



Planet911 Youth Film Challenge (YFC) Fall 2020

Earth Day International Film and Media, a Texas non-profit corporation doing business as **EarthxFilm**, in partnership with **EarthX**, **Creative Visions** and the Planet911 Coalition, hereby collectively known as **Planet911YFC Team**, launches its Fall 2020 Planet911 Youth Film Challenge.

The goal of this competition is to provide the tools and platform for the next generation of environmental activists to draw upon their passions and use their creativity to turn awareness into action and thus make a positive impact on our world. We believe your generation will motivate and inspire others of all generations through the power of film. **EarthX**, **EarthxFilm**, **Creative Visions** and **Planet911** offer this challenge for youth ages 10-22 to tell their stories, share their ideas and allow creativity to shine through films that explore these specified environmental themes. The themes for this challenge are Environmental Justice and Voting for a Sustainable Future.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Challenge opens for submissions September 7, 2020

Earlybird Deadline - October 1, 2020

Deadline for Topic 1 - October 15, 2020

Deadline for Topic 2 - December 1, 2020

Peoples' Choice Awards voting starts on October 15

Films must be 50 seconds or less in length and address one of the designated challenge topics:

TOPICS

Challenge Topic #1

Voting for a Sustainable Future

Make a 50 second video to tell your government representatives what is important to you.

If you could sway those in power running for office to pay attention to an environmental issue in your area, which office would you appeal to and what would you ask? Issues can be local, regional, national or global areas of concern.

Identify your elected official, candidate running for any office or the entire government in the country in which you live.

Examples: President, Governor, US Senator, State Representative, Prime Minister, Cabinet Member...

Examples questions:

What are you going to do to protect our water source, such as the Trinity River in Dallas, TX, as an example?

How do you propose to balance the use of Fossil Fuels and protections for our Natural Resources?

How will you protect our National Parks?

How do you propose to protect Biodiversity throughout the region?

What are you doing to incorporate young voices in climate solutions?

What is the government doing to protect endangered species?

What exactly does the government do to address and take action on environmental issues?

Or any question related to protection or balance of our environment, nature, land management and climate crisis concerns.

Eligible youth may enter either or both of the above listed film challenges.

Challenge Topic #2

Environmental Justice

Make a 50 second video to tell us your story.

Examine the circumstances where you live and one environmental impact that you've experienced.

Option 1: Show or tell us the problem and then tell us how it can or should be solved?

Option 2: Show or tell us the problem and then show us how an organization or business is already working to improve the situation.

Use the following questions as a guide or you may focus on any environmental impact that most affects you.

- What is the water quality like in your community?
- Do you have access to fresh fruits and vegetables?
- What is the air quality like in your community?
- Is there illegal dumping, excess litter or toxic waste in your neighborhood or city?

If you or someone you know has been impacted by environmental injustice, use your voice!

PRIZES AND AWARDS

Under each of the listed topics the following awards will be presented at the discretion of the Planet911 team.

Grand Prize Topic 1:

\$1000 Cash Prize to use toward furthering your education.

Runner Up Age 10-16 Topic 1:

\$500 Cash to use toward furthering your education

Runner Up Age 17-22 Topic 1:

\$500 Cash to use toward furthering your education

Grand Prize Topic 2:

\$1000 Cash Prize to use toward furthering your education.

Matching Impact Grant Topic 2:

\$1000 Cash prize to the nonprofit or organization of winner's choice that is part of the solution in the corresponding Topic 2 Film

Runner Up Age 10-16 Topic 2:

\$500 Cash to use toward furthering your education

Matching Impact Grant Topic 2:

\$500 Cash prize to the nonprofit or organization of their choice that is part of the solution in the corresponding Topic 2 Film

Runner Up Age 17-22 Topic 2:

\$500 Cash to use toward furthering your education

Matching Impact Grant Topic 2:

\$500 Cash prize to the nonprofit or organization of their choice that is part of the solution in the corresponding Topic 2 Film

People's Choice Award (formerly Social Media Award)

\$1000 to the film with most social votes - encourage youth to get creative and promote voting for their film through social media - tag EX/P911

Group Cash Awards

Most Motivated School Award

\$1000 to use towards Environmental education, or towards an environmental Justice or environmental improvement project for the School with the Most Entries (5 entry minimum)

Most Motivated Organization Award

\$1000 to use towards environmental education, or towards an environmental Justice or environmental improvement project by the Youth Organization with the Most Entries (5 entry minimum)

Get Out the Vote (GOTV) - GRANT

\$1000 to the GOTV organization with the most entries (Must be non-partisan, and have a verifiable interest in environmental issues with a primary goal to register voters) (5 submission minimum to qualify)

IMPACT AWARD

\$500-1000 - At the discretion of the Planet911 team, one additional award will be given to a youth organization or school to foster work in progress. Award must be used to support work underway on a project highlighted through a submitted film. The Award will be given to a school or organization working to mitigate the issue identified in the submitted film. The cash amount will be determined based on expected impact of the project and other factors.

