

Your Questions Answered 2009

Send me any sweeping or contesting questions you would like answered. questions@contestqueen.com

Hi Carolyn

Would you have any advice about using info@ email addresses to enter contests? Occasionally I cannot enter a contest with my info@ address. Have you ever come across any companies that have a difficulty accepting info@ emails?

Lucky Days,

Jill

Vancouver BC

Hi Jill,

What about creating another email address you only use for contesting such as jill@yourname.com? I use to have trouble a long time ago with my dot net email address, but that stopped as the Internet grew. I know some people that still have trouble with their name@ca.inter.net as it has two periods/dots.

GOOD LUCK,

Carolyn

Hi Carolyn,

I'm writing to you on behalf of all Canadians that are born or live in the province of Quebec. I'm disappointed in that the contest links that you've been posting lately in your Winning EDGE newsletter. They all have the caption excluding Quebec residents.

Like you, I love entering contests and I look forward to receiving your newsletter so I can read about your listener, fellow contestors, who won what prize, and I especially look forward to all the great contests you post, but lately they've been only for residents of other Canadian provinces and US residents. I know because of the language barrier we're limited and we're excluded from many contests that are otherwise open to all other Canadian residents of all other Canadian provinces. It's just not fair.

Can you please post contests that are open to us Quebec residents like you've done in the past? It would be deeply appreciated. I know you don't make up the rules and I understand that, truly I do, but it just would be nice that I along with all the residents of Quebec can enter them also.

I bought your book last year and have tried everything you state in your book but for the life of me I haven't won not one grand prize or any prize as of late. I do enter as many contests that I'm allowed but nothing has come of it. I use to be really lucky, but somehow the luck seems to have left me altogether. All the contests I enter I also enter all of my friends and family and yet nothing has come of it. I don't know what to do anymore. I envy you and all those other winners who seem to win so often.

Anyways I like to thank you for taking the time to read my letter and would appreciate any feedback.

**Rosanne
Quebec**

Hi Rosanne,

I will make a greater effort to include contests open to all of Canada. However, companies need to be creating those contests for me to post them. Quebec's contest laws are so cumbersome that most companies forgo adding Quebec to their eligibility because it's just easier to leave the whole province out. Have you tried going to the websites that list contests open to Quebec residents? [Concours Web](#) or [Quebec Concours](#).

As for your lack of wins, have you listened to either my radio show with Helene Hadsell or Jonathan Manske? They both have very good tips on helping you manifest your winning desires into reality. And, keep entering. It only takes one to win.

GOOD LUCK

Carolyn

Hi Carolyn!

Since this is my first year of serious contesting (although I'd entered contests throughout the years since I was a child), I was wondering what you thought about Helene Hadsell's concept of only entering a few contests that one really cares a lot. I don't enter the ones for trips because I can't take trips right now, and the thought of taxes (since I'm in America) makes me think twice before I enter certain contests. I find that I'm very good at winning what you call the "Christmas gifts" prizes to; concerts, festivals, events (that I'd never go to otherwise that peak my curiosity), or for items I really like; jewelry, books, clothing, etc. What has your experience shown you? Do you think entering for many Christmas gifts dilutes the ability for larger prizes? Or not? I know that you're very busy but sometime when you get a chance maybe you can give me your opinion, based on the experience that you've culled over the years. I respect what you've learned.

Sincerely,

Christina

Hi Christina,

I don't think the large prizes are obscured by the big ones. I think the small ones keep you going in between the big ones and give you hope the next one just might be the big one. I did try and only enter for the biggies as Helene suggested ([on my radio show](#)), but I wasn't happy and my wins went way down. When I combined her technique with the way I like to enter, my wins went way up. I believe you have to be happy and having fun to win.

GOOD LUCK

Carolyn

Hi Carolyn,

I am trying to decipher these rules for the [Deli Hero contest](#). Would you say that they are not making the draws all on one day, but daily draws for twenty-eight days until the prizes are all gone?

