



*News for Immediate Release*  
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## **SCPRT Announces Young Filmmakers Project**

### **High School Filmmaking Competition Promotes State Parks, Media Arts Education**

**Oct. 17, 2011 – Columbia** – The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism has announced the start of a Young Filmmaker's Project, a cutting-edge approach to promote the state and Media Arts education.

High school students from across South Carolina will be encouraged to create a short film following the competition's creative parameters. These include an interpretation of the contest's theme "Come Out and Play" as well as the use of a South Carolina State Park as a practical location in their films.

Winners will receive cash and other prizes. The program is a joint project between SCPRT and Trident Technical College.

"Media creation is such a major part of today's world," said Tom Clark with the South Carolina Film Office, a program within SCPRT. "It's a skill that crosses all industries and disciplines. As South Carolina students participate in this project, we think they'll see the power of media as a communication tool and as a career. They'll also get to experience the joy of making films and videos."

According to Clark, the Young Filmmakers Project will also aid Media Arts education by providing a productive outlet for students' work, as well as video production education resources.

The contest is open to all South Carolina high school students, whether they attend public school, private, or are home-schooled. Participating South Carolina students will have until March 5, 2012 to upload their short films via [SchoolTube.com](http://SchoolTube.com), a participating sponsor. For more information, including detailed contest rules, upload information and links to the contest channels, visit the contest portal at [www.schooltube.com/contests/scyoungfilmmakers](http://www.schooltube.com/contests/scyoungfilmmakers).

Once the entry deadline ends, a panel of judges will score all entries, and the top 10 will be available for worldwide public voting, incorporating social media into the process. Public scores and judges' scores will be combined to determine the first, second and third place short films.

Uploaded short films will be available for public viewing throughout the process. More details on the South Carolina Young Filmmakers Project is included in the accompanying program materials.

For more information, contact Tom Clark of the South Carolina Film Office at 803-737-0498.

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## CALLING HIGH SCHOOL FILMMAKERS... MAKE YOUR MOVIE!

The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and the South Carolina Film Commission announce the Young Filmmakers Project, South Carolina's first-ever high school filmmaking competition.

*It's easy to enter. All you need is an idea, a camera, and your imagination!*

### WHAT IS THE YOUNG FILMMAKERS PROJECT?

A statewide Media Arts competition. High-school students across South Carolina are encouraged to create a short film, following the parameters described below. The Top Ten will be selected from all entries, with first, second, and third place films receiving cash prizes.

Here's the key thing: **Be creative. Tell a story.** Cool images and flashy editing are great, but in order for a short film to succeed, the audience has to be engaged by the story they're watching. Do that and you'll have a hit on your hands.

### PROJECT PARAMETERS:

There's nothing that gets the creative juices flowing like a good ole artistic challenge. So we've laid out a few simple ones:

- Contest open to all South Carolina high school students -- public, private or home-schooled.
- All entries must follow the theme **COME OUT & PLAY**.
- All entries must be at least 30-seconds long and **no longer than two minutes, thirty seconds (02:30)**.
- All entries must have at least **one 3-second shot of South Carolina State Park signage** in their submitted short film. This can be anything with the S.C. State Park logo or a State Park name.
- **All entries must shoot at least one scene at a South Carolina State Park.** But don't fret; this doesn't mean you're stuck with either a picnic shelter or playground. The S.C. State Park system is diverse and wide, with a huge variety of places that could work for any film. Cabins, lakes, streams, forests, fields, mountains, beaches, even zoos and museums. Your story can take root and grow in any number of settings, so let your imagination take advantage of what the S.C. State Park system has to offer.

With 47 State Parks across the state, you shouldn't have any problem getting to one. And to make it even easier, all participants in the S.C. Young Filmmakers Project will be granted entry and access to the State Park they select for their shoot free of charge. For more information and to find a State Park near you, see the RESOURCES section of this brochure, or visit [www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/park\\_locator.aspx](http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/park_locator.aspx).

### HOW TO ENTER:

First, make an excellent short movie. Then:

- Go to [SchoolTube.com](http://SchoolTube.com) and set-up an account (if you don't already have one). Be sure your name, email address and school name are up-to-date and accurate.
- Go to the YOUNG FILMMAKERS contest page at [www.schooltube.com/contests/scyoungfilmmakers](http://www.schooltube.com/contests/scyoungfilmmakers). Review and follow all contest rules and guidelines closely. Once your short film is done, follow the instructions to upload your short film in any accepted file format.
- Have a teacher at your school with a SchoolTube account follow SchoolTube's instructions to approve for display.

**All entries must be uploaded and approved by midnight EST on MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2012, to be eligible for the competition.**

### JUDGING & PRIZES:

A panel of judges will score all entries based on the following criteria:

- Creativity of concept and execution
- Overall quality and production value
- Incorporation of theme and S.C. State Park setting

Once judging is complete, the top ten scoring entries will be placed in the Top Ten. The Top Ten will then go live on a separate SchoolTube and YouTube channel, and available for public viewing and voting for a limited time.



continued

**JUDGING & AWARDS cont.**

Once public voting is over, public scores will be combined with judges' scores to determine the following prizes:

- FIRST PRIZE (\$250 cash)**
- SECOND PRIZE (\$150 cash)**
- THIRD PRIZE (\$100 cash)**

In addition to on-line audiences, winning entries will be screened at S.C. Film Commission programs and other events throughout the state.

