



# Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

## Name the Ferry Contest: Contest Outline

---

### Background

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) currently has two new Alaska Class Ferries being constructed for the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) at the Vigor Alaska shipyard in Ketchikan. The ferries will each be 280 feet long, carry 53 standard cars and 300 passengers, and include a food court, study areas, observation lounge, family lounge and solarium. The service speed of the ferry is 15 knots, or 17.25 mph.

The ferries will be used in the North Lynn Canal region, serving the ports of Haines, Juneau and Skagway. Alaskan statute (AS 19.65.020) requires the ferries be named for an Alaska glacier and the name be given by law. This contest will allow the students of Alaska to select a proposed name for each new ferry. The names of the new ferries will be introduced as legislation during the 2017 legislative session. By tradition, a ferry is given its chosen name during a christening ceremony at the time of launch.

### Eligibility

Students who are currently enrolled in the 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades in the State of Alaska are eligible to participate in the contest. Two winning entries will be selected for the naming of each of the two Alaska Class Ferries. One entry will be selected from students in middle school grades 6-8, the second winning entry will be selected from students in the high school grades 9-12.

### Guidelines

Each student participating in the contest will choose an Alaska glacier and prepare a short essay. The essay should include the following information about the chosen glacier:

1. The location and characteristics of the glacier: where it starts, how long, wide and deep it is, how it is moving and any other descriptive information.
2. The background on the name of the glacier: who or what it is named for, when it was named, why that name was chosen and any other interesting information about the history of the glacier and how it relates to Alaska's history.
3. The student's reason why a new ferry should be named for the glacier chosen.

Each essay should be a minimum of 400 words and will not exceed 800 words. Entries may be submitted electronically or in written hard copy format. Electronic entries should be submitted as MS Word documents or in a PDF format and should be typed in a 10 or 12 point font. Written entries should be typed and double spaced on plain white paper, or clearly written on lined white paper. The student's last name and grade level should appear on each page of the essay. The name must be the official State name of the glacier.

The following glaciers cannot be chosen as these are the names of existing AMHS vessels:

**AURORA  
CHENEGA  
COLUMBIA  
FAIRWEATHER**

**LECONTE  
LITUYA  
KENNICOTT  
MALASPINA**

**MATANUSKA  
TAKU  
TUSTUMENA**

## Submission and Selection

Entrants will submit their essays directly to the Alaska Marine Highway System administrative offices. Each entry must include an entry form attached to the front of the essay (see Judging and Submission Criteria). Essays can be submitted via email to [dot.amhs.marketing@alaska.gov](mailto:dot.amhs.marketing@alaska.gov) or can be sent by mail to:

**Alaska Marine Highway  
ATTN: Name the Ferry Contest  
7559 North Tongass Highway  
Ketchikan, AK 99901**

All entries will be recorded and forwarded to the DOT&PF Commissioner's office. DOT&PF will then select the 20 best essays (1 batch of 10 for each grade category) and forward those essays to the office of the Governor for review. The final selection of a name for each ferry will be made by Governor Walker, Lt. Governor Mallott, and Commissioner Luiken. Two winners will be selected, one entry from students in middle school grades 6- 8 and one entry from students in high school grades 9-12.

## Judging Process

Scoring will be based on the six traits identified below, and supported by the Alaska English Language Arts Standards (see Judging and Submission Criteria for details). These weighted components can be summarized as follows:

- |                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Ideas and Content  | 35 points |
| 2. Organization       | 15 points |
| 3. Voice              | 20 points |
| 4. Word Choice        | 10 points |
| 5. Sentence Fluency   | 10 points |
| 6. <u>Conventions</u> | 10 points |

**Total Points Awarded 100**

Additionally, judges will be looking for accuracy and completeness of the historical information and the correct use of grammar, spelling, composition, and writing skills.

## Timeline

- Students must submit their essays to AMHS by **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016**.
- DOT&PF will forward top ten essays to the Office of Governor Walker by **April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**.
- The two winners will be selected and announced by **May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**.

## Prize

The two students with winning essays will receive an award certificate in their classroom, presented by the Governor, Lt. Governor or Commissioner of DOT&PF. The winning essay will also be framed and displayed on the ferry it names.



## Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

Name the Ferry Contest: Student Entry Form

Students who are currently enrolled in the 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades in the State of Alaska are eligible to participate in the contest. Two winning entries will be selected for the naming of each of the two Alaska Class Ferries. One entry will be selected from students in middle school grades 6-8, the second winning entry will be selected from students in the high school grades 9-12.

### Instructions to the Student

- Each student participating in the contest will choose an Alaska glacier and prepare a short essay. The essay should include information about the chosen glacier that includes location and characteristics, the background on the name of the glacier, and the reason why a new ferry should be named for the glacier chosen. Each essay should be a minimum of 400 words and will not exceed 800 words.
- Electronic entries should be submitted as MS Word documents or in a PDF format and should be typed in a 10 or 12 point font. Written entries should be typed and double spaced on plain white paper, or clearly written on lined white paper.
- The name must be the official name of the glacier and the names of existing AMHS vessels cannot be selected. The student's last name and grade level should appear on each page of the essay.

Complete the following information and attach this form to the front of your essay. Essays can be submitted via email to [dot.amhs.marketing@alaska.gov](mailto:dot.amhs.marketing@alaska.gov) or by mail to:

**Alaska Marine Highway  
ATTN: Name the Ferry Contest  
7559 North Tongass Highway  
Ketchikan, AK 99901**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School/Home Schooled: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level Currently Enrolled: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Age as of 03-15-2016: \_\_\_\_\_

## Specific Judging Criteria

### Ideas and Content (up to 35 points)

- Ideas are fresh, original, and/or insightful
- Ideas are based on the writer's knowledge and/or experience
- Geographic, geological and historical facts are included and accurate
- Details are relevant, telling, and contribute to the whole
- Content goes beyond the obvious or predictable
- Topic makes a point or tells a story

### Organization (up to 15 points)

- Sequencing of ideas and details is logical and effective
- Introduction is inviting – draws in the reader
- Conclusion is satisfying – leaves reader with a sense of resolution
- Transitions are thoughtful; clearly showing how ideas connect
- Organization flows smoothly, seems effortless

### Voice (up to 20 points)

- Language is highly individual
- Reader senses the person behind the words; feels an interaction with the writer
- Tone gives the writing flavor, adds interest
- Language is appropriate for purpose and audience
- Narrative writing seems honest, appealing, heartfelt
- Expository or persuasive writing reflects a strong commitment to the topic, anticipates reader's questions, shows why the reader should care or want to know more

### Word Choice (up to 10 points)

- Words are specific, accurate, striking
- Language is natural, not overdone
- Verbs are lively
- Nouns and modifiers are precise
- Clichés and jargon are used sparingly and only for effect

### Sentence Fluency (up to 10 points)

- Sentence construction makes meaning clear
- Sentences are purposeful and build upon each other
- The writing has cadence; the writer has thought about sound as well as meaning
- Sentences vary in length and structure
- Fragments are used only for style or effect
- Dialogue, if used, sounds natural

### Conventions (up to 10 points)

- Paragraphing reinforces the organizational structure
- Grammar and usage are correct (few, if any, errors) and contribute to clarity and style
- Punctuation is accurate (few, if any, errors) and guides the reader through the text
- Spelling is generally correct, even of more difficult words
- The writer may manipulate conventions for stylistic effect



## Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

Name the Ferry Contest: Judging Tally Form

### Judging Process

Read through each essay and then evaluate each section based on the key points outlined. Scoring will be based on the six traits identified below (see Judging and Submission Criteria for details). Additionally, judges will be looking for accuracy and completeness of the historical information and the correct use of grammar, spelling, composition, and writing skills. Do not make any comments or marks directly on the student essays.

<b>Essay Tally Sheet</b>			
Student Name: _____			
<b>Ideas and Content</b>	up to 35 points	Points Earned:	
<b>Organization</b>	up to 15 points	Points Earned:	
<b>Voice</b>	up to 20 points	Points Earned:	
<b>Word Choice</b>	up to 10 points	Points Earned:	
<b>Sentence Fluency</b>	up to 10 points	Points Earned:	
<b>Conventions</b>	up to 10 points	Points Earned:	
<b>Total Points Earned:</b>			