

# Official Rules

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. NOTE THAT NEITHER PURCHASES NOR DONATIONS WILL INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED.

Participation constitutes entrant's full and unconditional agreement to and acceptance of these Official Rules ("Participant"). All applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Neither the purchase of the *2009 ThanksUSA Treasure Hunt Clue Book*, nor the act of making a donation to ThanksUSA, improves the chances of winning.

## CONTEST PERIOD AND ENTRY DEADLINES

The ThanksUSA Treasure Hunt (the "Treasure Hunt") will be held from November 27, 2008, at 12:01 a.m. Eastern Time ("ET") through August 15, 2009, at 11:59 p.m. ET (the "Contest Period"). The Treasure Hunt will consist of two (2) phases (individually, "Phase I and Phase II) (collectively, the "Phases"), each with twelve (12) chapters (the "Chapters").

Phase I will be open to Schools and Youth Groups (as defined below) that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in these Official Rules. Phase II will be open to Participants (as described below) who meet the eligibility requirements set forth in these Official Rules. In the Phases, one prize will be awarded per chapter. In addition, Phase II will include a grand prize winner. The Phases and the deadline dates (the "Entry Deadline Date") are as follows:

## PRIZE SCHEDULE

PHASE	CHAPTER	ENTRY DEADLINE	DATE OF DRAWING	ELIGIBLE WINNER
I	1-4	February 19, 2009	February 20, 2009	School/Youth Group
I	5-8	March 19, 2009	March 20, 2009	School/Youth Group
I	9-12	May 21, 2009	May 22, 2009	School/Youth Group
II	1-12	August 15, 2009	September 30, 2009	Individual
II	Grand prize	August 15, 2009	September 30, 2009	Individual

Entries must be submitted online (or postmarked if submitted via mail) by 11:59 p.m. ET on the Entry Deadline Date indicated in the Prize Schedule shown above in order to be eligible to win a prize for any of the Chapters including the Grand Prize.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Phase I of the contest is open to (i) any kindergarten through grade 12 of an accredited public, private or parochial school in the United States (including home schools), which are tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Tax Code or being registered as a public school with the National Center for Educational Statistics (a “School”), and (ii) any group of children, who are under 18 years of age as of the date of their online registration (the “Registration”) or as of the postmark date of mailing the final answers (“Postmark Entry Date”) living within or outside of the United States and supervised by an adult (the “Supervising Adult”) who is a documented U.S. citizen and is 18 years of age or older as of the date of Registration or as of the Postmark Entry Date (a “Youth Group”). Parental permission is required for Youth Group members 14 years of age and younger as of the date of Registration or as of the Postmark Entry Date . Examples of Youth Groups are after-school programs, military youth centers, church youth groups, and Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops. Prizes for Phase I will be made and awarded as follows: (i) in the name of the School and class teacher, or (ii) to Youth Groups, in the name of the Supervising Adult. In Phase II, the contest is open to documented U.S. citizens and parental permission is required for Participants who are 14 years of age and younger as of the date of Registration or as of the Postmark Entry Date . Registration can be made on the ThanksUSA Web Site <http://www.ThanksUSA.org> (the “Web Site”). Any Participant (including but not limited to employees, consultants, independent contractors and interns) who, within the past six months, has performed services (with or without compensation) for ThanksUSA or any affiliated organization, or any members of their immediate families living in the same household or not of such Participant is not eligible to win. The Treasure Hunt is void in Puerto Rico and where prohibited by law.

## **HOW TO ENTER**

### Clues

The *2009 ThanksUSA Treasure Hunt Clue Book* contents are available on the ThanksUSA Web Site . A book can also be obtained by sending a self-addressed 9” x 12” or larger envelope to

ThanksUSA Clues  
1390 Chain Bridge Rd., #260  
McLean, VA 22101

Your contribution of at least \$7.50 will cover the cost of postage and handling. Larger contributions are greatly appreciated to help us “thank” our troops by awarding scholarships to their spouses and/or children.

