



# 2016 CEC Film Selection Criteria

Updated August 24, 2016

## Inspire Action Through Film.

**Submissions open August 24 and run through October 15, 2016.**

For the third time, in January 2017 the CEC will host the Wild & Scenic Film Festival on Tour at the River Oaks Theatre. WSFF provides a selection of about 75 short films, from which CEC will choose for the two night showing in January. While most of the films that the CEC chooses to show at the festival have some relevance to the environment in the Houston/Gulf Coast region, none to date have told a local environmental story. WSFF guidelines allow the CEC to show one local film each night, which the CEC has done, featuring films about environmental justice, the Katy Prairie, and the Houston Zoo's efforts to protect the endangered Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle. These films have been among the most meaningful films at the events.

CEC would like to tell local environmental stories, highlight the work of CEC's member organizations, and to inspire our residents and visitors to make a difference in our local environment and quality of life. To that end, in partnership with the Houston Green Film Series, CEC will host a one-night screening of local environmental films in November 2016 to help select the local films that will be shown each night at the January WSFF On Tour. In addition to selecting the local films to include in January, CEC hopes to expose a wider audience to local environmental stories and to honor the top films.

CEC has developed the following criteria that the film selection committee will use to select films for the WSFF showing in January 2017. These criteria are based on the film selection criteria for the WSFF (<https://www.wildandscenicfilmfestival.org/submit/>), but include local emphases.

### Overview

CEC will show environmental and educational films that illustrate the earth's beauty, the challenges facing our planet, and the work communities are doing to protect the environment—with a focus on local environmental stories. Through these films, CEC hopes to inform people about the state of our region and world, and *inspire them to take action*. Films should be no more than seven minutes and must be suitable for the big screen. CEC accepts all films with an environmental theme including documentaries, animation, shorts, features, and narratives. We look for environmental films that are entertaining, educational, and above all inspirational. We want our audiences to be inspired to make a difference in our communities and world. Possible topics might include climate change, biodiversity, water quality, teaching youth, and much more.

### Perks:

If your film is invited to be a part of the fall 2016 selection screening, you will be treated like the VIP that you are! You will receive a variety of perks which include:

- festival passes
- A screening of your film on the big screen
- Marketing of your film in the CEC YouTube page, other social media, the CEC website,

- and in the CEC's email newsletter, which is sent to almost 5000 people
- opportunities to meet with press
- invitation to our Filmmaker Party
- free entry into other CEC events
- and the potential opportunity to be chosen to be part of the January 2017 screening of the Wild & Scenic Film Festival On Tour

If your film is selected to be screened in January, you will have an opportunity to speak briefly about your film.

Attending the November screening is a wonderful opportunity to meet other filmmakers and be a part of a very special event in a very unique town.

Submit by October 15, 2016, to be considered.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

#### **What does it cost to submit a film?**

We encourage you to submit your film early and offer discounted entry fees the earlier you submit.

Early Bird deadline: September 15, 2016: \$10

Regular deadline: September 30, 2016: \$20

Late deadline: October 15: \$30

Entry fees will be used as the basis for cash prizes, although additional funds will be sought to supplement cash prizes.

#### **What type of films are you looking for?**

Educational nature documentaries are always welcome, but does your film stand apart from the rest? Does your film inspire and motivate, as well as entertain and educate?

#### **What film length do you recommend?**

CEC is seeking films that are seven minutes or less. More footage does not necessarily make a better film. If you have a longer version of a film, we will work with you to identify alternative screening opportunities, although we encourage you to edit existing films for inclusion in the festival.

#### **I am an amateur filmmaker. Do you recommend I submit my film?**

We preview films from all levels of filmmaking: accomplished filmmakers to students to novices new in the field.

#### **I have more than one film. Can I submit all of them for consideration?**

Yes, please do! However, each film submitted must pay a submission fee.

#### **Do you present awards?**

Nominal cash prizes, based on entry fees, will be given to select films.

#### **More questions?**

Contact Rachel Powers at [rachel@cechouston.org](mailto:rachel@cechouston.org) or 713-524-4232.

The board of the CEC will, at their sole discretion, select the films to be shown at the November screening, and will select the two films to be shown at the CEC screening of the Wild & Scenic Film Festival on Tour on January 26 and 27, 2017. Response by the audience at the November screening will be considered when selecting the final films. By screening the films, the intent of the CEC is to provide broader exposure to inspiring, local environmental stories told through film.