

# 2026 STUDENT FILM COMPETITION:

## Rules/Information

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### Film submissions will be judged on the following criteria:

- Originality
- Creativity
- Technical proficiency
- Attention to detail
- Technique
- Uniqueness of filmmaking style

### Awards will be given in the following categories:

- Excellence in Filmmaking
- Achievement in Cinematography
- Achievement in Directing
- Achievement in Screenwriting
- Achievement in Editing
- Achievement in Sound
- Achievement in Documentary Filmmaking
- Technical Achievement
- Central Coast Spirit Award

### Key Dates

- March 9th, 2026 - FILMFREEWAY SUBMISSIONS OPEN
- April 24th, 2026 - FILMFREEWAY SUBMISSIONS CLOSE
- 5/11/25 - AWARD NOTIFICATIONS
- 5/17/26 - SCHOLARSHIP SCREENING EVENT

# 2026 COMPETITION RULES



- All applicants MUST be currently enrolled in a Central Coast High School
- All submissions must be NO LONGER than 10-minutes in length, and must not include explicit material of any kind.
  - Films from the following categories are accepted:
    - Narrative Live-Action Short Film (scripted)
    - Narrative Animated Short Film (scripted)
    - Documentary Short Film
    - Animated Documentary Short Film
    - Music Video
    - Experimental
    - Demo Reel
  - Films or videos from the following categories are NOT accepted:
    - VLOGs
    - TikToks/Social Media Reels
    - Slideshows
    - Streaming Clips
    - Films over 5 minutes
  - Copyrighted music may be used if the song's original artist and composer are credited

# HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR FILM



All films must be submitted on [FilmFreeway](#), and the following materials must be emailed to [info@centralcoastfilmsociety.org](mailto:info@centralcoastfilmsociety.org)

- Full Name
- School Name
- Date of submission
- Title and description of your submission including inspiration behind the work, any interesting facts/challenges about the project, and what you hope the film expresses about your filmmaking passions (no more than 5-7 lines)
- Student ID

By submitting your work to us, you are giving CCFS the non-exclusive right to publish your work in any format, including print, electronic, and online media. However, all individual contributors to CCFS retain the right to submit their work for non-exclusive publication elsewhere, and you have our permission to do so.

**Plagiarism: CCFS has a no-tolerance policy for plagiarism. Any applicant whose winning work is determined to be plagiarized in whole or in part will forfeit any awards.**

# AWARD INFORMATION



## Awards will be given in the following categories:

- Excellence in Filmmaking (\$400)
- Achievement in Cinematography (\$250)
- Achievement in Directing (\$250)
- Achievement in Screenwriting (\$250)
- Achievement in Editing (\$250)
- Achievement in Sound (\$250)
- Achievement in Documentary Filmmaking (\$250)
- Technical Achievement (\$250)
- Central Coast Spirit Award (\$250)

## Judging

- All films will be screened and judged by a panel of industry professionals.
- Judging will take place between April 27th - May 8, 2026.
- All filmmakers, regardless of award status, will receive thorough feedback on their films from the jury.
- The jury will select the nine (9) winning films by May 11th, 2026. Winners will be notified via email/FilmFreeway.

## Screening

- The nine (9) award-winning films will be screened on May 17, 2026 at the CCFS Student Scholarship Competition Celebration (location TBD).
- Students will **not** be notified what award their film has been selected for, and specific awards will be announced at a ceremony following the screening.