



The San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival 6th Annual Student Film Competition Information Sheet

Call for Entry: Opens September 1, 2016
Deadline for submissions: January 9, 2017
www.oceanfilmfest.org

The 6th Annual Student Film Competition is designed to give young students an opportunity to tell their story about the ocean while discovering and enhancing their skills as filmmakers. Judged by an elite jury of professional filmmakers and ocean conservationists, the top three winners for each category of middle school and high school will receive a prize, and have their films screened at the **14th Annual San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival in March 2017**.

Students will make a "big splash", and have their voices heard through filmmaking! Creativity and ingenuity is highly encouraged. Winning films will be chosen on the basis of creativity and the ability to tell a story that leaves the audience better informed and/or moved about the ocean.

Cash Prizes

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three winning films in each category:

High School: 1st Place: \$500, 2nd Place: \$300, 3rd Place: \$200
Middle School: 1st Place: \$100, 2nd Place: \$50 3rd Place: \$50

Competition Rules

1) Subject Material

All subject matter must be related to the ocean, touching upon one or all of the following categories:

- Ocean environments
- Ocean science
- Ocean cultures
- Ocean sports
- Ocean wildlife
- Ocean conservation issues (i.e. climate change, pollution, overfishing, marine debris)
- National Marine Sanctuaries

2) Criteria

Films will be scored based on the seven criteria (listed below) and listed in more detail in the **2017 Student Film Competition Rubric**, which is divided into two main components, **Content** and **Technical Aspects**. The films with the highest scores will be screened at the festival, based on the total number of qualifying submissions.

Content

- Storytelling
- Artistic/Visual Appeal
- Originality
- Creativity

Technical Aspects

- Editing
- Audio/Sound Editing
- Film Focus & Lighting

3) Eligibility Requirements

- The film must show some relationship to the ocean
- Total running time of each film submission must be five minutes or less, including credits.
- All audio/film/graphic content must be original, copyright free or have written permission, and be properly documented
- All of the production must be done by a student or group of students (capture, edit, produce)
- The competition is open only to currently enrolled middle school and high school students around the world.
- Films must be made entirely by a student or a group of students.
- Films may be submitted online via YouTube or Vimeo. Films may be submitted via mail or overnight delivery on a DVD (2 copies) or one flash drive and mailed to our offices listed below.
- Non-English films must have subtitles
- Project must be completed between January 2016 and January 2017
- If music is used, it must be from a public domain or royalty-free. Copyrighted music is strictly prohibited.
- If video, images or other content are used from another person, evidence of permission for use must be provided and acknowledged in the film credits. This is strictly enforced.
- Teachers who use the competition as a class project must prequalify the top three films to be submitted. The students must complete the actual online submission process.
- Adult participation (teachers parents, etc.) should be limited to coaching or acting in the film.

4) Submission Deadlines and Dates

- The Student Film Competition is free to participate; there is no submission fee to submit a film.
- Films will begin to be accepted on **September 1, 2016**
- Final date for submission is midnight, **January 9, 2017**, with no exceptions
- Students will be notified of the status of their submission by **February 1, 2017**.
- Please complete one entry form per film submission. Only one entry form is needed for a film being submitted by a group of students. Once your film is received, along with the entry form, it officially enters the competition.

- Submission process (Please chose one)
 - **Online Submissions**
 - Visit the SFC website page at www.oceanfilmfest.org/student-film-competition and complete the online registration form
 - Include a link to your film
 - **DVD or Flash Drive Submissions**
 - Visit the SFC website page at www.oceanfilmfest.org/student-film-competition and complete the online registration form
 - Mail 2 copies of the DVD or one flash drive to our offices at:

SFIOFF
ATTN: Student Film Competition
1007 General Kennedy Avenue, Suite 205
San Francisco, CA 94129
- **Notification Date:**
 - All submission contacts will be notified of their Acceptance or Rejection status for the SFC, via email on or before **Monday, January 30, 2017**.
- The SFIOFF reserves the right to disqualify any film that does not meet the above eligibility requirements.

2017 San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival

The 14th Annual SFIOFF takes place on **March 9-12, 2017** at **Cowell Theater in Fort Mason Center in San Francisco**. The film festival is the largest ocean-inspired film festival of its kind, featuring 11 film programs, panel discussions, industry experts and programs specifically designed to inspire youth around the world to learn more about the ocean.

The SFC has its own dedicated program featuring the top finalists of the 6th Annual Student Film Competition and will take place on **Sunday, March 12, 2017 at 10:00 am**. The seating capacity for the theater is for slightly more than 400 people, and the program is free to attend. Finalists will be asked to participate in a brief Q&A session after the screening of their film, and to be available for photo opportunities at the photo call in the lobby of the theater.

Please visit our website for updates, special announcements and any news;
<http://www.oceanfilmfest.org/student-film-competition>

The 6th Annual Student Film Competition is made possible by the continued generosity and support of the [Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary](#).