

Envision Film Festival **High School** Rules & Guidelines

Submission **Deadline** - postmarked by January 31st, 2012

Mission Statement

The Envision Film Festival honors aspiring filmmakers whose visual storytelling explores the range of human experience with hopeful vision, artistry, truthfulness and integrity.

Festival Goals

- To honor Taylor University filmmakers & films, providing a venue for public exhibition of their work.
- To solicit entries from talented high school filmmakers and encourage their development as artists.
- To highlight the significance of film as a medium that can express beauty, truth and goodness, prompting meaningful dialogue, engaging culture and ultimately giving glory to God.
- To acquaint film & media industry professionals with the work of Taylor and high school filmmakers.
- To provide networking and educational experiences for Taylor and high school filmmakers by means of interaction with industry professionals.
- To offer opportunities for audiences to learn more about the filmmaking process in dialogue with filmmakers.

High School Eligibility

- Any full-time high school student who played a major role in the creation of an original film (producer, director, writer, cinematographer or editor) is eligible to enter.
- Film must have been completed within two years prior to the festival date.
- No industry professionals or faculty can play a major role--producer, director, writer, cinematographer, editor--in the production of the film—although they can have an advisory role. The film must be considered a student production.
- A single student may contribute a maximum of three films in which he/she played one of these roles: producer, director, writer, cinematographer or editor.
- Projects developed by teams are encouraged. For team projects the entry form can list:
 - Up to five team members, their addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, and the specific responsibilities of each team member on the project.
- A single film may only be submitted to the Envision Film Festival once. No repeat entries in subsequent years are allowed.

Film Content & Length

The Envision Film Festival honors aspiring filmmakers whose visual storytelling explores the range of human experience with hopeful vision, artistry, truthfulness and integrity.

- The Envision Film Festival encourages creativity and originality. The Festival acknowledges that expressing the range of human experience with artistry and truthfulness may result in stories and images that are gritty or the cause of offense to some. The judges encourage filmmakers to explore the human experience in all of its dimensions. However, judges will likely exclude films that do not uphold the values generally shared by a broad Taylor University community audience. For instance the judges will likely exclude films with gratuitous obscenity, gratuitous violence, or whose subjects are in poor taste or risqué. Content matters.
- Films may be narrative/fiction, non-fiction/documentary or experimental in nature.
- Submissions may be no more than **six minutes** in length.

Judges & Judging Criteria

All films will be judged by a panel of judges including:

- Taylor faculty/staff/alumni who understand filmmaking. The judges will evaluate the films on the merits of:
 - story (originality/creativity/emotional drama)
 - production values (quality of lighting, sound, camera work, editing, pacing)
 - acting (quality of performance)
 - capacity of the film to meet the festival goals – “exploring the range of human experience with hopeful vision, artistry, truthfulness and integrity”
- A film must have at least three judges’ nominations in order to receive an award in a particular category.
- Judges may decline to give an award in a particular category if no entry meets the festival’s standards of quality.
- All films accepted by the judges for screening either as the top film or as the winner other another award will be notified no later than two weeks prior to the festival.

Award Categories

All films accepted for screening in the high school festival are eligible for awards in the following categories:

- Best Picture
- Best Cinematography
- Best Screenplay
- Best Editing

Only the film judged Best Picture will screen with the college films on the evening of March 2nd. However, all high school films that are award-worthy will screen at an event for high school students and parents on March 3rd. Award-winners will be notified approximately two weeks before the festival.

Submission guidelines

- Films **must** be submitted on DVD in widescreen (16x9) format. No menu screen is required. Be sure your DVD plays in standard DVD players, not just as a computer file.

- The judges accept no responsibility for disc read errors or formatting problems. Projects that cannot be viewed by the judges will be disqualified from competition.
- Label the DVD and DVD case/sleeve with the title of your film(s), its total running time, your name and contact info (name, address, phone # and e-mail).
- Entries with incomplete or illegible entry forms, illegible labels on media or in the wrong media format can be disqualified.
- If you are submitting more than one film, submit each one on a separate DVD, and fill out a separate entry form for each film.
- Films not in English must be clearly subtitled or dubbed into English.
- DVDs will not be returned.

Entries must be postmarked by January 31, 2012.

Rights

- Even though this is a student competition, and “fair use” guidelines can allow copywritten material in student educational projects, those rights do not extend to public performances of that material. Consequently, all copyrights must be cleared by festival submission deadline. All materials (images, music, etc.) must be original work, work used with the copyright holder’s permission, or work that is in the public domain. Films that violate copyright law cannot be shown in the festival.
- By entering the work, you give Taylor University and the Envision Film Festival unlimited rights to use your film or images from your film for various screenings and use in promotional materials in part or in their entirety at any time, and to publish in print, electronic or digital form in perpetuity.

If you have questions about these guidelines, please e-mail Kathy Bruner at ktbruner@taylor.edu.