EARLYBIRD PRIZE

If five or more films have been submitted by the early deadline of October 15, all films submitted by midnight (CDT) on October 15, 2020 will go into a drawing for a prize TBD. The prize will be selected by the Planet911 team. At minimum the prize will include film related equipment with a cash value of up to \$250 or cash equivalent.

Note: Each filmmaker is eligible for only one individual cash prize. Filmmakers may enter more than one film under each topic or films under both topics. Multiple films by a single filmmaker may be selected to be a part of the 25 + finalist films and screened at an awards ceremony either virtually or in a theatre TBA. If one film or one filmmaker wins two cash prizes, the filmmaker will receive the prize at the highest cash value. (As an example, if the same filmmaker wins the People’s Choice Award (valued at \$1000) and the runner up in their age category (valued at \$500) the filmmaker would receive the highest cash prize (valued at \$1000). The purpose for this is to allow more youth to be eligible to receive prizes and be recognized for their accomplishments.

EarthxFilm reserves the right to withhold prizes if no films meet the criteria established in these rules.

PLANET911/EARTHXYOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Filmmakers who enter the Fall 2020 Planet911 Youth Film challenge may be offered the opportunity to participate in the first **Planet911/EarthxYouth Fellowship Program**. Filmmakers receiving invitations will be selected by the Planet911 team with input from participating judges. An essay will be required for consideration.

In partnership with **Creative Visions** and under the Planet911 brand, youth winners will be invited to an educational seminar series. This series will be virtual and scheduled on one

weekday evening or one weekend day, every one to two weeks from January 15 to March 30, 2021. Students will be invited to create a TED-Ed style presentation about a given environmental topic and share it for the first time at Earthx2021 either in person or in a virtual setting TBD.

Experts and educators will work with students and share information and give assignments to include storytelling, scripting, speech writing, interview skills, film tips, speaking tips and more. Speakers will be chosen from among EarthX and Creative Visions staff, EarthxFilm Advisory council, community partners, filmmakers and friends of EarthX. Youth will choose an environmental topic related to the initial assignment and work toward their TED-Ed style presentation. Students will be able to engage in dialogue with experts and each student will have one mentor assigned for the duration of the program or will be given a variety of mentors depending on area of focus and availability of mentors.

All finalists in the Fall 2020 Planet911 Youth Film Challenge will have the opportunity to apply for this inaugural **Planet911/EarthxYouth Fellowship**. Up to 10 Fellows will be chosen. Selection will be made from the top 25 + film finalists and any additional youth specifically recommended by the Planet911 team. Upon being selected as a film finalist, filmmakers will receive a congratulatory email inviting them to apply for the fellowship including requirements and commitments if accepted. Applications will be sent out at that time and will include an essay question.

ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The competition is open to documentary, narrative and animated films. The objectives of this challenge is to:

Encourage the next generation to be environmentally conscious

Challenge young adults to think outside of the box to raise awareness

Promote discussion involving environmental crises

Inspire young leaders to express themselves and explore their creativity using film and social media

Drive young adults to take action, get involved in their communities, vote if eligible and make an impact for a positive future for our planet

OFFICIAL RULES AND SUBMISSION DETAILS

1. Conditions of Entry

Earth Day International Film and Media, a Texas non-profit corporation doing business as **EarthxFilm**, in partnership with **EarthX**, **Creative Visions** and the **Planet911 Coalition**, hereby collectively known as **Planet911YFC Team**, launches its Fall 2020 Planet911 Youth Film Challenge.

