

## **Essay Contest Official Rules**

The Belfast Home Essay Contest is a competition being judged on merit and skill, and is being conducted in compliance with the laws of the State of Maine.

Each Entrant is responsible for complying with all terms and conditions set forth in these Official Rules, as follows:

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** The Contest is open to any individual who is eighteen (18) years of age or older. The following individuals are disqualified from participating as an Entrant in this Contest: all judges of the Contest and their immediate family members, the owners of the property and their immediate family members, and current employees and board members of Cornerspring Montessori School and their immediate families (the "Sponsor").
2. **ESSAY QUESTION:** The essay shall answer the following question in 200 words or less:

***"The American Dream Is..."***

3. **ENTRY SUBMISSION:** Submissions shall occur as follows:

Submissions may be entered through the United States Mail by sending all required paperwork to: Cornerspring Montessori School, 18 Hatley Road, Belfast, Maine 04915. Entries must include all of the following for each individual entry: a Certified Check or Money Order for the full entry fee, a printed, signed and completed Entry Form (Name, Mailing Address, Area Code/Telephone, and Email Address), and two self-addressed, stamped envelopes (one for confirming receipt of entry and one for return of entry fee in the event the contest is cancelled due to insufficient entries).

Multiple submissions by one individual are permissible so long as each essay is original and accompanied by a separate entry fee. Please save a copy of your essay for your records.

Official rules are available at [www.belfastmainehousecontest.com](http://www.belfastmainehousecontest.com). Entrant must make certain acknowledgements, including having read, understood and abided by these Official Rules.

4. **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Each essay shall:

- a. be original content written in the English language;
- b. be typed, double-spaced, or legibly hand-written on a single sheet of white 8.5" x 11" paper and mailed as outlined in section 3 above.

Mailed essays shall not contain the Entrant's name, address or any other identifying information on the essay sheet. Identifying information shall only be provided on the accompanying Entry Form.

5. COPYRIGHT AND PUBLICATION: Each essay entry constitutes an assignment to the contest sponsor of all copyrights arising under both statute and common law and all other rights derivative therefrom. By entering the Contest, Entrants grant further permission for sponsor to publish all or part of the submitted essay and to use the Entrant's name and photograph and to publicize the winning entries and the names of the authors of any essay, all without royalty or other consideration.
6. ENTRY FEE: Each submission must be accompanied by an entry fee of One Hundred Seventy Five (\$175) US Dollars. Entries shall be accompanied by a Cashier's Check or Money Order payable to Belfast Maine House Contest. The entry fee is NOT tax deductible as you are entering a game of skill to win a prize. All entries shall be deemed received upon physical arrival by United States Mail whether or not the essay adheres to these Official Rules. All entry fees shall be held in a separate escrow account until the owner has made a determination that the Contest has been successfully executed, as described herein. No refunds shall be made by reason of non-compliance or for any other reason whatsoever, except as provided herein.
7. REFUNDS: If refunds are required, the sponsor shall return all fees as follows: mailed checks/money orders shall be returned via the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided by the Entrant. The sponsor shall only refund entry fees if the owner does not receive its desired minimum number of individual entries (2,000) during the Contest Entry Period.
8. JUDGING AND JUDGES: Each essay which meets the Technical Requirements set forth herein shall be judged on the basis of the following criteria: wit, human interest, expression of thought, creativity and originality. Each properly submitted, qualifying essay shall be judged by the homeowner. The top 125 essays selected by the homeowner will then be judged by a team of Judges who will together choose a Winner, a First Runner-Up and a Second Runner-Up.  
  
Entrants are prohibited from contacting homeowners or judges by any means whatsoever and so doing shall result in immediate disqualification.
9. CONTEST ENTRY PERIOD/DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: The Contest shall open no later than June 26, 2015 and the deadline for all submissions is 5:00pm EST on August 31, 2015. Entries must arrive at Cornerspring Montessori School's physical address by the deadline. Responsibility for lost, late or misdirected entries rests with the Entrant. Any entry received after the above deadline shall be refused. A maximum number of 2,500 entries will be accepted. In the event that over 2,500 entries are received, the first 2,500 entries physically

received will be accepted.

10. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNER AND RUNNERS-UP: The Winner, along with the First and Second Runners-Up, shall be contacted by telephone and announced publicly on or before September 15, 2015.
11. DEADLINE EXTENSIONS: The homeowner reserves the sole right to extend any Contest period or deadline set forth herein for up to sixty (60) days.
12. DESCRIPTION OF PRIZE: the sponsor will present the winner with the certificate of title for 9 High Street Belfast, Maine 04915, unencumbered by any liens. The sponsor will also present the winner with a \$10,000 cash sum. The Winner agrees to accept the prize "As Is". The owner of the property and/or Cornerspring Montessori offers no home warranty on the property. The prize has an estimated value of \$316,000 (based upon the home's appraised value of \$306,000). The prize does not include personal property of the owners or furnishings.
13. PRIZE TRANSFER: The transfer of the prize shall occur within thirty (30) days after the notification of the Winner. At the homeowner's sole discretion, an extension of an additional thirty (30) days may be granted.

Should the contest winner be unable to close on the property within 30 days of notification of winning, the first runner up may be deemed the winner. If the first runner up is unable to close on the property within 30 days of notification of winning, the second runner up may be deemed the winner. All decisions of the contest judges will be final.

14. REFUSAL TO ACCEPT PRIZE: If the Winner refuses in writing to accept the prize, then it shall be awarded to the First Runner-Up. Likewise, should the First Runner-Up refuse in writing to accept the prize then it will be awarded to the Second Runner-Up.

In the event that sponsors cannot reach the Winner within 30 days of the first attempt, sponsors reserve the right to deem the winner to have refused the prize, at which point it may, at its sole discretion, notify the First Runner Up that he or she has won the prize.

15. RESPONSIBILITY FOR TAXES/FEEES: The party accepting the prize shall be solely and completely responsible for any and all taxes, lawyer's fees or fees of any kind imposed upon or arising out of a successful participation in this Contest.

Individuals entering this contest should consult an accountant, tax attorney or other financial professional concerning the tax implications of winning this contest.

16. INTERNATIONAL, FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL REGULATION: This Contest is subject to the provisions of all applicable International, Federal, State and Local laws and regulations and is void where prohibited.