## Entry Submission

Answers to each Chapter in the Phases of the Treasure Hunt may be submitted as follows: (1) Online - complete the online entry form on the Web Site in its entirety for one or more of the Chapters and click on the "Submit" button; or (2) By mail - legibly hand-print or type on a 3"x 5" card the following (i) Chapter and Phase of the Treasure Hunt, (ii) answer to the question(s) for the Chapter, (iii) your name (or school name and class teacher or Supervising Adult's name, as applicable for Phase I), (iv) address, (v) e-mail address (if applicable), (vi) telephone number, (vii) statement affirming status as an accredited school or status as a documented U.S. citizen, and (viii) date of birth (with signature of parent or guardian if Participant is under 14 years of age) to:

ThanksUSA Treasure Hunt  
1390 Chain Bridge Rd., #260  
McLean, VA 22101

Each Participant will be eligible to win a prize for each Chapter in a particular Phase for which the correct answer was submitted, however no Participant (Youth Group or individual) can win a prize for more than one Chapter in any Phase of the Treasure Hunt. In Phase II, all eligible Participants who successfully solved all twelve (12) Chapters of the Treasure Hunt will automatically become eligible to win the Grand Prize.

Only one entry per Chapter is permitted per Youth Group or individual; however, more than one class from a particular school may submit an entry for any particular Chapter in Phase I, notwithstanding the rule that no single school may win the prize for more than one Chapter. All of those who enter more than once per Chapter will be disqualified. However, teachers, students and other Youth Group members or Supervising Adults may register to play as individuals in Phase II, in addition to being part of a registered Youth Group in Phase I. All entries become the exclusive property of ThanksUSA and will not be acknowledged or returned. Any use of robotic, automatic, programmed or any other non-manual entry methods will be void and all those who use these methods will be immediately disqualified. Entry materials or data that have been tampered with or altered are void and all those who tamper with or alter entries will be immediately disqualified. Further, ThanksUSA has the right to prosecute any person or persons of any such act and any use of an illegal entry method to the fullest extent of the law.

## Lost Entries

ThanksUSA is not responsible for lost or incomplete entries due to interrupted or unavailable networks or telecommunications transmissions, problematic phones, computer hardware or software, servers, miscommunications, technical failures, illegible transmissions, or other errors of any kind, whether human, mechanical or electronic (including without limitation the incorrect or inaccurate capture of entry information online), or for lost, late, incomplete, damaged, destroyed, delayed, stolen, misdirected or illegible entries submitted by mail.

## **ODDS**

The odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received. There will be one winner per Chapter per Phase and a Grand Prize winner for Phase II.

## **WINNER SELECTION**

### Entry into Random Drawings

Entries will be considered eligible only if (1) they are received by the relevant Entry Deadline for that Chapter and Phase, (2) all eligibility requirements set forth in these Official Rules are met; and (3) the correct answer is submitted for the particular Chapter. All decisions made by ThanksUSA in connection with answers to the questions in each Chapter are final and binding. A Participant may not win the prize for more than one Chapter per Phase. After the end of the Contest Period, the answers to the Chapters may be obtained on the ThanksUSA Web Site or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope (VT residents may omit return postage) to:

ThanksUSA Answers  
1390 Chain Bridge Rd., #260  
McLean, VA 22101

### Winner Selection by Random Drawing

All eligible entries will be entered into the relevant drawings. One (1) winner for each of the Chapters per Phase will be determined by random selection among eligible entries. In Phase I, if a winning Youth Group is a school class, all other entries from any class at that particular school will be removed from the other drawings in that Phase. In Phase II, once a winner is selected for any particular Chapter, his or her entry will be removed from the other drawings in that Phase; however, a Phase II winner may still be eligible for the Grand Prize. A winner will also be determined by random selection for the Grand Prize from among all those eligible Participants who successfully solved all twelve (12) Chapters of the Treasure Hunt in Phase II. Winners will be announced and notified after each drawing.

### Claiming Prizes

The winners will be posted on the Web Site and all winners will be notified by phone, by e-mail or by U.S. mail on or before December 31, 2009. Winners shall have 15 days from the date of notification (as determined by the date of e-mail or date of postmark, as applicable) to accept their prize either by e-mail or by U.S. mail to the address specified in the notification. Within five (5) days of acceptance, winners will be required to sign a declaration of eligibility and to furnish certain documentation to support such declaration. For Phase I, prizes will be awarded either in the name of the school of the winning class or in the name of the Supervising Adult, as applicable. For Phase II, prizes will be awarded in the name of the registered Participant or in the name of a parent, guardian or other authorized adult for any Participant who is under the age of 18 at the time of prize collection. Winners may also be required, where

lawful, to sign a publicity consent agreement authorizing the use of their name, photographs, voices and likenesses for publicity purposes.

