



February 2024

Dear Students, Parents, and Educators,

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) is the professional society for the aerospace industry. Our 30,000 members are engineers, scientists, astronauts, students, and educators from the United States and 86 other nations. The San Fernando Pacific Section, which represents the San Fernando Valley, Ventura County, and Hawaii, sponsors an annual essay scholarship contest for graduating high school seniors who plan on a career in a STEM field.

For 2024 up to \$1300 will be awarded in prizes. The total number and value of the awards will be determined based on the number of entries. To enter, students must submit a 500-to-600-word essay on the topic:

*You are going on a 9-month mission to Mars. Assuming your habitat (including food, oxygen, and water) are taken care of, what personal items would you take? Why did you select those items? Limit yourself to a maximum of 10 items and a combined mass of 50-lbs.*

All entries must be received by Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 11:59 pm PDT by email or Google form.

The following page includes more detailed information about how to participate. Please distribute as needed. Students can also access the information on our section website (<https://engage.aiaa.org/sanfernandopacific/home>). Feel free to email me at [aiaa.sfp@gmail.com](mailto:aiaa.sfp@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your participation in our program.

Regards,

Corinne Cho  
Vice-Chair, Communications and STEM Outreach

## 2024 Essay Contest Information and Rules

Purpose: To assist and encourage students planning a career in engineering, mathematics or science.

Eligibility: High School Seniors who expect to enroll in college for Fall 2024 and major in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM). The student must attend a school in the San Fernando Valley, Ventura County, or Hawaii.

To Enter: Write a 500-to-600-word essay on the topic:

*You are going on a 9-month mission to Mars. Assuming your habitat (including food, oxygen, and water) are taken care of, what personal items would you take? Why did you select those items? Limit yourself to a maximum of 10 items and a combined mass of 50-lbs.*

- Include a title at the beginning of the essay and a word count at the end of the essay
- Type double-spaced
- Save the essay in either a .doc or .docx format (**do not send a .pdf version**)

The essay will be judged on good organization, adherence to topic, proper grammar, and vocabulary.

There are 2 ways to submit your entry:

1) Email the essay as an attachment to [aiaa.sfp@gmail.com](mailto:aiaa.sfp@gmail.com).

Include in **the BODY of the email**:

- Name
- Email Address
- Phone Number
- Home Address
- Name of High School
- How did you learn of the contest
- Intended Major

2) Fill out the Google form here: <https://forms.gle/BVsUcy9RiZpvorH86>

Note: a Google account is required for this method.

Deadline: Complete package must be received by Saturday, April 27, 2024, 11:59pm PST.

Award: Up to \$1300 will be awarded. The number of awards and value of each award will be determined based on the number of entries received.