



Union County Student Short Film Festival

The Union County Community Arts Council and the Charlotte Film Festival present the 2nd Annual Union County Student Short Film Festival, designed to foster interest in filmmaking, encourage student creativity and collaboration, and highlight the talent of young Union County creators.

The festival screens pre-selected films for a 1-hour program. Films submitted for consideration are previewed and scored by an anonymous selection committee comprised of local and county arts professionals and high school students. Films will be judged on concept, originality, storytelling, and technical execution.

Awards will be presented to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place films. Special merit award(s) may be presented at the selection committee's discretion. 1st Place = \$300. 2nd Place = \$200. 3rd Place = \$100.

2025 THEME

NEXT!! *What does the future hold?*

IMPORTANT DATES

March 23, 2025	Submissions Due
April 2, 2025	Applicants notified via email of Festival selections
April 12, 2024	Screening & Awards Presentation at South Piedmont Community College @ 3:00pm

RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. All films must be produced solely by students in grades 9-12 currently enrolled and attending public, charter, or private Union County high schools. Union County homeschool students in grades 9-12 are also eligible.
2. Adult involvement is limited to advising and/or on-screen talent.
3. Films must be NO LONGER than 7 minutes, including title and credits.
4. Format: mp4 Smartphone only. We do not accept ProRes/DCP/MKV formats.
5. Films must be completed for submission. No Works in Progress are accepted.
6. Films may be either Documentary or Narrative. Applicants will be required to choose the category their film falls under when submitting. A **Narrative** is a scripted film that tells a fictional story, typically with the main goal of entertaining the audience. A **Documentary** film tells the real story of people, an event, or situation, with the goal to inform or educate the audience.
7. Submitted films must be original works, and filmmakers must be able to provide proof of licensing for any copyrighted material featured in the project to be eligible. Proper on-screen credit for licensed work is also required. **IF YOUR FILM HAS COPYRIGHTED MUSIC AND YOU DO NOT HAVE PERMISSION TO USE IT, YOUR FILM WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE.**
8. Films may be produced and submitted individually or as a team. The Festival allows a submission team of up to three (3) production crew members.
 - a. For Team Submissions: The film must be submitted by a designated team lead, usually the director. Up to two (2) additional production crew members can be listed on the submission – ex: writer, camera, editor. Actors are not included as production crew members. Please note: a student who submits as the official applicant for one film may appear as an additional crew member in another film.
9. The Festival will be open to the public and submissions should fall under PG guidelines.
10. Safety First: Do not do anything to put another person in danger.

11. Depictions of violence are not specifically prohibited, but such decisions must have an artistic purpose, enhance the story, and be supervised by an adult.
12. Nudity of any kind or provocative sexual content is not permitted.
13. Due to limited time and resources, the Festival is unable to provide comments or feedback about specific films until after the Festival.
14. Submissions should aspire to promote constructive and professional artistic expression. They should remain respectful of the differences among individuals and peoples, including race and ethnicity, sex, gender identity, political viewpoints, sexual orientation, special health needs, age, belief system, country of origin, and socio-economic status.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read carefully the following terms and conditions in connection with your submitted entry materials to the Union County Student Short Film Festival. Submission of your film acknowledges acceptance of the Rules and Guidelines and Terms and Conditions of the Festival.

1. I/We attest that I/We have read and understand and complied with the Rules and Guidelines of the Festival, that I/we am/are the sole owner(s) of legal right and title thereto have absolute authority to submit the Material to the Festival.
2. I/We understand that by submitting said Material, I/we authorize the Festival to exhibit the Material during the 2025 Festival dates if the Material is selected for exhibition by the Festival. The Festival reserves the right to screen said film up to 3 times during the Festival.
3. Selection into the 2025 Union County Student Short Film Festival will permit the Festival to use their name, and/or likeness, film or video footage, title, and log-line of Material, in pre & post-competition publicity & promotional efforts. This may include additional post-festival screenings and events.
4. The Festival may, at its own discretion, transfer the submitted Material to a compilation DVD or video file for Festival screening and the resulting DVD/video file may be used for Festival promotional purposes. However, said compilations are not sold or distributed for sale by the Festival.

SUBMISSIONS

Film must be submitted via the following Google form, no later than midnight on Sunday, March 23, 2025. Google Form Link: <https://forms.gle/7x8jffmo31Rrs6bJA>

QUESTIONS

Contact Melanie Miller, Union County Community Arts Council Executive Director at melanie@unionarts.org or 704-283-2784.



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