The First Annual Michigan 4-H Film Festival

Official rules and guidelines

Submission deadline

All videos must be submitted to the Michigan Filmmaker YouTube Channel by February 14, 2014 by 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Eligibility

* Enter each video in one category only.
* All music and other copyrighted material used in videos must be properly licensed. Please read “More about copyright and permission.”
* All videos must be in English or subtitled in English.
* At least one crew member must be a current 4-H youth member or 4-H volunteer. (A 4-H volunteer is an adult who has applied for and gone through the 4-H Volunteer Selection Process.

Age groups

The video director will determine which age group category the video falls under. Age groups are:

* 13 and under
* 14–17
* 18 and older (can be entered in by 4-H members and volunteers).

\*Each video will only compete with those in the same age group.

**Festival description**
Unlike many film festivals, the Michigan 4-H Film Festival will take place entirely online. All videos will be submitted to the Michigan Filmmaker YouTube channel. Participants are encouraged to share links to their videos to increase viewership and votes. Videos receiving the most “likes” on YouTube will receive the Social Media Award.

Participants will compete to win awards in their specific categories. A jury of Michigan State University Extension staff and volunteers will view and judge all videos. Individuals who have submitted videos will not be eligible to participate on the jury committee. **If you submit your video as part of your participation in the Samsung Scholars program, it must be connected to STEM (science, technology, engineering and/or mathematics) content.**

Categories

* Submit each video into only one category:
* Narrative Short – Videos in this category must be 10 minutes or less and tell a story with a beginning, middle and end.
* Documentary Short – Videos in this category must be 10 minutes or less, contain nonfictional content and include at least one interview.
* Revolution of Responsibility – Videos in this category must follow the Revolution of Responsibility format and feature a 4-H member or a 4-H club. For more information, please see the “Revolution of Responsibility Guidelines.”
* 4-H Commercial – Videos in this category must be 2 minutes or less and must promote the experience of being a 4-H member or volunteer. Videos should share with the public the reasons they should join 4-H.

Awards and opportunities

Social Media Award – The video with the most likes on YouTube will receive the Social Media Award. This video can be from any category or age group.

Grand Prize – There will be a grand prize winner in each category and age group.

\*Specific awards will be announced in January.

Notification

If your video is selected as a finalist in its category of the festival, you will be notified via email on February 17, 2014. At that time you will be able to share links with family and friends and encourage them to watch, and like, your video. Winners will be selected and notified by February 28, 2014 via email and/or phone.

Submission process

Submit your video using the following instructions.

1. Upload your video to the Michigan 4-H Filmmaking YouTube channel.
2. Download the submission and release forms. Email or fax them to the office listed
3. You will receive the information to log in and upload your video to the Channel.

If you have any questions, please email Danielle Hampton-Abrams at hampto84@msu.edu.

Multiple entries

Each candidate may submit more than one video. However, each video must be submitted with a separate submission forms. The crew for the video does not have to be the same.

For example, the videos may have the same director, but have different writers or different camera operators.

Video format

All videos must be submitted in full resolution in one of the following formats:

* .mov
* .mpeg4
* .avi
* .wmv
* .flv

The [Michigan 4-H filmmaking workshop webpage](http://campus.extension.org/enrol/index.php?id=838) has more information on exporting and formatting video.

Filmmaker/ parent or guardian release

Filmmakers, or the parent or guardian of a filmmaker who is a minor must sign a release form stating they acknowledge that they are authorized to submit their video to the Michigan 4-H Film Festival. They grant permissions to Michigan State University Extension and 4-H related to its use and distribution. Filmmakers grant permission to Michigan State University Extension and 4-H to use video clips and stills for promotional use.

Submitting a video to the Michigan 4-H Film Festival constitutes an agreement by, and between the filmmaker, or the parent/guardian of a filmmaker, and Michigan State University Extension. By submitting their video, the filmmaker agrees to all of these rules, terms and conditions. The filmmakers also acknowledge that they will not receive any compensation for the use of their video by Michigan State University Extension or 4-H in accordance with the rules, terms and conditions.

Filmmakers understand and acknowledge that, if they are under the age of 18 years their parent or guardian must agree to the terms of this filmmaker/ parent or guardian release on their behalf.

Preparing your video

To improve your video before submission and to learn more about the craft of filmmaking, all entrants are strongly encouraged to participate in the [Michigan 4-H Filmmaking online workshop](http://campus.extension.org/enrol/index.php?id=838). To enroll in this online workshop, you must create an account. After logging in, search for the Michigan 4-H Filmmaking Workshop. Click on the title of the [workshop](http://campus.extension.org/enrol/index.php?id=838) and click on the “enroll me” button below the description.

Participating in the Michigan 4-H Filmmaking online workshop will allow you to receive help with your videos before submitting them to the festival and allow you meet other 4-H youth creating videos across the state.

**Frequently asked questions**

**When and where does the festival take place?**

The 2014 Michigan 4-H Film Festival will take place entirely online with films showcased on the Michigan 4-H Facebook page, The Michigan 4-H Filmmaker YouTube channel and the Michigan 4-H website. All films must be submitted by February 14, 2014. The winners will be notified on February 28, 2014.

**How do I submit my film?**

You can upload your video to the Michigan 4-H Filmmaker YouTube channel. To learn more about how to submit your film please read the “Michigan 4-H Film Festival rules and guidelines.”

**Can Cloverbuds and young 4-H Filmmakers submit a video?**

Yes, we encourage young 4-H filmmakers to submit videos. In order to submit their video they have to receive permission from their parents or guardians. Parents or guardians must log onto YouTube on their behalf.

**Do you accept PSAs or music videos?**

Yes, we will accept music videos in the narrative category, but all music must be properly licensed. Please do not submit a video without permission to use the music. We do not have a music video category this year, but if there is a lot of interest considerations may be made in the future.

You can also submit a public service announcements (PSA) in the 4-H commercial category if it is about 4-H or in the documentary category if it is not. Please keep in mind that your video will be competing with the documentary videos.

**Can there be violence, nudity or swearing in my video?**

No, we cannot accept films that include such content. Your video will be representing Michigan 4-H and we have to remember that 4-H is a positive youth development organization. Please remember that videos should be educational in nature; either about a 4-H experience or a content area relevant to 4-H.

**Can I submit a video that has already been online?**

Yes, as long as you are a 4-H member or volunteer you can submit any video that is your original work.

**Why do I have to give Michigan State University Extension and 4-H permission to use and distribute my video?**

A goal of the festival is to encourage more youth to pursue filmmaking in Michigan and the Michigan 4-H Film Festival is one way to do that. If young people see video, they may be encouraged to enter their videos to the festival next year.

You are still allowed to share your video and submit it to other festivals and school competitions.

**What if I cannot upload my video or receive an error?**

Please email Danielle Hampton-Abrams at hampto84@msu.edu if you have a hard time uploading your video, finding the online workshop or have any other questions about the festival.