

CFIIG \$250,000 PARANORMAL CHALLENGE APPLICATION

Terms and Conditions

The Center for Inquiry Investigations Group (CFIIG) is committed to providing reliable information about paranormal abilities and events, both supporting and conducting original research into such abilities/events.

The CFIIG offers \$250,000 to anyone who can demonstrate, under properly controlled and mutually-agreed upon observational conditions, any testable, measurable or similarly verifiable supernatural, occult or other paranormal ability or event (jointly referred to hereafter as “paranormal claim”) in a way that rules out chance or any other natural explanation.

Very briefly, the basic steps of the CFIIG Challenge are: (1) Application – which you (hereafter Applicant) are now reading and need to complete and submit to CFIIG; (2) Preliminary Demonstration – a controlled test of both Applicant’s paranormal claim and of the protocol custom-designed with and approved by Applicant; and (3) Final Test – if Applicant obtains a positive result in the Preliminary Demonstration, Applicant will need to reproduce a positive result in a Final Test using a more stringent version of the same protocol.

IMPORTANT NOTE: CFIIG strongly suggests that Applicant conduct a private, controlled, double-blind test to determine whether the paranormal claim is real before submitting this Application or being tested. CFIIG can help Applicants develop a valid method to self-verify paranormal claims prior to filing an Application.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

SECTION A. REQUIREMENTS OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicant cannot become eligible for the CFIIG Challenge until CFIIG receives and officially accepts a fully completed Application. No exceptions.

The decision as to whether to accept an Application and proceed to testing is entirely at the discretion of CFIIG. The submission of an Application, or other communication with CFIIG in no sense establishes any obligations on the part of CFIIG towards the applicant or potential applicant.

Since paranormal claims vary in character and scope, specific test criteria must be formulated for each applicant. In order for us to help design a protocol, Applicant must clearly describe the paranormal claim in this Application, propose a way to test, measure or similarly verify it, identify its known limitations, and explain when and how it was discovered.

In order to better understand what the claim is, the CFIIG may choose to require an Informal Assessment of the paranormal claim (either in person or by video) before accepting an Application. Any demonstration of Applicant’s paranormal claim which CFIIG designates as an Informal Assessment will likely be much less rigorous than a typical Preliminary Demonstration or Final Test and thus will not by itself qualify as proof of the claim.

All communication between Applicant and CFIIIG must be in writing, in legible English, by e-mail or postal mail. If Applicant uses postal mail, he or she must send a stamped, self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) with each letter requiring a response). CFIIIG will mail a free copy of this Application to anyone who mails us an SASE. A PDF can be downloaded online at <http://www.CFIIIG.org>.

SECTION B. – REQUIREMENTS FOR WINNING THE CFIIIG CHALLENGE

Proof of a paranormal claim must be conducted in full compliance with the following conditions:

1. As stated in Section A above, CFIIIG must receive and officially accept Applicant's fully-completed Application before he or she can become eligible for the CFIIIG Challenge. For an Application to be accepted, the paranormal claim must be testable, measurable, or similarly verifiable under properly controlled and mutually-agreed upon observational conditions in a way that rules out chance or any other natural explanation.
2. After CFIIIG has officially accepted an Application, we'll work with Applicant to design a test protocol appropriate for that specific paranormal claim, with the goal of finalizing a mutually-approved Preliminary Demonstration Protocol Agreement (PDPA). No demonstration will take place prior to the PDPA being fully executed, after which changes can only be made by agreement of all parties. If one party makes a change in the PDPA to which the other party does not agree (for example, if a potential flaw is discovered), CFIIIG will suspend the demonstration until the dispute is resolved, even if the demonstration is already in progress. If the parties cannot reach an agreement on a mutually-approved PDPA, the testing process shall progress no further, and the Applicant's ability shall be considered unproven, with no liability attaching to CFIIIG.
3. The Preliminary Demonstration must result in outcomes that are objectively provable, requiring no subjective interpretation. If one trial of a claim has a statistical probability of yielding a positive result by chance alone (for example, guessing a coin flip), then the PDPA will require sufficiently numerous trials to ensure that a positive result indicates success beyond chance alone.
4. Applicant agrees to be responsible for all of his or her expenses (such as transportation, accommodation, materials, assistants) as well as certain other agreed upon costs incurred (such as equipment rental, technician support) during the course of the demonstration or test. If CFIIIG agrees to arrange elements of the demonstration which require payment, Applicant agrees to remit adequate funds to CFIIIG before the test or demonstration to cover those costs. CFIIIG will refund any *unused* amount of Applicant's pre-paid costs after the test is completed.