Prizes – There are a total of twenty-eight (28) daily prizes available to be won. A “day” means 12:00:00 a.m. ET to 11:59:59 p.m. ET. One prize awarded per day (ET). Each consisting of \$1,000 worth of gift cards for free groceries to the winner from the store product was purchased. Total value of one thousand dollars (\$1,000 CDN). Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received each day by the Contest Closing Date.

Random Draw – Daily random draws will be conducted by the judging organization on or about 2:00 pm ET April 14, 2009 at 101 King Street West, Cambridge from all eligible entries received to award the prizes. In order to win, the selected entrant will be contacted by telephone or e-mail, must correctly answer a mathematical skill-testing question without assistance of any kind whether mechanical or otherwise and must be eligible according to the Official Rules. In the event the selected entrant cannot be contacted within 10 days of the draw, another random draw will be conducted by the judging organization, without any liability or obligation to the selected entrant whatsoever. The winner will be required to sign a standard Declaration and Liability Release form releasing the Contest Sponsor and its retailers, advertising and promotional agencies and the contest judging organization from all liability. A Completed Declaration and Liability Release must be returned within 14 days following receipt, or the prize may be forfeited.

Your opinion is most welcome.

Monique

Flin Flon, SK

Hi Monique,

It is pretty standard to do all the draws at once. Each online entry has a time and date stamp. The contest management company does a search of the file for all the entries from one particular day and draw the daily prize from that entry pool.

Remember, it only takes one to win!

GOOD LUCK

Carolyn

Dear Carolyn,

Any updated on information concerning [RoboForm Companion](#)? You wrote earlier a gentleman was in the process of updating it and was wondering if there was any progress?

Thank you for your great site.

Lennard

Ancaster, ON

Dear Lennard,

Vincent Lavoie sold RoboForm Companion, the software package he developed, and I have not heard anything from the new owner(s) yet. I am working with another developer on a different auto-submit package, but it is very slow going. Sweepstakes Tracker hopes to have an auto-submit feature added to their software this summer. If they do, I will be subscribing to their package. Rest assured, I will be posting any updates in the Contestor News section of this newsletter.

GOOD LUCK!!

Carolyn

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for the quick reply. [Look Contests](#) has implemented a lot of my ideas into their application, but have been very slow to integrate an auto-fill capability. A full package with an auto-fill and auto-submit would be wonderful. Right now I use [Macro ToolsWorks](#) for flash contests and auto-fill software for standard forms. The Look Contests reports and tracking system can't be beat so I don't want to give up on them. I won a trip to Europe using Look Contests so I can't complain!

I think Look contests really need a separate "pro" version to handle automation. It needs to be separate as it would be in the grey area of contest rules (probably breaking them) but in-noticeable.

Perhaps a nudge from the Contest Queen would speed thing up. Maybe a poll on your website to see how many would be willing to pay for a "pro app" would provide incentive? Of course your position is tough not wanting to promote a "grey" area contest application. Sorry, just thinking out loud....

Also, any suggestions on how I can enter 24hr contests using RoboForm Companion?

Again, thank you for your time.

Lennard

Dear Lennard,

Yes, you are correct. I do not want to promote any "grey" areas of the hobby. However, if a software package or entering tool is legal, I will encourage contestors to use it as it speeds up entry time and the number of sweepstakes one can enter in a short period of time.

Set up a folder called 24hrs. Place all your 24hr contests in there. RoboForm Companion time stamps each entry so you can easily see the next time you need to submit.

GOOD LUCK!

Carolyn

Dear Carolyn,

But the answer although workable, isn't really an automatic solution. You still would be required to open RoboForm Companion and check the timestamps etc... Yes, I'm probably the laziest contestor you now know... In a perfect world the program would auto submit automatically once the 24hr timer engaged... Yup, lazy.

