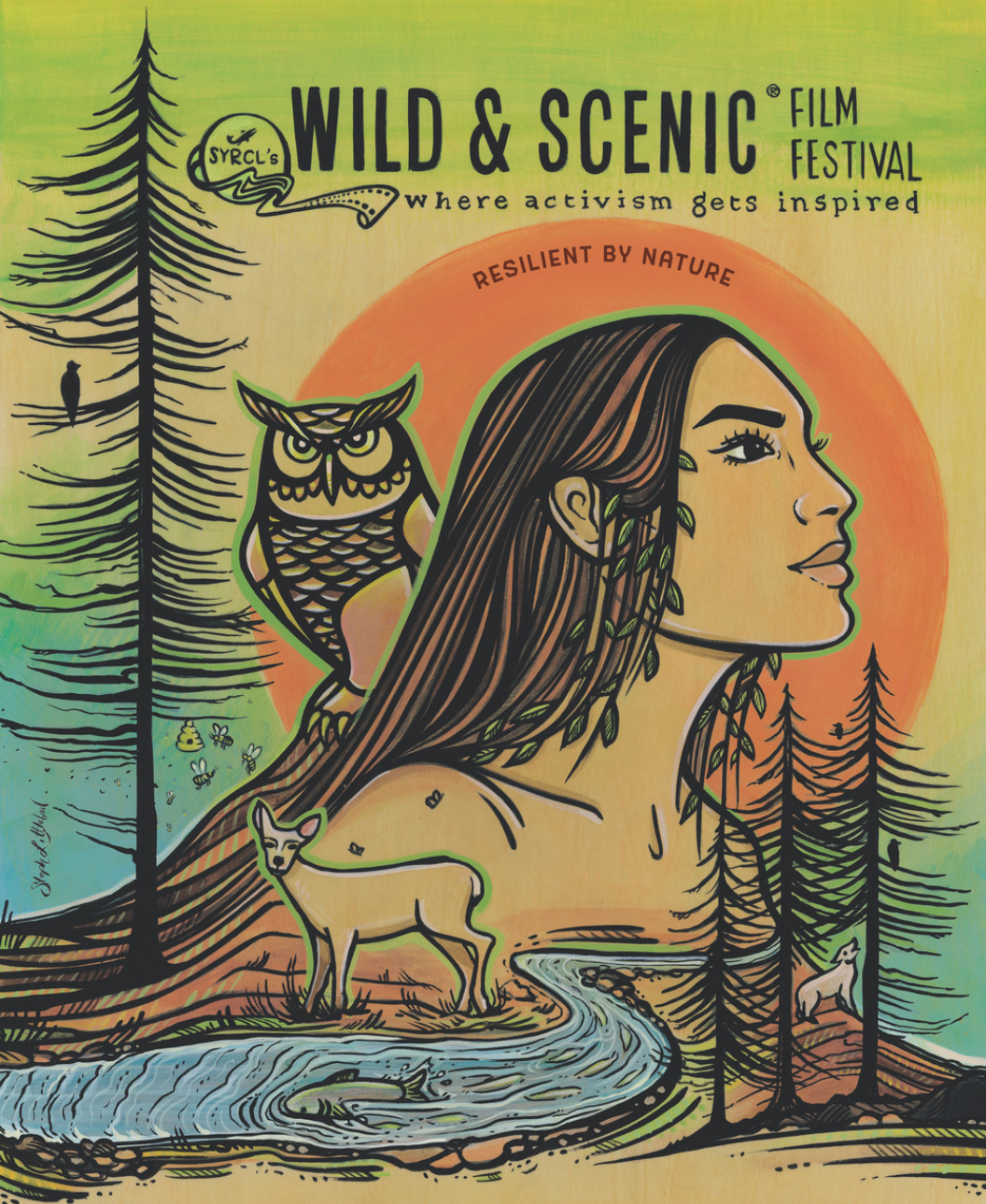




WILD & SCENIC[®] FILM FESTIVAL

where activism gets inspired

RESILIENT BY NATURE



2021 Wild & Scenic Film Festival On Tour School Program

Grades 5-8 Curriculum





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Dear Educators and Families,

Thank you for participating in the 2021 Wild & Scenic Film Festival On Tour School Program! The mission of our program is to inspire activism, and we hope these lessons empower your students to take an essential role in transforming their local ecosystems and communities for the better.

As we know this past year has been a challenging one for all, but especially for educators, families, and students, the shift towards Distance Learning during the COVID-19 pandemic has been such a huge lift for so many schools.

Our Wild & Scenic Film Festival and River Education Teams applaud all the incredible and resilient efforts of these educators, families, and students. Just as teachers are designing new models of learning, our River Education Team has worked to adapt our Wild & Scenic Film Festival School Program Curriculum to work towards a common vision of sparking a love of learning and nature for all students.

This curriculum brings our mission into virtual classrooms, homes, and wild spaces across multiple subject areas for 5th-8th graders, and is intended to help enrich the Wild and Scenic experience for teachers, students, and families.