**RESOURCES AND OTHER EXTERNAL LINKS:**

Below are links with information and video tutorials that will be instrumental as you make your short film, as well as training for now and down the road. And there's no greater resource than Media Arts teachers, English teachers and others at your school. Look to them for guidance as well.

**South Carolina State Parks:** [www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/park\\_locator](http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/park_locator)  
Learn about the SC State Park system, and find a park near you.

**SchoolTube's VideoMaker Channel:** [www.schooltube.com/user/Videomaker](http://www.schooltube.com/user/Videomaker)  
A great source with clear, concise video tutorials on making a great short film, from storyboarding to handheld camera work to color grading.

**The South Carolina Film Commission:** [www.filmsc.com](http://www.filmsc.com)  
Production guides and other resources for shooting and production in South Carolina.

**Trident Technical College Film, Media, and Visual Arts Department:** [www.tridenttech.edu/create.htm](http://www.tridenttech.edu/create.htm)

**Creative Cow:** [www.creativecow.com](http://www.creativecow.com)  
Helpful forums on all elements of production, including cameras, shooting techniques, and post-production software and hardware. For the beginner and the seasoned professional.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

**Can my short film be any format or genre?** Yes. Creativity is king here, so think outside-the-box with storyline, production style, format and genre. Animation. Black and white. Foreign-language. Action. Thriller. Whatever your imagination comes up with.

**How do I fit the theme COME OUT AND PLAY into my film?** Good question. Now go find the answer. The theme is purposefully broad, and we can't wait to see all the different interpretations.

**Why South Carolina State Parks?** Because nothing makes a great film like great locations, and we've got oodles of 'em in South Carolina. (Just ask the makers of *Forest Gump*, *The Patriot*, *The Notebook*, or *Dear John*.) And nothing represents the beauty and geographic diversity of our state like the sophisticated, wide-spread system of State Parks we are lucky enough to enjoy.

**Can I only shoot one scene at a S.C. State Park?** That's up to you. You're more than welcome to shoot as much of your film at that location as you wish. There are so many shooting options and ideas within the S.C. State Park System, we encourage you to take advantage of it.

**Can more than one student participate in any one specific entry?** Absolutely. But one student should be the entrant of record. Filmmaking is a collaborative process. So join forces. Have a buddy interested in cameras? They're now your Camera Operator. Know a fashion diva? There's your Costumer. A great visual artist? They'd be perfect as Production Designer. Even line-up a dedicated Editor if you can. But if you don't have or need that help, don't be afraid to take on several positions yourself. Many great filmmakers have started with just themselves and a camera.

**How do I get the equipment to make my movie?** Be resourceful. Most people have cameras that shoot video, even cell phones (think *Cloverfield*). Editing software is readily available, with iMovie, MovieMaker, even Final Cut Pro and Premiere. If your school has production equipment, take advantage of that as much as their policies allow. If your school doesn't have a Media Arts department, look for people in your community that can help find you equipment to use, including production professionals.

**How will judges pick the Top Ten and the winners?** Judges will look at production value, originality, incorporation of theme and the chosen S.C. State Park, and above all, creativity. The projects that achieve those elements will score the highest, with the judges and the public.

**What if there's not a teacher at my school with a SchoolTube account to approve my entry?** SchoolTube is a wide-spread educational resource, so odds are one of your teachers is familiar with the process and can easily do it. If not, suggest one of your teachers set up an account. Beyond the competition, they'll find it a great source for all sorts of educational and Media Arts activities. If that doesn't work, we can help. Just contact us at [youngfilmmakers@scprt.com](mailto:youngfilmmakers@scprt.com).

**SAMPLES OF H.S. SHORT FILMS:**

Hey, filmmaking is subjective. We know that. But here's a variety of short films made by fellow students that demonstrate some styles, formats, and techniques. Just be sure to find your own filmmaking voice, and to follow the time restraints and other rules of S.C. Young Filmmakers.

**Drama** (*Yet Another Raid*). **PASSWORD:** 2010. **Shot entirely at Givhans Ferry State Park:** <http://www.vimeo.com/29624807>

**Simple Special Effects** (*Invisiboard*): <http://www.schooltube.com/video/f9fa9d7f6dd542af8869/>

**Comedy/Documentary** (*Facebook: One Man's Journey*): <http://www.schooltube.com/video/0057e77d2583441b83cf/Facebook-One-Mans-Journey>

**Animation** (*Claymation Camp*): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=od2V2gQJv-M&feature=related>

**Silent Film** (*Lost & Found*): <http://www.schooltube.com/video/ecc5eb3b51b41178b0f/Lost-and-Found-The-Missing-Gift>

That should be plenty to get you on your way. If you have any other questions, contact the competition anytime at [youngfilmmakers@scprt.com](mailto:youngfilmmakers@scprt.com). Ready? Good. Roll camera. **And...ACTION!**

