Pinellas County Student Film Festival (PCSFF)

Rules and Regulations

General Rules

- Every entry must include credits in the video.
- Videos must follow the annual theme unless otherwise noted.
- All participants must be students affiliated with Pinellas County Schools and have a media release on file. Submissions should be the sole work of the students.
- File size limit: 1GB. Preferred format: MP4 (H.264).

Categories (Grade Bands: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12)

- Animation: 2D/3D animation using clay, objects, or models. (5-minute limit)
- Book Trailers: Video advertisement for a book (not required to align with the theme). (2-minute limit)
- Comedy: Humorous story with comedic elements. (5-minute limit)
- Digital Responsibility: A film focused on the topic of Digital Responsibility (not required to align with the theme). (5-minute limit)
- Documentary: Real facts and events. (5-minute limit)
- Drama: Emotional and creative storytelling. (5-minute limit)
- Instructional Video: Educational content. (5-minute limit)
- Music Video: Visuals set to music. Must follow copyright law. (5-minute limit)
- PSA: Public Service Announcement. (60 seconds max)
- Podcast: Audio show. (5-minute limit)

AI Usage Disclosure

If Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools are used in the creation of a student video, this must be clearly acknowledged in the video credits. Transparency in the creative process is essential, and students are required to reflect on their use of AI in the Submission Questions.

Credit Requirements

- Credits must be on screen for at least 5 seconds, either at the beginning or end of the video. This does not count toward the video time limit.
- Include video title, school, and all participants.
- List editing programs used, and any AI tools used (if applicable).
- Cite all sources using MLA format.

Copyright Rules

- Copyright violations will result in disqualification.
- Up to 10% of the video may include copyrighted images (e.g., 5 minutes = 30 seconds).
- All non-original images must be cited in MLA format.
- Copyrighted video or YouTube clips are NOT allowed.
- Satire, likeness, and names (e.g., Marvel fan fiction) are allowed.
- LEGO animations are permitted.
- Only copyright-free music or music with written permission is allowed.
- List music sources in credits with URL and track name.

Submission Questions

1. Brief synopsis/log line.
2. How did you come up with the concept for your video?
3. What are you most proud of in this production and why?
4. What process did you use to create this video (types of cameras, software, effects, etc.)?
5. (If Applicable) Which AI application was used?
6. (If Applicable) How was the AI application used in the production of the video?
7. (If Applicable) Why was the AI application used in the production of the video?

Important Notes

- Rules and guidelines are subject to change. Updates will be communicated.
- Entries must be completed by the due date. No late entries accepted.
- Awards Ceremony will take place in May. Details will be communicated to schools.
- Judging rubric is included below and may be updated.
- For questions, contact Library Media District Personnel.

CLICK HERE TO ENTER

SUBMISSIONS DUE 3/1/2027

PCSFF Judging Rubric Template

This rubric is used to evaluate student film submissions for the Pinellas County Student Film Festival (PCSFF). Each category is scored from 1 (Needs Improvement) to 5 (Excellent). Judges should select the score that best represents the quality of the entry in each category.

Criteria	Score 1	Score 2	Score 3	Score 4	Score 5
Credits & Citations	Do not exist (Disqualification)				Exist
Creativity & Originality	Lacks originality; concept is unclear or copied.	Some original elements but lacks cohesion.	Moderately creative; some unique ideas.	Creative and engaging; mostly original.	Highly original and imaginative; stands out.
Technical Quality (Editing, Sound, Visuals)	Poor quality; distracting errors in editing or sound.	Below average; multiple technical issues.	Adequate; some technical flaws present.	Good quality; minor technical issues.	Excellent technical execution; professional quality.
Storytelling & Structure	No clear story or structure.	Weak story; lacks coherence.	Story is understandable but basic.	Well-structured and engaging story.	Compelling, well-developed story with strong structure.
Theme Integration	Theme is not present or is unclear.	Theme is weakly referenced.	Theme is somewhat integrated.	Theme is clearly integrated.	Theme is central and powerfully conveyed.
Overall Impact	Fails to engage or leave an impression.	Limited impact; lacks emotional or intellectual appeal.	Moderate impact; somewhat memorable.	Strong impact; leaves a positive impression.	Exceptional impact; highly memorable and moving.