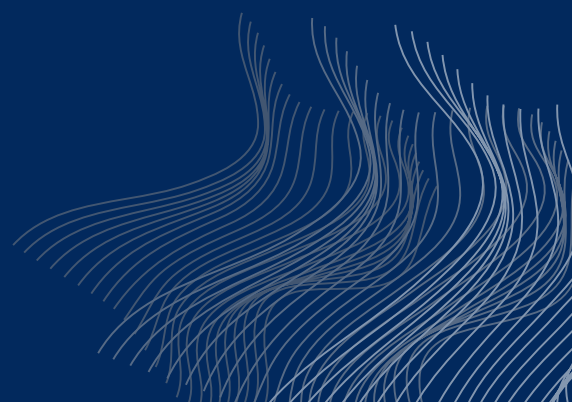


JUDGE MANUAL



BRILLIANT BLUE CHALLENGE

JUDGE MANUAL

Welcome to the JUDGE manual for the 2025 Brilliant Blue Challenge. This document serves as a guide for the JUDGES at state, provincial and national events. In 2025, the competitions will be hosted by a variety of organizations and will be held using virtual, on-site or hybrid formats.

About the Program

The Brilliant Blue Challenge is a global annual ocean innovation competition for high school students, launched by Brilliant Labs in collaboration with key stakeholders in Canada's blue economy.

Endorsed by the UN Ocean Decade, this initiative sheds light on the greatest challenges facing our blue economy, with categories focusing on marine renewable energy, marine autonomous systems, and marine life conservation.

Since its inception in 2023, the challenge has engaged youth from over 20 countries tackling real-world ocean challenges and inspiring remarkable success stories.

By providing a unique platform for blue innovators and young leaders, the Brilliant Blue Challenge fosters innovation and contributes to a sustainable ocean future.

Mission of Brilliant Blue: Empowering youth to collaborate with academia and industry, tackle critical challenges in the blue economy, and create pathways for their future while fostering innovation, exploration, and sustainable solutions for our ocean.

When and Where?

Local and national competitions will be hosted by provinces, states, and countries around the world between April - June 2025. An international competition will be announced for October 2025 in Canada.

Role

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.

How & When

Local organizers will decide on the format of the event (in-person, remote, or hybrid) and the date(s).

Desired Abilities/Skills/Experience

- Must be at least 21 years old
- Understand the Brilliant Blue mission
- Experience with cross-cultural and international STEM programs a plus
- Experience within the blue economy, encompassing academic and /or industry expertise is desirable
- Possess excellent organizational and communication skills
- Possess strong assessment skills
- Ability to adapt to changes in schedule and staffing
- Ability to work as a member of a team
- Maintain confidentiality
- Ability to move about the facility for on-site events
- Available for all the judging days
- Bilingual, especially French speaker, is a plus

OVERVIEW OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND TIME COMMITMENT

During the Event Preparation and Follow-up (3 hours)

- Complete the Volunteer Registration
- Sign a Conflict of Interest Statement
- Review the JUDGE Manual, judging rubrics and the award definition matrix
- Monitor email communications from the competition organizers
- Review the Platform and the “sample “ Google team folder containing the competition materials including the proposal, logbook, business plan, video of prototype, and code/software (if applicable)
- Attend Judge training session with the Judge Advisor (TBA) and held virtually 1-2 weeks before scheduled event
- Maintain confidentiality of all deliberations and participant information
- Debrief with the Event Director/Judge Advisor after the event

Event Responsibilities (Total 8-10 hours depending on event size)

- Attend training
- Work together on judging panels of 2-3 Judges to interview the assigned teams
- Complete rubrics after interviewing each team
- Participate in final deliberations for awards to discuss which teams are the best fit for which awards
- Participate in the awards ceremony as requested by the Event Director
- Hand in ALL rubrics and notes. No materials about the teams are to be stored after judging and understand that the teams are the rightful owners of all ideas presented. A separate branded rubric will be returned to each team.

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.

Technology Requirements

- **Hardware:** Access to a computer equipped with a microphone and camera is required to participate in training and virtual aspects of the judging process.
- **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: The JUDGES will report directly to the Judge Advisor. Any issues raised by participants, including both JUDGES and teams, will be addressed collaboratively by the Judge Advisor and the Event Director to ensure a fair and smooth competition.

LET'S CONNECT

Empowering the Blue Generation

Participating as a Judge or Judge Advisor in the Brilliant Blue Challenge offers an 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.

[Apply to be a Judge or a Judge Advisor](#)



For any questions, please feel free to reach out to:

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THANK YOU

We extend our heartfelt thanks to **Jenny Beatty** and **Michael Lyden** for their invaluable assistance with preparing the 2025 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 benefitting 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.