

# HIGH SCHOOL FILM PROJECT

## Special Olympics Indiana



Stories educate. Stories inspire. Stories unite. To share powerful stories with the community, Special Olympics Indiana is hosting its annual **HIGH SCHOOL FILM PROJECT**. Special Olympics Indiana invites high school students to submit film stipend requests in order to produce films that tell impactful stories of about Special Olympics and our athletes.

The High School Film Project offers financial support for high school students to produce short films. The stipend is designed to offset a portion of costs while films about the lives of persons with intellectual disabilities.

The High School Film Project will offer stipends for production of the short film. A limited number of stipends are available.

Applications will be based on submissions from the official form, located at:

[https://soindiana.formstack.com/forms/hsfilmproject\\_application](https://soindiana.formstack.com/forms/hsfilmproject_application)

All applications received by December 1 will be considered. After December 1, applications will be considered individually to the extent donor funds are still available.

Although this program is not affiliated or endorsed by The Heartland International Film Festival, student producers may consider submitting their films to Indy Shorts International Film Festival presented by Heartland International Film. Call for those submissions is expected in November 2019. Indy Shorts has a high school film competition with substantial monetary prizes. (Submission does not guarantee participation in that program.) Students may also wish to submit to other film festival programs around the country. (Special Olympics Indiana and The Heartland International Film festival are not affiliated with each other.)

If selected, 50% of stipends will be awarded with the application. The remaining stipend will be awarded upon completion and submission of the final film. The deadline for final film submission is April 13, 2020.

Special Olympics may select one or more films to present at events such as Summer Games and other events.

### THE PROJECT SUPPORTS . . .

- The short films should be “high school film festival competition quality”.
- Submissions must be “motion pictures” with real or fictional stories.
- A presentation of photographs with music and narratives does not qualify.
- A film of the following may qualify for support:
  - A film about persons with intellectual disabilities, their families and/or their friends,
  - Featuring actors with intellectual disabilities, and/or
  - Produced by high school students with intellectual disabilities.
- High School Film Project stipends may not cover all production costs.

### FILM DESCRIPTION

- Story telling the transformative power of Special Olympics and Champions Together.
- Nonfiction or fictional film.
- Dramatic or comedic narratives.
- Animated or live-action.
- Under 10 minutes in length.
- Non-English films must be subtitled in English. If using subtitles, make sure subtitles are “Title Safe”.

#### Special Olympics Indiana

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### RULES FOR THE FILMMAKER

- The filmmaker must be a current high school student.
- The filmmaker may seek an adult mentor. However, the mentor may provide advice, equipment, and technology only. The mentor may not participate in the filming or editing process.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

- Applications will be considered, judged, and potentially awarded based on the completion of the official submission form, which includes biographical information, intended film type (narrative, documentary, animation), one-sentence film description, and story outline.
- The film should meet admission standards for the High School Short Film competition of Indy Shorts International Film Festival, presented by Heartland Film.
- The film must feature a person with an intellectual disability in a prominent role, whether filmmaker or cast member or both.
- Requests will be selected based upon the story's ability to educate and inspire.
- The selection committee will be comprised of Special Olympics representatives, including athlete leaders, and invited guest reviewers from outside the organization.

### PROJECT AWARDS

- The High School Film Project will offer stipends for production of the short film.
- A limited number of stipends are available.
- If selected, 50% of stipends will be awarded with the application.
- The remaining stipend will be awarded upon completion and submission of the final film.
- The deadline for final film submission is April 13, 2020.

### RULES FOR SUBMISSION OF FINAL FILMS

- The film must be submitted by April 13, 2020.
- The film must be submitted to a functional streaming video application, such as YouTube, in high definition 720p or 1080p. If the link is password-protected, the password is mandatory.
- The filmmaker must provide a written description of the story. No more than 500 words.
- One digital headshot of the filmmaker and each cast member featured in the story.
- Biography of 50 words or less for the filmmaker and each cast member.
- All music, images, titles, footage, and other copyrighted material used must be properly licensed.
- With submission, the filmmaker is giving Special Olympics Indiana permission to use the film for promotional and educational purposes and the right to submit the film in film festivals. Awards at film festivals are the property of the filmmaker.
- Producers should credit Special Olympics Indiana as a producer, underwriting or contributor.

### SPECIAL OLYMPICS' VISION

Our vision is that sport will open hearts and minds towards people with intellectual disabilities and create inclusive communities all over the world. Within Indiana schools, sport will unite students from diverse backgrounds, create lasting friendships, and provide a safe environment for all to achieve maximum potential.

### ABOUT CHAMPIONS TOGETHER

Champions Together is a collaborative partnership between the Indiana High School Athletic Association and Special Olympics Indiana that promotes servant leadership among student athletes while changing their lives as well as the lives of those with intellectual disabilities.

**Questions? Contact Mike Hasch, Director of Unified Champion Schools, at [mhasch@soindiana.org](mailto:mhasch@soindiana.org).**

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