

Desert Light Film Festival

A competition for New Mexico high school and middle school students

ENTRY RULES

1. All production must be supervised and influenced by the student.
2. All scripts and ideas must be original and written by the student.
3. Submissions may be no more than seven minutes in length (including credits). *Exception:* Commercials are to be 30 seconds.
4. Entries will contain no foul or vulgar language, no graphic violence, or sexual content.
5. Entry forms should include all credits and contact information. Complete the entire entry form.
6. Categories include Animation, Music Video, Drama/Comedy, Documentary, Experimental and 30 second Commercial.
7. Submissions should be entered via Vimeo. Alternately, they may be in standard DVD format. Label each DVD entry with your name, school or address, division and category.
8. Background music should include no more than 20 second portions of copyrighted recordings. Multiple songs may be included. This is not a rule for Music Video.
9. To win the “Best of Festival” award, film must contain only public domain or original music, or student may provide written permission for use from the composer or copyright holder.

JUDGING AND AWARDS

1. Entries will be judged on production quality, creativity and originality, and resourcefulness and entertainment value.
2. Please review category descriptions. These descriptions are used by the judges.
3. Awards will be given for the best film in each category and division, at the judges’ discretion.
4. Submission of entry grants to the *Otero County Film Office* permission to use footage for possible future promotional materials.

DESCRIPTION OF CATEGORIES

Animation

Animated submissions may be forms such as stop-motion, hand drawn or computer animated.

Documentary

In addition to finding a compelling story, teach the audience something. Delve into the experience. Deliver the story through such devices as reenactments, dramatizations, historical information, etc. “Research” is a unique judging criteria for documentaries.

Experimental Film

Experimental film is a creation unique to the individual such that the judges will readily understand that uniqueness. Conventional techniques or storytelling, such as a linear story, are not expected. The film should challenge traditional boundaries and the way those are understood. The filmmaker should explore film as an art form and focus on creative control of images. “Control of images” is a unique criteria for experimental film.

Music Video

Visually and cinematically depict the story or edit a creative interpretation of the song. Original music is a unique judging criteria for music video. Submit release or form granting you permission to use copyrighted music from the copyright holder.

Drama/Comedy or Narrative

Tell a story in dramatic or comedic form. Introduce the characters and their relationships to one another. Then, send the characters on a quest or journey. Find the conflict on the journey. Resolve the conflict. Include a beginning, middle and end.

New Mexico Tourism Commercials

Commercials should be 30 seconds in length and must include the New Mexico True logo, Desert Light Film Festival logo or your local NM True tourism logo. Students may focus on a single tourist attraction, or on several. Topics are not limited, but can include New Mexico scenery, ballooning, cultural attractions, wildlife, sports, etc. “Persuasiveness to visit New Mexico” is a unique judging criteria for commercials. Use examples of “Sight-doing” instead of “Sight-seeing.”