

CARSON CITY SHORTS
OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS AND RULES

REVISED MAY 3, 2024

A. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

1. Register your team. A team may be as few as one person and as many people as you would like.
2. Online registration closes 15-minutes before the competition begins.
3. If a team withdraws from the competition, no refunds of registration fees will be given.
4. Only one film per registration fee. If a team wants to submit a second film, they must pay an additional registration fee.
5. Each team must have a designated team leader, in case Silver State needs to contact the team during the competition.
6. Prompts will be emailed to the registered teams at 12:00 Noon on the day the competition begins. Prompts will include a prop, a sound effect, and a line of dialogue.
- Prompts must be included in all submitted films.
7. Prompts are an important part of the challenge. The judges will look for effective and creative inclusion of the prompts and score accordingly. Additional points will be granted for the impactful use of prompts. If any prompts are missing from a submitted film, that film may still be shown at the screenings but will not be eligible for awards.
8. Teams have exactly 2-weeks to make a short film. Films are due at 12:00 PM two weeks from the date the competition begins.
9. No extensions will be given under any circumstances.

B. COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL.

1. Original music is encouraged. If utilizing an artist's song besides your own, you must secure the rights and permissions from that artist and, if applicable, their publishing company. Check out our Resources page for links to open-source music libraries. You must credit those sources accordingly in your film credits. If you are using a subscription-based service such as Art-list you must provide a copy of your payment for your subscription along with a list of songs or Assets that you used.

2. Submitted films may not include copyrighted material unless the team has express permission from the copyright holder to use said material. Teams must provide proof of any such permission. The term "copyrighted material" includes, but is not limited to, music, video clips, literary works and any other material created by anyone other than the team.

3. By submitting a film, the team agrees to these Official Rules, and further agrees to indemnify and hold Silver State Storytellers harmless from any claims, damages, expenses, costs (including reasonable legal fees) and liabilities (including settlements), brought or asserted by any third party against any of Silver State Storytellers due to or arising out of the team's film, including but not limited to trademark, copyright, or other intellectual property rights, right of publicity, right of privacy or defamation.

4. If you're considering using material that originated from outside your team and aren't sure about the copyright concerns, please contact Silver State Storytellers for clarification. Simply checking websites like creativecommons.org, archive.org and other public domain information sites does not mean that a work is free from copyright claims.

C. CONTENT WARNING.

1. Silver State Storytellers welcomes diverse storytelling and respects filmmakers' creative expressions. **Films that include more sensitive or adult subject matter will be scheduled for our evening time-slot, while those with more family-friendly content will be shown in the matinee time slot.** All films must include a trigger warning if they contain strong language, violence, or gore. **Films with tasteless nudity will be disqualified.** Our review committee will assess all films, aiming to provide a platform for all storytellers whenever possible. If you have any questions regarding the content of your film, please contact info@nvstorytellers.org.

Example Trigger Warning:

This film contains scenes depicting violence and may be distressing to some viewers. Viewer discretion is advised.

2. Films will be reviewed by a Review Committee upon submission. Any content deemed inappropriate may be grounds for disqualification. The Review Committee will also look for copyright concerns.

3. The expectation is that all screenplays will be well-written and adhere to these rules. Screenplays may contain occasional swearing to further the story and maintain character behavior. However, the judges in their sole discretion may disqualify a submitted film that contains excessive swearing.

4. In the event you have any strobing effects, you need to add a warning at the beginning of your film as some audience members may be sensitive to light patterns. Below is an example of such a warning:

Content Warning: Strobe Effects

This content contains visual effects, such as rapid flashing or flickering lights, which may trigger seizures or cause discomfort for individuals with photosensitive epilepsy or other similar conditions. Viewer discretion is advised, and it is recommended to proceed with caution or avoid, if susceptible to such effects.

D. TECHNICAL DETAILS.

1. Accepted file formats include MP4 and MOV, with a maximum file size of 2 GB and a resolution of 1080x1920. If you're having trouble exporting your film in the correct format, please contact info@nvstorytellers.org for assistance.
2. Submitted films must be between 5- and 9-minutes long, including all credits. Points will be deducted if your film falls short of the minimum or exceeds the maximum.
3. All costs associated with making a film for the competition are solely the responsibility of the filmmakers.
4. Incomplete films, or films considered work-in-progress, will not be judged. Silver State Storytellers reserves the right to determine if an incomplete film will or will not be shown at the screenings.
5. Teams will be provided with talent and crew releases, music releases, location releases, and other important paperwork. All paperwork must be completed and submitted with your film. Forms will be attached to the prompts email at the start of the competition. If we do not receive your paperwork, your film cannot compete for awards and will not be shown at the screenings.
6. If a team fails to submit required paperwork with their film, that film may still be screened, but it will not be eligible for awards. Silver State Storytellers will make an effort to contact any team that has not submitted their paperwork, but ultimately this is the responsibility of the filmmakers.
7. All films and paperwork must be delivered online using our submission portal. If you have trouble submitting your files via the submission portal, please contact info@nvstorytellers.org for assistance.
8. Silver State Storytellers assume no responsibility or liability for issues or malfunctions arising in connection with any of the following events which may impact the operation of the competition: a) hardware or software errors; b) faulty computer, telephone, cable, satellite, network, electronic, wireless or Internet connectivity or other online communication problems; c) errors or limitations of any Internet service providers, servers, hosts or providers; garbled, jumbled or faulty data transmissions; d) failure of any email transmissions to be sent or received; e) lost, late, delayed or intercepted email transmissions; f) inaccessibility of the competition Facebook page in whole or in part for any reason; g) traffic congestion on the Internet; h) unauthorized human or non-human intervention of the operation of the competition, including without limitation, unauthorized tampering, hacking, theft, virus, bugs, and worms; i) or destruction of any aspect of the competition, including loss, miscount, misdirection, inaccessibility or unavailability of email accounts used by the competition.

F. MISCELLANEOUS.

1. These Official Instructions and Rules may be changed at any time and without notice, by Silver State Storytellers. Reasonable efforts will be made to inform the teams of any changes in these Official Instructions and Rules that occur during the competition.