Look Contests is nice in that it won't list a contest unless it can be entered within its time category. I think Look Contests is awesome, but its Achilles heel is the language it's written in, Ruby. Great web application, but doesn't allow for external applications due to security. Which means I can't click on a contest in Look Contests and launch a RoboForm script (open URL, fill and submit). Imagine if they could incorporate that?! Not only could they provide the updated contests, but also the scripts needed for RoboForm. A general script would go to the URL and use your RoboForm data to fill and submit. Right now via macro scripts you could basically do that. I assume an auto-sweepstakes site that auto-enters contests for paying customers uses something like that.

Anyways, I'm babbling again.

Lennard

Dear Lennard,

I love all your feedback and ramblings. You wrote down what many entrants are thinking, wishing for, etc... I think we'll see many changes in the hobby in the next few years as entry methods change, new software coming on the market and innovative marketing ideas from the sponsors. I'll keep everyone posted...

GOOD LUCK!

Carolyn

Hi Carolyn,

I listened to your [Blog Talk Radio Show with Dan Skeen of LookContests.com](#) and wanted to let you know that [RoboForm](#) has a Browsers option. So, if you are using [LookContests.com](#) or [Sweepstakes Tracker](#) you can use RoboForm with their web browsers. You just right click your mouse over the RoboForm icon at the bottom right of your screen then go up to Browsers and select the `iexplore:LookContests.com` (this has to be up and running before you choose your browser with RoboForm). This will pin the RoboForm Passcards and Identities to this browser and then you can use them when entering your sweepstakes. Same goes for Sweepstakes Tracker.

Lori

Wasilla AK

Thanks Lori for sending in that great follow-up to our show and the [Issue 11](#) question.

Carolyn:

I have listen to [Helene Hadsell's interview](#) several times. The SPEC system, Select, Expected and Collected is self-explanatory. Can you clarify what is Projected? Does it mean the you see yourself (or project) already having the thing or prize right now? In other words, you are projecting an image of you actually owning it, for example, the prize.

Please clarify or provide an explanation of what you think projected means. You must understand since you [used the SPEC system to win your trip to England](#). By the way congratulations and I look forward to your reply. Thanks.

Regards,

Jerry

Edmonton AB

Hi Jerry,

Just like the hobby, you have to make projecting/visualizing your own. There are several techniques you can use. Helene told me she would keep a copy of the rules, hold them in her hands and visualize the judging agency picking her entry from the mail bag and reading her name aloud when they opened her envelope. Since I enter far more sweepstakes than Helene ever did, I visualize the prize, the end result, as I do not care which sweepstakes I win it from. For example, one of the prizes I am currently focussing on is a trip to Walt Disney World. I close my eyes and see us wearing hats and t-shirts bought at the park. Walking around seeing all the sights, going on all the rides, laughing and smiling. For the trip to London I won, I put a picture of London as my computer wallpaper so now it is of DisneyWorld.

I sometimes also visualize the Universe as a dog. A beautiful golden retriever. (His bone-shaped dog collar tag say Universe.) I play fetch with the dog. I put my desire into a ball that has a CGI swirly image of my desire. I get all hyped up. "Here boy! Go fetch!" Then throw the ball really hard. The dog runs off, but he doesn't bring back the ball. He brings back the desire. For example, a set of car keys, or the TV remote, or e-tickets for a trip. I really enjoy this technique because it is so much fun.

Here is the affirmation I am currently using on a daily basis to attract prizes and wins to me and my family:

I now choose to request and receive 100+ prizes including: the 4Cs, a family trip to DisneyWorld, a backyard makeover and a 46"+ flat screen LCD HDTV, valued at \$50,000+ in 2009. This or something greater. WOO HOO!

(NOTE: as I have interviewed various inspirational speakers this year on my radio show; specifically [Jonathan Manske](#) and [Mary Robinson Reynolds](#), and they have helped me improved my mantra.)

Remember to make your affirmation your own. It has to resonate with you or it won't work.

GOOD LUCK!

Carolyn

At my vendor table at the convention table, I was asked all types of sweepstakes related questions.

Q: When the rules state: please use a plain 3x5 piece of paper, is OK to use a colored piece of paper?

