**Inwater Research Group Presents**

The Mission of Youth Driven Cinema is to educate and engage the youth of Martin and St. Lucie Counties by fostering community involvement within the arts and sciences.

***Students, families, and the general public are encouraged to attend the film festival!***

# Overview

Students are tasked with creating a short video that follows a particular conservation-based theme and are encouraged to use their imaginations. Submissions will be reviewed by a panel of judges and the top five films in each category (Elementary, Middle, High School, and School of Fish) will be shown at the festival with prizes awarded.

| Grade Category | Description | Prizes |
|---|---|---|
| *Elementary School* | **Students in Grades K-5** | • First Place – $400<br>• Second Place – $250<br>• Third Place – $100 |
| *Middle School* | **Students in Grades 6-8** | • First Place – $400<br>• Second Place – $250<br>• Third Place – $100 |
| *High School* | **Students in Grades 9-12** | • First Place – $400<br>• Second Place – $250<br>• Third Place – $100 |
| *School of Fish* | **Teachers and Students**<br>**(Or groups with more than 4 students)** | First Place - Pizza Party |

## Additional Submission Information

- All team members must be in the same grade level category.
- Teams may be composed of 1-4 students for a traditional entry. There are three grade-level categories: Elementary, Middle, and High School.
- There is also a special “School of Fish” category for films with more than four students. A video entered into the School of Fish category can only be entered for that division. A student can participate in the School of Fish category while also creating a second video to be entered into the traditional grade-level divisions.

## Film Requirements

- Entries must be under 3 minutes in length.
- Entries must incorporate the Youth Driven Cinema theme.
  - **2026's Theme: Leaving Legacies -** *Your Voice. Your Planet. Your Legacy.*
- Copyrighted music is NOT permitted.
- Entries must be uploaded as .mov, .mp4, or .wmv file formats not to exceed 1GB in file size.
- All entries must have an adult e-sign the Terms and Conditions on the submission form.
- Entries must be uploaded by March 25 , 2026.
- You must use a Gmail account to upload your video.
- **Note: Submissions that go above and beyond topics such as recycling, clean-ups, etc. will receive preference.**

# Project Planning

**Film Submission Deadline: March 25, 2026**

| | |
|---|---|
| Project Title: | |
| Conservation Focus: | |
| Grade Level Category | |
| Participant Names & Their Roles: | |

| Timeline: | |
|---|---|
| **Task** | **Due Date** |
| *Identify Group Members* | ____/____/2026 |
| *Decide on a topic for your group's film that incorporates this year's theme: Leaving Legacies - Your Voice. Your Planet. Your Legacy.* | ____/____/2026 |
| *Identify what technology you have available to use.*<br><br>***Free technology resources available through county libraries:***<br><br>***https://www.martin.fl.us/idea-lab-faqs***<br><br>***https://www.stlucieco.gov/departments-and-services/library/tech*** | ____/____/2026 |
| *Write rough draft of the script.* | ____/____/2026 |
| *Identify possible filming locations. (Examples: your yard, your neighborhood, your school campus, a county park, a county library, etc.)* | ____/____/2026 |
| *Identify possible editing software for your film.* | ____/____/2026 |
| *Edit the rough draft of the script. Be sure to get feedback from your family and peers!* | ____/____/2026 |
| *Finalize the film script, gather props, and choose outfits.* | ____/____/2026 |
| *Pick a day and location to film. (Reminder: This may take more than one day! Check the weather!!)* | ____/____/2026 |
| *Edit raw footage with chosen editing software. (Reminder: This may take several days!)* | ____/____/2026 |
| *Submit your film with a parent by visiting:*<br><br>*Martin County Student Submission*<br><br>St. Lucie County Student Submission | ***03/25/2026*** |

**Bring your family and friends to the**

**2026 Youth Driven Cinema Film Screening & Award Night!!**

***The Lyric Theatre***

***April 22, 2026***

6:00 - 8:00 pm

**59 SW Flagler Avenue, Stuart, FL 34994**