviews.

Judging Sessions:

- Scheduled for Thursday, October 24 and 25th 2024.
- Judges must be available during all judging hours, including deliberations, totalling approximately 12 hours.



04

Good Fit

This position is ideally suited for individuals looking to apply their knowledge in a practical setting while gaining valuable experience in leadership and project management. As a judge in the Brilliant Blue Challenge, you will evaluate and assess solutions and prototypes addressing pressing issues in the blue economy across three distinct categories that high school students will tackle. Professionals from disciplines such as environmental science, marine biology, engineering, and computer science will find the experience particularly relevant, but the opportunity is open to all individuals who are eager to contribute to a meaningful cause. Both technical judges and business judges are wanted, as well as french speakers are especially welcome.

Additionally, individuals who are comfortable with technology will thrive in this role, as the competition incorporates various technical elements. Proficiency with digital tools and platforms is beneficial for effectively managing the virtual components of the competition, such as judging digital submissions or coordinating online training sessions.



05

Training, Benefits, and Expectations

Training:

- Judge Training Session: Conducted by Judge Advisors via an online platform to ensure all judges are prepared for their roles. This mandatory training session is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 19:00 ADT. The session will cover the judging process, use of the rubrics, and how to handle interviews with teams.

Benefits:

- Key Volunteer Recognition: Volunteers will be recognized as key contributors to the success of the Brilliant Blue Challenge, highlighting their essential role in the event.
- Global Interaction: Volunteers will have the unique opportunity to interact with enthusiastic students from around the world, broadening their cultural perspectives and professional network.

Technology Requirements:

- Hardware: Access to a computer equipped with a microphone and camera is required to participate in training and judging sessions.
- Internet: A reliable internet connection is essential to ensure seamless communication and participation in all virtual components of the event.

Reporting Relationship:

- Supervision and Support: Volunteers will report directly to Judge Advisors. Any issues or concerns raised by participants, including both judges and teams, will be addressed collaboratively by the Judge Advisors and the Event Director to ensure a fair and smooth competition.

Let's Connect



Empowering The Blue Generation

Participating as a judge in the Brilliant Blue Challenge offers a unique opportunity to directly contribute to the development and recognition of young innovators across the globe. Volunteers will gain invaluable experience and play a pivotal role in guiding the next generation of leaders in marine conservation and technology.

If you're ready to make a significant impact and join a community of dedicated professionals, we encourage you to apply for a judge position below:

[Judges Intake Form](#)

Any questions, please feel free to reach out to:

Omar Hussein
Director, Brilliant Blue

Email Address
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Thank you

Jenny Beatty and Michael Lyden:

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Jenny Beatty and Michael Lyden for their invaluable assistance with preparing the 2024 Brilliant Blue Challenge judging documentation, including manuals, rubrics and processes.

About Jenny and Michael

Jenny Beatty, CVA has supported STEM competitions in the USA and around the world for the past 25 years. She is a specialist in volunteer engagement and has recruited, trained and managed hundreds of volunteers benefiting thousands of students. Her website is www.STEMvolunteering.com

Michael Lyden is enthusiastic about making educational opportunities accessible for as many young people as possible. For more than 10 years, he has been working towards this goal by supporting, planning, and judging STEM competitions for students of all ages.