A: Different sponsors and judging agencies may or may not accept the colored paper. To be safe I stick to plain white paper because: 1) I know it will always be accepted and 2) it is less expensive.

Dear Carolyn,

Let me introduce myself. I am a very new beginner (for only one week) in the magic world of contesting. I have devoured your book and still have so many questions. (I did not sign-up for your newsletter as I am finding I have a IOOOOOOOOng way to go to understand the terms etc.

Can I enter with more than one email address? I wish to use only one, but have been entering manually with the old one.

I am hoping to finally figure out how to setup RoboForm. So far.....?

Really, your book has opened many doors for me. Thank you very much.

Maybe in a few weeks I will laugh at my efforts, but for now, I am a bit confused. Determination is my motto and at 79 years of age...I will prevail!

Thank You for your help.

Rosa

Sidney, BC

Rosa,

GOOD FOR YOU! Learning to enter online at your age. You could teach a thing or two to people half your age who still want to mail-in entries.

Take one step at a time and you will do fine. The prizes will come. That's how I learned this hobby. I just started earlier than you did.

First, if you can, you should have two email addresses. One for family and friends to email you and one you use for entering. If that is too confusing for you, you can use one for everything. Just remember, you might have to wade through a bit more email to get to the emails from the grandkids.

RoboForm will help a lot as it will save you from typing and retyping your information over and over. Do you have any computer savvy kids or grandkids? I am sure they can set it up for you. Once it is set-up you don't have to change it.

The learning curve will all be worth it the first time you are lounging in a chair in an all inclusive Caribbean resort sipping a fru fru drink! (By the way, the learning curve was longer for me as I had to figure it all out before I could write the book and make it shorter for everyone else.)

Email me when you win!

GOOD LUCK,

Carolyn

Hi Carolyn,

I am a newbie and have a question about entering sweepstakes. I am in California USA and use a UPS Store for my mail. It is a street address and is NOT a P.O. Box. My concern is I see many sweepstakes rules that stated: DO NOT USE P.O Boxes. This may even void a win. Would my UPS store address be considered a P.O. Box in the eyes of the companies presenting the sweepstakes? I would hate to use my UPS address (which I use for all my mail) then win something and not be able to get it do to an interpretation of "P.O. Box".

Thank you,

Ann

Murrieta, CA

Hi Ann

I have a UPS box too. You are OK because, legally, you cannot say your P.M.B. (Private Mail Box) is a P.O. Box. Using my U.S. address as an example, here is how I would enter my PBM on a sweepstakes form:

OPTION 1: Carolyn Wilman
1623 Military Road
#1008
Niagara Falls, NY 14304-1745

Option 2: Carolyn Wilman
1008 – 1623 Military Rd.
Niagara Falls NY 14304

Also, at UPS, they will sign for any packages or letters couriered to you. At the USPS they won't.

GOOD LUCK!

Carolyn

Hi Carolyn

In the last issue of The Winning EDGE, you gave an example with your US address. Does that mean one can rent an UPS box and enter US contests even when living in Canada?

Thanks

Anne

Montreal, QC

Hi Anne,

No. I don't enter US contests unless they are also open to Canadians (and then I enter my Canadian home address). I just used my US UPS address as an example so I wouldn't put the writer's personal information in my newsletter.

GOOD LUCK!

Carolyn

Dear Carolyn,

I was wondering, when you participate in contests that ask for a UPC number or bar code of a product, and if you ever win that contest, does it ever happen, the "officials" ask for the UPC number as a proof? I am asking because, for some contests, I was thinking of going to the store and taking note of the UPC numbers instead of buying the items. Does that system work well in your experience? Also, do some products have the same UPC numbers? Last question. These days I have noticed that a lot of contests are for Internet users and they allow people to participate everyday. The only way to win is to notice the contest on its first day and enter everyday! How to overpass that?

Thank you for your help,

Shirley

Montreal QC

Hi Shirley,

1) I have never had a company as for proof of a UPC.