5. Demonstrations are normally conducted by CFIIG members at the Center for Inquiry (CFI) Building in Los Angeles, California, or by our CFIIG members in the San Francisco Bay area. Other arrangements may be made under certain circumstances at CFIIG's discretion. The PDPA will include all details regarding the demonstration site. Immediately upon arrival at the demonstration site, Applicant agrees to show a current government-issued photo ID card to a CFIIG representative.
6. CFIIG will only accept a live demonstration, conducted by CFIIG as described in the PDPA, as evidence for assessing a claimed paranormal ability. Anecdotal accounts, photos, videos or other recordings of past events will not be considered valid proof of ability. CFIIG will not consider theories or explanations of how an ability might work unless and until both the Preliminary Demonstration and Final Test establish that Applicant actually has that ability.
7. After the Preliminary Demonstration is completed, CFIIG will determine whether the results are conclusively positive or negative. If the nature of the demonstration allows us to determine results immediately, CFIIG will produce them shortly after the demonstration concludes. If the nature of the demonstration requires lengthy analysis of data, CFIIG will inform Applicant in writing as soon as the results are in.
8. If CFIIG determines Applicant's Preliminary Demonstration results are negative, CFIIG will close his or her Application.
9. If CFIIG determines the Preliminary Demonstration results are positive and that all aspects of the demonstration complied with the PDPA, a Final Test Protocol Agreement will be drafted and details of a Final Test will be scheduled.
10. If CFIIG determines the Preliminary Demonstration results are inconclusive, we will invite Applicant to participate in a Second Preliminary Demonstration, possibly with agreed upon changes to the PDPA to better ensure a conclusive result. If Applicant declines to repeat the demonstration, CFIIG will close the Application.
11. If the Preliminary Demonstration results are negative, Applicant may not apply for the CFIIG Challenge again until after one full year has elapsed from the date of the Preliminary Demonstration, regardless of whether Applicant wishes to demonstrate the same ability or a different ability.
12. Applicant stipulates that no cheating, trickery or deceit of any kind is permitted during the Preliminary Demonstration or Final Test. If Applicant or his or her associate(s) is observed violating this stipulation, CFIIG will immediately terminate the demonstration and close the application.
13. Applicant agrees that all data and materials (photographic, recorded, written, etc.) submitted or gathered during the demonstration may be used by the CFIIG in any way or assigned by us for any purpose in perpetuity.

14. Applicant agrees to waive all rights to legal action against any individual member of the CFIIG, the Center for Inquiry, the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry (CSI), and any other of CFIIG's, CFI's or CSI's officers or members. This applies to injury, accident, or any other physical or emotional damage or pain, and/or financial or professional loss or reputation damage of any kind. CFIIG hereby advises that some applicants have felt embarrassment, humiliation, and other emotional states after a negative result.

15. Applicant agrees to advise CFIIG of any medical conditions, whether physical or psychological, that could possibly be relevant to the demonstration, such as but not limited to being on any medication(s) that might affect his or her awareness or other mental state. Applicant acknowledges that he or she is responsible for his or her own health and if there is any question at all whether traveling and/or participating in a paranormal test might be bad for his or her health, Applicant will first consult an appropriate, licensed medical professional at his or her own expense.

16. The prize money is part of the CFI endowment and will not be deposited in escrow, displayed in cash, or otherwise produced prior to Applicant completing a Final Test with a conclusively positive result.

17. The CFIIG Challenge \$250,000 Paranormal Challenge is offered by Center for Inquiry (CFI) and by the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry (CSI), and not on behalf of any other person, agency, or organization. Though others may become involved, or add additional reward money to the total in certain special circumstances, the implementation and management of the CFIIG Challenge will be carried out solely by the Center for Inquiry Investigations Group. No special rules, exceptions, conditions, standards, or favors will be granted without mutual agreement of all parties. No changes to this offer will be permitted except by an authorized officer of the CFIIG, made in writing, and approved by authorized officers of CFI and CSI. No other persons are authorized to negotiate or make any changes to this offer on behalf of the CFIIG. Verbal changes or promises of any kind are not permitted under any circumstances.

18. The CFIIG Challenge is open to any and all adults in any part of the world, regardless of gender, race, educational background, etc., except for members of CFIIG, CFI and CSI, and their families.

Please mail a completed Application and a self-addressed stamped envelope to: CFIIG Challenge, c/o Center for Inquiry West, 2535 W. Temple St. Los Angeles, CA 90026 USA

Or e-mail a PDF scan of the completed and signed application to info@iigwest.org.