

NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
COMMISSIONER FOR A DAY ESSAY CONTEST

**About:** All New York City high school students are invited to participate in the annual NYC Emergency Management “Commissioner for a Day” essay contest. Entrants must submit an original essay and complete the application attached below. NYC Emergency Management Commissioner, Zach Iscol, will select the winner who will be invited to NYC Emergency Management headquarters to participate in the Commissioner for a Day Award Ceremony and take part in the John D. Solomon Fellowship Graduation event.

**Eligibility:** The essay contest is open to all New York City high school students enrolled in grades 9-12 and attending schools located within the five boroughs of New York City.

**Deadline:** All entries must be submitted by April 20, 2025. All entries must be emailed to [ready@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:ready@oem.nyc.gov) with the subject line “Commissioner for a Day Essay Contest.” All submissions must include the application form signed by the student. If the student is under 18 years of age, the application form must be signed by the student’s parent/guardian.

**Important Dates:**

- **April 20, 2025:** All entries must be emailed by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, April 20, 2025.
- **April 30, 2025:** Winners will be announced by 12:00 PM on Wednesday, April 30, 2025.
- **May 14, 2025, 10:00 am The award ceremony for Commissioner for a Day**, held during the Solomon Fellowship graduation, will include a speech by the essay contest winner.

**Criteria:** Each submission will be evaluated based on:

- Response to the call of the question.
- Original ideas posed by the student.
- Creativity of the submission.
- Spelling and grammar.
- Adhering to all submission requirements.

**Requirements:** Students must create their own essay, between 500 to 1,000 words, addressing the following topic:

*John D. Solomon was an accomplished journalist on homeland security and a devoted public servant. An active member of his local NYC Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), John was a passionate advocate of emergency preparedness and resilience, and originated "[In Case of Emergency, Read Blog - A Citizen's Eye View of Preparedness](#)."*

*How would you improve upon John’s vision of preparedness, resilience and service in today’s complex world? Respond to one of John’s blog posts and discuss how to update the themes.*

**Application Form and Contest Rules**  
**IF STUDENT ENTRANT IS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, TO BE READ AND SIGNED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN**  
**OF ENTRANT**

1) Only one entry per Entrant.

2) By entering and providing a contest submission to NYC Emergency Management (NYCEM) the Entrant grants to NYCEM and the City of New York an irrevocable, perpetual, and royalty-free right to use, reproduce, edit, display, transmit, prepare derivative works of, modify, publish, and otherwise make use of the submission in any and all media, whether now known or hereinafter created, throughout the world and for any purpose. Entrant represents and warrants that nothing contained in their submission infringes on any copyright, any rights of privacy or publicity of any person, or any other right of any third party, and that entrant has the right to grant any and all rights and licenses granted to the City of New York and NYCEM herein, including but not limited to, all necessary rights under copyright, free and clear of any claims or encumbrances.

3) The winner of the contest will be invited to attend the Commissioner for a Day ceremony at NYCEM headquarters, located at 165 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, NY, 11201. If Entrant is under 18 years of age, Entrant's parent/guardian hereby grants permission to Entrant to attend the ceremony if Entrant is the winner of the contest.

4) Entrant, through submission to this contest, grants NYCEM the right to publish their name, borough of residence, photographs taken at the Commissioner for a Day ceremony, and the content of their submission on NYCEM's website and/or NYCEM's social media accounts. NYCEM reserves the right to reuse the content of the submission at any time and in any medium.

5) Entrant hereby agrees to hold the City of New York and NYCEM harmless from and against, and hereby waives any right to pursue any claims of any nature arising in connection with any use authorized under these Rules, of any contest submission.

Student Entrant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Entrant Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommending Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Entrant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**For Entrants under 18 years of Age:**

**I hereby state that I am the parent or guardian of the student entrant whose signature appears above. I am familiar with, consent, and agree on behalf of the student entrant, to the terms and provisions set forth in this application form.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Parent/Guardian      Printed Name      Date**