

MISSOULA MAKES MOVIES
FESTIVAL RULES

FOOTAGE

1. Your film and all aspects of the filmmaking process must be started and finished within the festival (This is writing, shooting, and editing your film). This filmmaking period is from 12:00pm on Friday, October 9th through 12:00pm on Monday, October 12th.
 - a. Creative preparations before the start of the filmmaking period are not permitted. This includes but is not limited to:
 - i. Writing your story or a screenplay
 - ii. Creating shot lists or storyboards
 - iii. Making props or costumes
 - iv. Set decoration
 - v. Rehearsing with actors
 - vi. Shooting
 - vii. Editing
 - viii. Sound Design
 - b. Some preparations may be made before the filmmaking period. This includes:
 - i. Organizing Cast & Crew and Coordinating Schedules
 - ii. Securing and testing Equipment
 - iii. Scouting/Securing Locations
3. Equipment will not be provided, but we can offer resources about where to borrow equipment and facilities that are available to you.
4. Use of third party music and sound effects is permitted, given that it is in the creative commons and public domain.
5. Sparse and limited use of stock footage or images in the creative commons is allowed. However, we do encourage teams to create as much of their film from scratch as possible.
6. You must have rights to all materials (footage, photos, images, artwork, music etc.) used in your film.
7. Absolutely no AI use is allowed. If your film is suspected of using AI generated material, proof must be provided to the judging team or it will be disqualified. The only exception to this rule being in regards to digital program based technical post-production tasks, such as noise reduction.

8. A signed release form is required for anyone appearing in your film that is not a member of your team. Release forms must be filled out and submitted by all onscreen actors before EOD Wednesday, Oct 14. Otherwise, your film may be disqualified from winning awards or being featured online.
9. You cannot film at a location without permission (with the exception of public spaces)
10. You cannot film people without their permission. With the exception of a shot of unidentifiable people (ex: someone walking by in the background out of focus)

FILMMAKING INVOLVEMENT

1. You must have a minimum of 3 people on your team and a maximum of 8.
2. Your crew is limited to those on your team. No one is allowed to operate equipment outside of your team. You can, however, get general assistance from those outside of the competition. Examples of allowed outside involvement includes:
 - a. Acting
 - b. Providing craft services
 - c. Providing borrowed props, costumes, and locations
3. All costs associated with the production of the entry are solely the responsibility of the entrant.
4. All cast and crew must be volunteers. No one can be paid for their time or work on the film.
5. Certain leeways may be given to accommodate issues that arise in the filmmaking process on a case-to-case basis, given you are in communication with us.

FILM REQUIREMENTS

1. Final films will be judged by film professionals based on a combination of artistic merit (40%), execution in filming and editing (40%), and adherence to rules and special requirements (20%).
2. All films must include special prompts that are drawn at random during the kickoff meeting. This includes a genre, phrase (could be a line of dialogue, or appear prominently in set decoration or on a prop), and 2 props.
3. The finished film must be a minimum of 3 minutes in duration, and a maximum of 12 minutes in duration (including end credits).
4. Final film exports must be in MP4 or MOV format.
5. Films that have finished uploading past the deadline of 10am on Monday, Oct 12 will still be screened at the premiere, but may be disqualified from winning any awards and may not be featured online.

6. These subjects are not permitted in your films:
 - a. On-screen substance abuse
 - b. Guns
 - c. Obscene or pornographic material
 - d. Content that violates applicable laws and regulations
 - e. Copyrighted content
7. The final export of your film must include:
 - a. A 5 second title card including: the title of the film, a list of each crew member
 - b. A premade bumper at the beginning of the film and a bumper at the end.
8. The completed film must not be distributed in any way prior to the premiere screening. This includes uploading the video to any website publicly or screening the film to anyone other than the team.

TIPS

- A. You may run into unexpected issues or long wait periods when exporting and uploading your films. Make sure to factor extra time (at least an hour) into the end of the filmmaking period to account for this.
- B. As you go about filming, have a list of the most important shots that you need to get to make the scene work. Then, if you feel you have extra time, you can add any additional shots you would like to get.
- C. When editing, it's best practice to focus on putting together an assembly cut first. This means simply putting shots together in order and completing the story in the most basic fashion that allows someone to understand the film. If you focus on specifics too early like color correction/grading or adding sound effects, you might not have enough time to complete your edit.
- D. The ratio of time you might want to spend on each level of production might look something like this: 20% of time in story ideation and pre-production, 50% of time in filming, and 30% of time in editing.
- E. Multitask! You can always have a crew member or two split off and work on setting up the next scene, making props, start editing, rehearse with actors, etc., while the rest of the crew films. And work in shifts! Someone might want to stay up at night to edit while the rest of the crew sleeps, and vice-versa.
- F. Check your sound levels as you edit. Make sure that you don't have any audio that is peaking (in the red). A good goal to aim for is to have dialogue between -6 to -12db.
- G. Don't be afraid to ask for help from your friends, crew members, or festival staff. You may end up in a role where you don't have much experience and that's ok! The purpose of the festival is to learn, have fun, and build community.