



*An orientation and
mobility challenge*

Cane Quest Contest Rules

Explorers & Trailblazers



*Empowering visually impaired
people to live fulfilling lives*

The contest will be held April 21, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Braille Institute Regional Center in Anaheim. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. All contestants will receive a certificate of participation and a commemorative t-shirt. The winner for each contest age group and vision acuity level will be awarded a trophy and prizes.

OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES:

1. Cane Quest is open to legally blind students in grades 7-12 who have received appropriate instruction in the use of the white cane, and who are both cognitively and physically able to walk independently for up to an hour at a time. To be eligible, a student's visual acuity must fall within the B1 through B2 classification range as defined by the United States Association of Blind Athletes.
 - Class B1—No light perception in either eye up to light perception, but inability to recognize the shape of a hand at any distance or in any direction.
 - Class B2—From ability to recognize the shape of a hand up to visual acuity of 20/600 and/or a visual field of less than 5 degrees in the best eye with the best practical eye correction.
2. Students must use a white cane for this contest, and must wear closed-toe shoes. We also recommend bringing water, sunscreen and a hat, or rain gear, depending on weather.
3. Cane Quest will be held rain or shine, but will be postponed or cancelled due to lightning.
4. Students will be divided into groups based on age and will rotate together through two separate routes. Each student is assigned a unique contestant number to wear while en-route for scorekeepers to refer to. At the end of the day, scores will be tallied for both Explorer groups (7-9th graders) and both groups of Trailblazers (10-12th graders). B1 and B2 contestants in the same age group will follow the same route, but will earn prizes separately based on their acuity. Students may elect to not do all routes.
5. Prizes will be awarded according to both age and visual acuity.
 - A Trekker Breeze will be awarded for the highest scoring Explorer in both the B1 and B2 category.

- A Kapten GPS will be awarded for the highest scoring Trailblazer in both the B1 and B2 category.
 - Second and third place winners will also earn gifts and/or medals.
6. Explorers will do one route that includes both residential and light business travel. The second Explorer route includes residential and mall travel. Trailblazers will do one route that includes residential and business travel, and a second route that includes residential, bus travel with a transfer, and mall travel.
 7. Students will be monitored at all times throughout the route by certified orientation and mobility specialists and shadowed at all times by trained volunteers. Additional staff and volunteers also will be available on all routes to call for any needed assistance.
 8. If a student goes off-route, they will first be allowed to self-correct. If they fail to do so, an O&M or their shadow will intervene as necessary. If a student needs assistance at an intersection, their shadow will seek the guidance of the O&M stationed there. The O&M will instruct the student on how and when to safely cross. Students may signal to request assistance at any time by turning their cane upside down. If a student feels they are unable to complete a route, they should turn their cane upside down and ask to be escorted back to the Center. They may not attempt that route again, but they may do the next one.
 9. Start times for each stage will be staggered five minutes apart. If a student is unable to complete a route within 10 minutes after the maximum time allotted, they will be escorted back to the Center to ensure they are able to start the next stage on time.
 10. Passing—Cane Quest is not a race, but recognizing everyone has their own comfortable pace, passing is permitted using the following procedure: Upon approaching another contestant from behind, a student is to announce their presence and state they are passing on the left hand side. The contestant being passed is to stop and move to the right until the other student has walked past. No points are earned or deducted for passing or being passed, but points may be deducted if a contestant fails to follow this procedure.
 11. All routes will be located in the community surrounding the Braille Institute Regional Center in Anaheim. Routes may include, but not be limited to, features such as finding a commercial storefront, using stairs, navigating various types of intersections and using an elevator or escalator.
 12. The bus travel stage will be simulated using Braille Institute drivers and BIA fleet vehicles. Additional spotters will be assigned to each bus to ensure students are monitored at all times. Students will not board city buses during this contest. Transfer points (ie: “bus stops”) will be marked by traffic cones placed at the edge of the curb and in the sidewalk, and will be numbered and labeled in braille.

13. All judging is performed by certified O&M specialists. Three or more specialists will be stationed along each route, and each will be provided with a checklist of skills to be evaluated. Specialists will rank each contestant's performance on a scale of 1-4, according to specific definitions outlined in their scorer's training session.

Points are earned in the following ways:

1-4 points:

- For how well a contestant uses proper travel techniques and procedures
- For how well a contestant uses appropriate self-advocacy skills

Points are deducted for the following (except in the case of a legitimate emergency situation):

1 point:

- Turning the cane upside down to seek assistance
- Taking longer than the allotted time to complete a route

2 points:

- Deviating from the route and needing re-direction
- Inappropriate passing
- Needing direction from the O&M at an intersection

3 points:

- Seeking assistance from a fellow contestant

4 points:

- Failing to complete a route and needing assistance back to the Center

If a student's safety is at all endangered through no fault of their own and are assisted by their shadow or O&M specialist, no points will be deducted.