2) I have written down UPC codes in the store. However, whenever possible, we all need to support the sponsors and buy their products. When they deem a contest successful, they will run more.

3) Get the thought out of your head you have to be in the first day to win. **It only takes one to win.** I have won entering one time on the last day of a promotion. So, if you miss a day or two, it's not the end of the world.

4) Make sure you use the UPC codes for your country as many times they are different between the US and Canada. Check out www.UPCmachine.com

GOOD LUCK!

Carolyn

Hi Carolyn,

There seems to be a lot of contests lately that require you to make a purchase in order to get the PIN to enter the contest. I use the "no purchase necessary" option and mail-in an entry. My question is, when the rules say hand written entries only, does that mean just the actual entry that goes in the envelope or does that also include the envelope itself? What I usually do is print off the envelope, it's neater and faster and just hand write the entry. I always worry that the envelope must also be hand written and they won't accept my entry. What do you think? Or do you actually know from the sponsors what they want?

Thanks,

Maddie

London ON

Hi Maddie,

No, I don't always know what the sponsors want either. Read the rules. Some specify hand writing the envelope along with the entry. Some don't. If they don't, I hand write, just in case. They don't care about the return address so you can use a label. If they specify nothing, I use a mailing label too. Since you are sending away for a PIN Code, if you don't get one back you know you didn't do it right. I have always got my requested codes. Always assume the best.

GOOD LUCK!

Carolyn

Dear Carolyn

How I wished I lived near you and could take one of your classes. I would learn so much, but as it is I live in Alberta.

I am having a problem with the AutoComplete. I have the Vista operating system and I could not find personal information section and the AutoComplete. I'm not good on the computer, but I was wondering if you are familiar with the Vista system and what buttons I need to click? I really hoping you have the answer; it would really save my fingers from entering so much.

Thank you again

Susan

Hi Susan,

I may have an answer for you.

Are you using Microsoft Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox as your browser?

Carolyn

Hi Carolyn

I'm using Internet Explorer. I have Mozilla but I prefer IE.

Cheerfully,

Susan

Hi Susan,

Thanks. I needed to know because AutoComplete is different in each program.

In IE click on TOOLS, INTERNET OPTIONS (a window will pop up). Click on CONTENT, about ½ way down there is an option for AUTOCOMPLETE. Click on SETTINGS and make sure FORMS is selected. (I have all of them selected...)

GOOD LUCK!

Carolyn

NOTE: If you are using FireFox, it is called Auto Form Fill. It automatically remembers what you typed in the field the last time you were on the page. All you need to do is double click on each field to pull up the list. If you want more of a full form filler, you can download a FireFox add-on or buy RoboForm Pro (which is what I use).

One question I get frequently is, "How can I win more prizes?"

[Read my answer here.](#)

Hi Carolyn,

When you enter a 1x per day contest, and for example, use the wrong UPC or try to submit an incomplete form, does this cause you to be disqualified? Should I wait to enter the next day? Is each ATTEMPT to enter counted? I really enjoy your site and looking forward to picking up your book. As you can see I am new at this so it will take time to find my way. Also when the rules say....entries are per person per email address, does that mean I can enter other family members with their own email address. I read all your questions answered but unable to find 2008 & 2009.

Thank you,

Bee

Kemptville, ON

Hi Bee,

If you entered incorrectly, if your entry is selected, you won't win. Also, most contests have Repeat Entry Blocks. You won't be able to re-enter. Plus, if you do re-enter the same information but correctly, it will be considered a duplicate entry, and depending on the rules, all your entries could be void. Just wait until the next day. Move on the next contest. There are lots of prizes to be won.

Yes, you can enter other people using all their own information. Sometimes I enter my husband into a contest and sometimes he enters me. The three trips we won this year were by my doing the entering and him doing the winning. We make a great team!

GOOD LUCK,

Carolyn

P.S. You must attend my seminar in Toronto if you can, as I will show you how to avoid this exact problem.