ThanksUSA is not responsible for and shall not be liable for any late, lost, or misdirected notifications or acceptances (e.g., in the case of any change of address), or for a winner's unsuccessful efforts to claim any prize. If a selected winner cannot be contacted, is ineligible, fails to claim a prize, or fails to timely return the completed and executed declaration and releases as required, the prize may be forfeited and an alternate winner may be selected in accordance with these Official Rules. In the event of the dispute regarding who submitted an online entry, the entry will be deemed submitted by the authorized account holder of the e-mail account. The right to claim a prize may not be sold, traded or transferred, and prizes may not be substituted or redeemed for cash value. Winners must take possession of prizes and/or complete travel and utilize tickets by December 31, 2008, unless otherwise specified in the prize description. Scheduling travel and accommodations are the responsibility of the prize winner.

#### Change of Contact Information Policy

It is the sole responsibility of the Participant to update their profile on the ThanksUSA Web Site if the Participant changes his or her e-mail address, mailing address or phone number during the Contest Periody. If the Participant submitted their answers by mail, then the Participant must notify ThanksUSA in writing. In this case, to inform ThanksUSA of a change in contact information, please write to:

ThanksUSA Address Change  
1390 Chain Bridge Rd., #260  
McLean, VA 22101

#### **PRIZES**

Prizes will be awarded in the following manner.

##### Phase I

Prize #1 to the winner of the random drawing from eligible entries for Chapter 1; Prize #2 to the winner of the random drawing from eligible entries for Chapter 2; Prize #3 to the winner of the random drawing from eligible entries for Chapter 3; and so forth for each of the twelve (12) random drawings corresponding to each of the Chapters in the Phase of the Treasure Hunt.

##### Phase II

Prize #1 to the winner of the random drawing from eligible entries for Chapter 1; Prize #2 to the winner of the random drawing from eligible entries for Chapter 2; Prize #3 to the winner of the random drawing from eligible entries for Chapter 3; and so forth for each of the twelve (12) random drawings corresponding to each of the Chapters in the Phase of the Treasure Hunt.

The Grand Prize winner will be determined by random selection from among all the eligible Participants of Phase II who successfully solved all twelve (12) Chapters of the Treasure Hunt in Phase II.

A complete list and description of the prizes, along with any relevant restrictions, may be found on the Web Site during the Contest Period.

ThanksUSA's Treasure Hunt prizes do not include ground transportation, meals and incidentals except where noted. All applicable federal, state and local taxes and any expenses not expressly included in the prize are the sole responsibility of the winner. No alternative prize, cash, or other substitution is permitted except by ThanksUSA in the event of prize unavailability. Scheduling travel and accommodations are the responsibility of the winner.

## **INDEMNIFICATION**

By participating in and entering the Treasure Hunt, each Participant agrees, and by accompanying a winner on any travel involved with a prize or otherwise utilizing a prize, the winner's guest (or guests) agrees (agree), to hold ThanksUSA, its affiliated entities, agents and representatives, employees or consultants, its parent companies, subsidiaries, advertising, promotion, and fulfillment agencies, sponsors and legal advisors harmless from any claim, damage, loss or injury which may arise, directly or indirectly, as a result of any and all elements of such Participant's participation in the Treasure Hunt or the acceptance or use of any prize(s) awarded therein.

## **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

### Cancellation, Suspension or Modification of Treasure Hunt

ThanksUSA reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to cancel, suspend and/or modify the Official Rules at any time.

### Disqualification

ThanksUSA reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify any individual they find to be tampering with the entry process or the operation of the contest or to be acting in violation of or contrary to the Official Rules.

### Resolution of Disputes

Any and all disputes and claims relating to the Treasure Hunt shall be resolved by binding arbitration under the laws of the District of Columbia. District of Columbia laws shall apply to the resolution, award, enforcement and collection relating to any dispute or claim. Each party shall pay one-half of the costs of the arbitration. The disputes claims, and arbitration proceedings shall, at all times, be kept confidential, except to the extent necessary to enforce or collect the arbitration award.

### Privacy

ThanksUSA will not rent, swap or sell an Participant's information to any third party.

Winners List

The list of winners will be available on the Web Site and may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope (VT residents may omit return postage) to:

ThanksUSA Winners  
1390 Chain Bridge Rd., #260  
McLean, VA 22101

THE OFFICIAL RULES CAN ALSO BE OBTAINED FREE OF CHARGE BY SENDING A SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE TO:

ThanksUSA Rules  
1390 Chain Bridge Rd., #260  
McLean, VA 22101

We hope that you will send a contribution of at least \$5.00 to cover postage and handling costs, and, of course, larger contributions to help “thank” our troops by providing the gift of education to their spouse and or children.