This curriculum is designed as a unit, focused on a central theme from our films: inspiring youth to learn about the natural world, and how they can apply their unique talents to make a difference! It includes:



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- Pre-Screening Talking Points: Designed to prep your students and spark their curiosity before engaging with the films.
- Post-Screening Activity: Designed to bring out the creativity in your young environmentalist or artist. Science does a pretty good job of telling us what the world is, but sometimes, lacks the tone for how to think or feel about it- that's where the art comes in!
- Common Core Standards Outline: This resource highlights grade-level specific Common Core Next Generation Science Standards that align with the corresponding talking points and activities.

Through these films and activities, we hope your students will cultivate a love for exploring the outdoors and feel inspired to protect those wild places and ecosystems they love most.

If you have any questions about the curriculum, feel free to contact our team. We thank you again for your participation in and support of the 2021 Wild & Scenic Film Festival On Tour School Program! We hope this curriculum helps your students to be the next generation of conservation activists and climate change resiliency leaders!

Sincerely,

Ray Lubitz & Shannon Hedge (SYRCL's River Education Team)

Contact: theresa@wildandscenicfilmfestival.org



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PRE-SCREENING TALKING POINTS*

*These talking points are designed to support educators in prepping students to watch the films. You may personalize as you see fit, but the hope is to take some of the guesswork out regarding the themes and issues covered in the films.

You'll also notice we left the amount of days blank in which you'll have your student(s) watch the films. This is so you have the option to tailor the screening window timeline to your unique needs. You can give students 1 day, 2 days, 5 days - whatever works for your classroom or household!

Intro to the Films

"Over the next _____ day(s), we have a really cool opportunity to watch films featuring unique wildlife and ecosystems that need our protection! We'll also hear from scientists, athletes and leaders - some of whom are around your age - who love the natural world! How many of you love playing outside or exploring nature?!"

"These scientists, athletes and young leaders, from all over the world, are going to share their stories about what inspires them, and why they feel it's important to protect our wildlife, ecosystems and natural resources! Why do YOU feel it's important to protect nature?"

Watching the Films: Guiding Questions

"Before we watch these films, I'm going to ask you all some questions that I want you think about, and that I hope you'll have some answers to, as I want to hear what you all are thinking, feeling and are curious about, or inspired by, after we finish the films!"



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There are seven short films in this screening and the whole screening lasts for 56 minutes.

As we're watching the films, let's ask ourselves:

- Getting Inspired: What is one topic, place or ecosystem you already loved and are inspired by from the films? For example, if you loved the film about bees, why do you find bees special?
- Digging Deep: What is one topic, ecosystem, animal or environmentalist you want to learn more about from the films?
- Getting Going: What film or films left you the most inspired or excited? What is one thing you're feeling inspired to do to protect our environment, now that you've seen so many other young environmentalists doing the same?

Enjoy the Films!





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POST-SCREENING ACTIVITY: CREATE YOUR OWN WILD & SCENIC STORY!

Talking Points

"You don't need to wait until you're older to make a difference- you can make a difference now! Often times, the most impactful change can come when we channel our unique passions, talents and strengths to areas where we want to make a difference!"

For example, fourteen-year-old Ta'Kaiya Blaney from the Tla'amin First Nation in British Columbia has cared about the environment as long as she can remember. She's been singing since the age of four, and her songs about the environment have already gone viral*

*Check out this video of Ta'Kaiya [here](#).

You now have the chance to create your own Wild & Scenic story in whatever way you want to channel your creativity!

A Few Ideas To Help Students Get Started



Create your own environmentally themed poem. Check out [this beautiful poem](#) written by Aradhita, a 12 year old girl from Uttar Pradesh, India



With a friend or family member, shoot your own environmentally themed short film. You can even submit your film to future Wild & Scenic Film Festival School Programs- we've included student films before, and thousands of young people have gotten the chance to see them!



Create an environmentally themed piece of art! This could be a drawing, painting, sculpture, photograph, or even a mosaic made of natural materials - whatever medium you find most interesting! Check out these [Student Art Pieces from our 2020 Fest!](#)



Create an environmentally themed song! Some of the most impactful social change has come from musicians and songwriters inspiring others with their music. Need some inspiration yourself? Check out this hauntingly [beautiful song from One Republic](#), written from the earth's perspective!

Don't let your amazing stories, works of art, and creativity go unheard or unshared - be sure to share it with your teacher, friends, family, or even with us here at the Wild & Scenic Film Festival!

If you do want to share your work with the festival, your teacher can reach out to us through our [website](#).



Common Core Standards

Grade 5

5-LS2-1. Develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment.

Grades
6-8

MS-LS2-4. Construct an argument supported by empirical evidence that changes to physical or biological components of an ecosystem affect populations.

MS-LS2-1. Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence for the effects of resource availability on organisms and populations of organisms in an ecosystem.

We hope you enjoyed the films and feel inspired to take action to protect our beloved ecosystem and wildlife!

