

The Quantum-SteamPunk Short-Story Contest (“Contest”) is organized by the Maryland Quantum-Thermodynamics Hub at the University of Maryland, College Park (the “Organizers”).

Contest Rules

Short-Story and Submission Requirements:

Complete entries (each, a “Submission”) must include a Short Story and a completed Submission Form.

Each Submission must conform to the following:

- Short stories must be written in English, in a steampunk style, and may not exceed 3,000 words. All stories must take place during the 1800s (and also, if desired, at some time in the future relative to the 1800s) and must feature at least one real or imagined quantum technology.
- Short Stories must be the original work of a single author and shall be accompanied by a completed Contest Submission Form, to include a signed Copyright Statement and License.
- The Submission should be suitable for general audiences.
- The Submission must not contain material that violates or infringes any rights of any other party, including but not limited to copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity or any other intellectual-property rights.
- The Submission must not contain material that is unlawful, in violation of or contrary to the laws or regulations of the United States or of any jurisdiction where Submission is created or submitted.

Submission Instructions

- Submissions must be received electronically by 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time on January 15, 2023. No hand deliveries, mailed, or emailed Submissions will be accepted.
- Submissions must be submitted using the Contest Submission form, in .pdf, .txt, or .docx format.
- **The Short Story must not include the Author’s name, a credit line, or any other personally identifying information.** Information identifying the author must appear **only** on the Contest Submission Form.

- For authors under the age of 18, a parent or legal guardian must agree to these Rules and sign the Contest Submission Form and Copyright Statement and License.

Evaluation and Selection

This Contest is intended to encourage creative approaches to quantum steampunk. Entries will be evaluated by a panel of judges who collectively bring to bear expertise from across writing and quantum science (“Judges”).

The Judges’ evaluations will consider the Submissions using the following criteria:

- (a) link to quantum physics,
- (b) steampunk style, and
- (c) conceptual and technical execution of storytelling.

Prescreening: Entries may be prescreened before judging to ensure they satisfy the entry guidelines and requirements.

Shortlisting: It is anticipated that up to fifteen (15) Submissions will be shortlisted. Authors of shortlisted Submissions will be notified via email and a list of shortlist entries will be posted on <https://qtd-hub.umd.edu/contest/> on or about March 16, 2023.

Winners: Category and Grand-Prize Winners will be selected by the Judges based on the selection criteria. Winners will be notified via email and a list of winning entries will be posted on <https://qtd-hub.umd.edu/contest/> on or about May 1, 2023.

Category Winners: Winners will be selected in one or more categories, which will be determined by the Judges in consultation with the Organizers.

Grand-Prize Winner: Judges will select a single Grand-Prize Winner from the shortlisted submissions.

People’s Choice: Public voting may be conducted for a People’s Choice award. Details will be announced after the shortlisted Submissions have been announced.

Category, Grand-Prize, and People’s Choice winners will receive awards in the form of a gift card, with a value between USD \$100 and \$1,500.

The Organizers reserve the right to select fewer than the stated number of awards if, in their sole discretion, they do not receive a sufficient number of eligible and qualified Submissions.

General Notices

Participation in the Contest is open to individuals who are age 13 and over as of the date of entry.

There is no entry fee to participate.

This Contest is void where prohibited or restricted by law, and shall be governed by and interpreted under the laws of the state of Maryland without reference to its conflicts-of-laws provisions.

Taxes, if any, are the sole responsibility of the winners.

Contest Organizers, Judges, pre-screeners, and their immediate families are not eligible to enter.

Submissions generated, entirely or in part, by computer script, macro, AI programs, or other automated means are not permitted.

Submissions will not necessarily be acknowledged or returned. The Organizers and Judges are not responsible for lost, late, illegible, stolen, misdelivered, undelivered, incomplete, invalid, unintelligible, technically corrupted or garbled Submissions, which may be disqualified.

The Organizers may disqualify a Submission if, in their sole discretion, they determine that the Submission fails to comply with Contest Rules or requirements.

If the Author of any selected Submission cannot be reached, is found to be ineligible, cannot or does not comply with the Contest Rules or requirements, or if notification is returned as undeliverable, at the Organizers' sole discretion, the Submission may be disqualified or an alternate entry may be selected from the remaining eligible Submissions.

The Organizers and the Judges may interpret the Contest Rules and entry requirements according to their own judgment. The Organizers' decisions are final in all matters relating to this Contest.

While not anticipated, the Rules and awards are subject to change at the discretion of the Organizers. The Organizers retain the right, at their sole discretion and without prior notice, to: change or delay the dates of the judging process; select a different number of winners or to cancel the Contest without selecting a winner; or to publish or not publish any or all shortlisted Submissions.

IN NO EVENT WILL THE ORGANIZERS, THE JUDGES, THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, OR THE STATE OF MARYLAND BE RESPONSIBLE OR LIABLE FOR ANY HARM, CLAIMS, DAMAGES OR LOSSES OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF AUTHOR'S PARTICIPATION IN THE CONTEST. TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, THE CONTEST AND ANY AWARDS ARE PROVIDED "AS IS" WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR NON-INFRINGEMENT.

All personal information collected by the Organizers will be used for administration of the Contest and in accordance with the University of Maryland's privacy policy: <https://policies.umd.edu/miscellaneous-policies/university-of-maryland-privacy-policy>.

Participation in the Contest and/or acceptance of an award constitutes Author's permission for the Organizers to use his/her Submission, and other information provided with the Submission as provided herein, without compensation.

By participating, each Author agrees to release, waive, discharge, indemnify, and hold harmless the Organizers, the Judges, the University System of Maryland, and the State of Maryland from any and all liability for loss, harm, damage, injury, cost or expense whatsoever arising from or related to his/her Submission or his/her participation in the Contest including, without limitation, any claims based on publicity rights, defamation, invasion of privacy, copyright infringement, trademark infringement or any other intellectual-property-related cause of action.

Copyright Statement and License:

I confirm that this Submission is my original work ("Work") and I have obtained all necessary permissions for any materials included in the Work which may be owned or controlled by any third party.

I understand I will retain any copyright in the Work. By my participation, and for good and valuable consideration, I grant the University of Maryland a perpetual and nonexclusive license to use, reproduce, publish, and distribute the Work for any noncommercial purposes related to the Quantum-Steam-punk Short-Story Contest and the educational mission of the Maryland Quantum-Thermodynamics Hub and the University of Maryland. This license is free and includes use of the Work for educational, archival, promotional, and publicity purposes, including publication of the Work, or excerpts thereof, if my Submission is shortlisted.

I understand that the University of Maryland and the Organizers have the right, but not the obligation, to exercise the rights granted in this license.

I agree that I have read and agree to comply with the rules and requirements of the Contest posted at <https://qtd-hub.umd.edu/contest/rules>. I further agree to defend, indemnify, and hold the University of Maryland, The University System of Maryland, and the Organizers and Judges of this Contest harmless from and against any liability arising from their use of my Submission as outlined herein and in the Contest Rules.