By submitting an Entry into this Challenge, each Entrant warrants and represents that the Entrant owns all rights to the Entry he/she is entering in this Competition, including, without limitation, the video or digital recording, and the performance contained in each Submission, with the exception of any assets provided by **the Planet911YFC Team** for use by Entrants in connection with this competition. Each Entrant further warrants and represents that the Entrant has obtained permission from each person who appears in the Entry to grant the rights to **EarthxFilm** and the **Planet911 Coalition** described in these Official Rules and, upon request, will submit copies of such permissions to the **Planet911YFC** team or to **EarthxFilm**. By submitting an Entry, Entrant agrees to the Official Rules, and further agrees to indemnify and hold **the Planet911YFC Team** and their respective affiliates, officers, directors, agents, co-branders, sponsors, or other partners, and any of their employees (collectively, **Planet911YFC Team Indemnities**), harmless from any and all claims, damages, expenses, costs (including reasonable attorneys' fees) and liabilities (including settlements), brought or asserted by any third party against any of **Planet911YFC Team Indemnities** due to or arising out of the Entrant's Entry materials in this Project, or the Entrant's conduct during and in connection with this Project, including but not limited to trademark, copyright, or other intellectual property rights, right of publicity, right of privacy or defamation. Entrant agrees to release, indemnify and hold harmless all parties related to the **Planet911YFC Team** and named above or unnamed from all claims that any advertising, presentation, web content or any other material subsequently produced, presented, and/or prepared by or on behalf of the **Planet911YFC Team** infringes on the rights of Entrant's work as contained in any Entry.

2. Eligibility Requirements:

Anyone within the age requirements may enter. The following are not eligible for juried cash prizes: employees, contractors, directors and officers of **EarthX**, **EarthxFilm**, or **Creative Visions**, their affiliated companies, distributors, web design, advertising, fulfillment, judging and Project agencies involved in the administration, development, fulfillment and execution of this Film challenge. This includes the immediate family members of each (spouse, parent/guardian, child, sibling, grandparent, and spouse or "step" of each) and those living in their same households (those persons whether related or not who live in the same residence for at least three months during the twelve-month period preceding the start date of the **Planet911 Youth Film Challenge**). Outside of the United States, residency requirements may vary. Void where prohibited.

3. To Enter

Films must be submitted via the online application found at **EarthX.org** or **Planet911.org**.

4. Official Filmmaking Period

* Open Call for Films: Monday, September 7, 2020 at 12:01 PM CST

* Final Deadline for Submissions: Topic 1: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 11:59 AM CST

Topic 2: Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 11:59 AM CST

* Deadline to be eligible for Earlybird prizes: Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 11:59 PM CST

5. Filmmaker Agreement

Entrants will be required to agree to the official Rules. If under the legal age of majority in your state of residence, your parent or legal guardian must agree on your behalf.

By submitting, The Entrant agrees to these Official Rules, which sets forth the rights of Entrant and **EarthX, EarthxFilm, Creative Visions** and the entire **Planet911YFC Team** with respect to the use of Entries by the **Planet911YFC Team**. Entries that do not include all required information and adhere to the foregoing and following requirements will be considered void and will not be considered for prizes in this Project or for inclusion on the **EarthX** website, social media or YouTube page, or the **Planet911** website or social media channels.

6. Production Costs

All costs associated with the production of the Entry are solely the responsibility of the Entrant.

7. Basic Requirements of the Fall 2020 Planet911 Youth Film Challenge

Films may be of any genre but need to be based on the provided topics.

All content submitted must be original or fall under Fair Use guidelines. This includes but is not limited to, footage, photo stills, animation, music, dialogue, and other creative means.

Entries must adhere to the rules and guidelines of this competition including:

- Follow prescribed topics
- Be of reasonable video and audio quality
- Be :50 seconds or less
- Films may be housed on YouTube/Vimeo/google drive/dropbox or any other platform but must be submitted with a downloadable link
- Single submitter - (1 person must be the official entrant to represent any project made by a group)
- Must be produced and submitted by youth ages 10-22 years old
- Entry form must be filled out completely
- **All films must have a Title listed on the Application and preferably in a graphic at the beginning of the submitted video. (Title should be no longer than three words)**

8. Designated Filmmaker

If any group of individuals elects to collaborate on an Entry, they are required to designate one (1) person as the agent or Project Producer of the group to enter their film. They must agree to these Official Rules and to the designated Project Producer, and the Project Producer must agree to accept the prize on behalf of the group. The **Planet911YFC Team** is not liable for any disputes between collaborators arising out of or related to any film entry.

In the individual age categories, for those participating in a group, the student whose name appears as the primary contact on the Entry Form will be considered “The Producer” and will be the primary point of contact for the film project.

9. Selection of Winners

With the exception of the Most motivated awards and the People’s Choice Award, winners will be selected by a panel of judges – drawn from filmmakers, educators and experts in the respective film topic. The decisions of the judges will be final.

Cash prizes and equipment are among the awards to be presented to the winners.

In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken at the discretion of the **Planet911YFC Team**. Entrants agree that the **Planet911YFC Team** has the sole right to decide all matters and disputes that may arise and all decisions of the **Planet911YFC Team** are at its sole discretion and final.

