Leadership West Virginia

Forum of Ideas

Contest Structure, Rules, and Requirements

The Forum of Ideas program is intentionally structured to provide individuals with an opportunity to develop their ideas over several months. It consists of three rounds.

Round 1: Pre-proposal Application Process

Participants must submit a short-idea proposal (dubbed the "Pre-proposal") by October 31, 2016. The Pre-proposal explains the idea, its intended impact, projected cost, and how it would be implemented. Pre-proposals are judged primarily on the extent the applicant proposes a creative and achievable solution to a pressing problem in West Virginia. Judges will review the Pre-proposals and determine whether the idea merits advancement to the next round. Judges may advance ideas with detailed feedback for further developing the idea. Applicants may use this feedback as they tweak and rethink their ideas for the next round in the process. Pre-proposal applicants will be notified by **December 15, 2016** if they have been selected to advance to the next round.

Round 2: Full Proposal Application Process

Applicants selected in Round 1 will have the opportunity to develop and refine their Pre-proposals into "Full Proposals" by expanding on the ideas presented in their Pre-proposal submissions. From this pool of applicants, judges will select four to six finalists to present at the Forum of Ideas in April 2017. In the Full Proposal Round, applicants are expected to have significantly refined their project ideas.

Round 3: Oral Presentation

Applicants selected for the Final Round will prepare an extensive PowerPoint presentation and a 15-minute oral presentation for the Forum of Ideas. They will make presentations before a live audience, and the audience will select the winner.

Time Line

Submission of Pre-proposal Applications – October 15, 2016

Notification of advancement – December 1, 2016

Submission of Full Proposal Applications – January 15, 2017

Notification of Finalists – March 1, 2017

Oral Presentation at the Forum of Ideas – April 20, 2017

Official Rules

Failure to meet these rules will result in disqualification from the contest.

1. A participant must be a LWV graduate, current LWV class member or be sponsored by at least two LWV graduates. A sponsored participant can be a student or any other individual outside of LWV. A group of people may be a "Participant."

2. A LWV graduate may submit only one application, but he or she may participate in more than one participant group as long as the proposals are uniquely different.
3. Applicants in Round 1 will submit the following information before October 31, 2016:
    a. The names and email addresses of all people developing their idea and/or sponsors of their ideas.
    b. An idea title (No more than 10 words) c.
    c. A short summary (approximately 300 words or less) of the idea and how it will benefit West Virginia. Please note that all information submitted may be publicly disseminated.
4. Applicants in Round 2 will submit a more detailed proposal before January 15, 2017.
5. Ideas will be judged based upon the following criteria:
    • applicability to West Virginia;
    • achievability of the idea; and
    • likelihood of funding.
6. Applicants should avoid ideas that:
    a. seek funding for an existing initiative; and
    b. have been introduced before and rejected by the West Virginia Legislature
7. All information must be submitted to Kate Reed at kreed@leadershipwv.org.
8. Finalist will make oral presentations (accompanied by detailed PowerPoint presentations) at the April Forum of Ideas.
9. The audience at the Forum of Ideas will select the best idea.

The Decisions of the judges are final and are not subject to appeal.