Communication Division Guidelines for Short Film

Read the General Information and General Rules.

Registrants in the Communication Division may submit entries in the following categories:
- Short Sermon
- Spoken Word
- Short Film (Grades 6-12)
- Bible Memorization (Grades 3-8)
- Speech –Patriotic
- Speech – Poetry
- Speech – Dramatic Quotation (Grades 6-12)

Guidelines for SHORT FILM

Upper Level only. All Short Film entries will be evaluated prior to the Festival. Results will be available at the Festival. Each Short Film entry must submit a public or unlisted YouTube or Vimeo URL in advance with the registration form to the Festival office prior to the Festival, please reference the registration form for an exact date. Any other form of submission of the Short Film will not be accepted

1. The creation of a Short Film is the art and process of producing a film containing a combination of visual images and sounds to communicate effectively a mood, emotion and/or message by one to ten eligible students.

2. In the Short Film category, the following genres are accepted:
   o Animation
   o Comedy
   o Drama
   o Documentary
   o Experimental
   o Music Video
   o Fiction/Live Action

3. Short Film entries must include the following information in the Video Description on YouTube or Vimeo:
   o Title
   o Participant(s)
   o School name, city

4. Entries in Short Film have a time limit of 5 minutes.

5. The creator(s)/producer(s) of the film must meet the age or grade requirements and must register as participants. Adults may not serve as the primary director(s) or editor(s) of the film being submitted by the participant(s). However, those appearing in the film or supporting the production (actors, grips, lighting, boom operator, etc.) do not need to meet age requirements nor register as participants.

6. Copyright policy: the League of Christian Schools and its subsidiaries are not responsible for assuring that all material included in students' film productions is in compliance with existing copyright laws. It is the responsibility of the students, parents and leaders to be completely legal and ethical in their conduct regarding copyrighted material used to create an entry for the LCSF. Students must obtain either the copyrights or explicit written permission for use of all software, graphics, parodies, recorded music and/or sound files included. See "Copyrighted Material" under General Rules for an additional list of guidelines.

7. Credits must be included and count toward the overall time limit of 5 minutes.

8. Any script or story line must be the original work of the participant(s) and not previously submitted in this festival.

9. Short Film entries must submit a YouTube or Vimeo URL with the registration form.

10. The participant(s) is not required to be present at the Festival. However, the registration form and fee must be submitted by the appropriate deadline.

Short Film Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by LCS Festival including the following:

- **Selection**
  - Christian message – should present a clear Christian message; overtly "religious" subject, symbols, or themes are not required.
  - Appropriate—appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
  - Script development – fresh and creative script; not tired or cliché.

- **Communication**
  - Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
  - Verbal communication – dialogue/narrative flows naturally and communicates effectively while moving the story and message forward.
  - Body communication – actors effectively and believably communicate with body language and facial expression.
  - Directing – choice of camera shots, angles, and movement that help communicate mood and emotion.
  - Music – contributes to mood and helps communicate the message.
  - Imagery – the use of color, reflections, shadows, shapes, or icon images effectively enhance the mood and message.

- **Presentation/Technique**
  - Hook – opening sequence immediately grabs the attention of the audience.
  - Proper framing – camera shots have proper headroom and nose room.
  - Appropriate shot – appropriate shots are used for the specific situation (wide, medium, close-ups, pans, zooms, dolly, crane, etc.).
  - The line of action – shots do not cross the line of action.
  - Lighting – effective use of light; develops mood and nuance.
  - Balanced lighting – consistent lighting with appropriate balance between foreground and background.
  - Color balance – appropriate color/temperature light is used for the specific situation.
  - Flow and pacing – frames flow together into a cohesive story; edits do not cause the story to be jumpy or to drag.
  - Storytelling – shots and the sequence of editing selected for effective storytelling.
  - Transparent editing – edits are unnoticeable and do not detract from the story
  - Color correction – shots in the same scene are similar in color balance, contrast, and appearance.
  - Open/close – title and credits are appropriate for the production.
  - Audio mix – balanced and clearly understood audio; voices and voice-overs can be clearly heard and understood above the music.
  - F/X and Foley – natural and appropriate use of audio and visual effects
  - Wardrobe – wardrobe selections are appropriate for the roles played by the actors as well as scene setting.
  - Setting and set – setting and location for the story being told is appropriate and the set is believable. The set should carry both dimension and depth.

- **Effectiveness**
  - Message effectiveness – evokes a powerful viewer response appropriate to the films message
  - Production effectiveness – an overall cohesiveness of story, casting, production, style and genre.
  - Acting effectiveness – the performance of the actors is effective overall (i.e., were they believable?)
  - Introduction – time, setting, and main characters are quickly revealed.
  - Conflict – conflict clearly established.
  - Plot development – develops towards a climax.
  - Climax – believable plot reaches a climax that resolves the conflict.
  - Resolve – the story ties up loose ends. If the audience is left hanging, it is intended. A hanging end should not be the result of poor scripting.