Entries will be judged by a process in which qualified panels of judges will evaluate the eligible entries based on the following judging criteria:

- **Adherence to Topic**
- **Artistic Merit (e.g., Story, Creativity, Entertainment Value)**
- **Technical Merit**
- **Impact**

Prize recipients who win cash prizes of a higher value than \$600 will be asked to provide a W-9 and will be responsible for any taxes associated with the prizes. If an entrant who wins a cash prize higher than \$600 does not provide a W-9, they will still be recognized as a winner but will not receive their prize money. The **Planet911YFC Team** reserves the right not to award all prizes in all categories; and any partner of the **Planet911YFC Team** reserves the right not to screen, stream, televise or share a winning video.

10. General Conditions

By participating, Entrant agrees to these Official Rules. These official rules will be governed and interpreted according to the laws of the state of Texas without regard to its conflict of laws rules.

11. Limitations of Liability and Release

No liability or responsibility is assumed by the **Planet911YFC Team** resulting from any user's participation in or attempt to participate in the Fall 2020 YFC Planet911 Challenge or ability or inability to upload or download any information in connection with participating in the Challenge. No responsibility or liability is assumed by any of the aforementioned entities for technical problems or technical malfunction arising in connection with any of the following occurrences which may affect the operation of the Entry or submitted film. This includes hardware or software errors; faulty computer, telephone, cable, satellite, network, electronic, wireless or Internet connectivity or other online communication problems; errors or limitations of any Internet service providers, servers, hosts or providers; garbled, jumbled or faulty data transmissions; failure of any e-mail transmissions to be sent or received; lost, late, delayed or intercepted e-mail transmissions; inaccessibility of the web site in whole or in part for any reason; traffic congestion on the Internet or the website; unauthorized human or non-human intervention of the operation of the **Fall 2020 Planet911 Youth Film Challenge**, including without limitation, unauthorized tampering, hacking, theft, virus, bugs, worms; or destruction of any aspect of the submitted film, or loss, miscount, misdirection, inaccessibility or unavailability of an email account used in connection with the film submitted. The aforementioned entities are furthermore not responsible for any typographical errors in the announcement of prizes or these Official Rules, or any inaccurate or incorrect data contained on the website or social media sites maintained by the **Planet911YFC Team or any related entities**. Use of any of the related websites and/or social media sites is at user's own risk. The **Planet911YFC Team** is not responsible for any personal injury or property damage or losses of any kind which may be sustained to user's or any other person's computer equipment resulting from participation in The **Fall 2020 Planet911 Youth Film Challenge**, use of the Websites or the download of any information from any of the associated Websites. By participating in **Fall 2020 Planet911 Youth Film Challenge**, Entrant agrees to release, indemnify and hold the **Planet911YFC Team** harmless from any and all claims, damages or liabilities arising from or relating to such Entrant's participation in **Fall 2020 Planet911 Youth Film Challenge**.

12. Winners

Winners will be contacted directly and their films may be posted online at www.EarthX.org, and/or www.planet911.org, and across **EarthX's**, **EarthxFilm's** and **Planet911's** social media platforms.

13. Additional Requirements.

- **To be complete, all applications must include the following:** Film Title, Submitter's Name, Submitter's Email, Submitters Age, Grade, School Name if applicable, City, State and Zip code. If under the age of 18, application must include Parent or Guardians' Name, Email and Signature of permission for entry. **All of these elements must be valid, or any prizes may be forfeited.**

- **All films must have a Title listed on the Application and preferably in a graphic at the beginning of the submitted video. The Title should be 1-3 words in length and EarthX,**

EarthxFilm, Creative Visions or Planet911 should NOT be included in the wording of the film title.

- All Films must be downloadable to be accepted and may not be posted on the internet until after June 1, 2021 accept by **EarthX, EarthxFilm or Planet911** or their representatives.

14. Confirmation of Entry

Each entrant will receive a confirmation of Entry once the application form has been accepted and the film submitted is verified by the **Planet911YFC Team** and has been successfully downloaded to our platform to meet acceptable audio and video standards so that we can appropriately view and hear your film. If your film does not load properly, your film will not be accepted, and you will not receive a confirmation. Please be sure the email you provide on the application is correct. If you believe you have submitted your film and have not received a confirmation of submission, please send an email to earthling@EarthxFilm.org. Put "**Planet911 Fall 2020 YFC**" in the subject.

15. Questions

Questions about the video challenge may be addressed to earthling@EarthxFilm.org. For any related correspondence please put "**Planet911 YFC Question**" in the subject line.

16. Project Organizer

Earth Day International Film & Media DBA, **EarthxFilm**, 4311 Oak Lawn Avenue, Suite 300, Dallas, TX 75219