

## 2021 Desert Light Film Competition Issues Call of Entries to New Mexico Students

Yes, we want to see your films! ***Desert Light Film Festival 2021*** wants to see your best work! In this very uncertain time, you can be sure that you can still enter a film festival just for New Mexico high school and middle school students, wherever you go to school. The prize money is certain, the categories are not changing, and your teachers and mentors will still help you in every way they possibly can. What will change? On Friday, April 30, 2021 we will have a VIRTUAL festival. We are planning for that now so there will be no surprises at the end.

Because of Covid-19, we are going to have a special category called “Life in a Pandemic.” Films in this special category must deal with some aspect of life during the pandemic, and can be from any of the standard categories. All films in this special category must be made using only “phone camera(s)” and editing/production software that can be downloaded for free off the internet. Davinci Resolve is the most highly recommended.

We will still have our standard categories which include drama/comedy, animation, music video, documentary, experimental film, and 30-second commercial. The criteria for all categories include production quality, creativity and originality, resourcefulness and entertainment value. Your films will be submitted and judged in either the high school or middle school division.

Sponsored by TDS, Desert Light offers prizes in every category and division. First Place awards are \$100 each. Honorable Mention awards are \$50 each. Barbara Mick, local TDS Coordinator of Marketing and Public Relations for TDS, will provide the awards for the winning films. A category added several years ago, the Experimental Film category, is sponsored by the Alamogordo Optimist Club. Club representative John Cowart is always excited to provide the prizes in the Experimental category.

All student films for ***Desert Light Film Festival 2021*** must be submitted via Vimeo. Information about accessing the Vimeo account will be released later.

You can submit films anytime from now until Friday, March 19, 2021. Each entry requires a \$5 entry fee which should be mailed along with your entry form to the Otero County Economic Development Council office, NMSU Alamogordo, 2400 N. Scenic Dr., Alamogordo, NM 88310. The entry form includes a “Use of Submissions” form to be signed by students over 18. Parents or teachers will sign for students under 18. All forms, including the form explaining the Entry Rules, information about Judging and Awards, and Description of Categories are sent as attachments to this email. All funds are handled through the Otero County Economic Development Council, the umbrella organization for Desert Light Film Festival. For more information, contact K. Jan Wafful, Otero County Film Liaison at [jwafful@gmail.com](mailto:jwafful@gmail.com) or Joan Griggs at [griggs1331@msn.com](mailto:griggs1331@msn.com)