

## Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society

# Guidelines for 2008 Student Science Short Film Competition

**Subject:** Water

Water is among the most crucial issues in science, society, policy, technology and ethics facing the world today. Surface water, ground water, fresh water, oceans, ice caps, desalinization, distribution, health, ecosystems, hydrological cycles, climate change, carbon emissions, science, space — topics are limited only by your imagination.

**Audience:** Your film must communicate scientific ideas in a manner that the public can grasp and understand.

**Criteria:** Films will be evaluated for the quality of their production and for the accuracy and depth of the scientific ideas they present. They can be witty, amusing, entertaining and outright funny, but they must be well-made, educational and informative, and they must be rooted in science.

**Eligibility:** To participate, you must be an undergraduate or graduate student. You may enter as an individual or as a team. Either you or a member of your team must be a member of Sigma Xi. (For additional information on membership, contact [membership@sigmaxi.org](mailto:membership@sigmaxi.org) or go to <http://www.sigmaxi.org/member/join/index.shtml>.) This is a student film competition, and students are expected to do the majority of shooting, writing, direction, editing, narration and scoring.

**Awards:** Cash awards of \$1,000, \$800 and \$500 will be made to the top three entries respectively, and the winning films will be screened at the Sigma Xi annual meeting November 20 to 23, 2008, in Washington, D.C. Travel costs (airfare, 2 nights lodging, per diem) will be provided by Sigma Xi for individual awardees or a maximum of two members if you are entering as a team.

**Judging:** Entries will be screened by Sigma Xi. Those films that are the highest ranked will be forwarded to a panel of students in the sciences and engineering as well as distinguished scientists and science communicators.

**Deadline:** Submissions must be received at the following address by October 1, 2008, 5:00 PM EDT:

Sigma Xi  
The Scientific Research Society  
Attn: Director of Marketing and Communications  
3106 East NC Highway 54  
P.O. Box 13975  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

**Entry Fee: NONE**

**Format:** All submissions must be on a DVD disk. Submit FIVE DVD copies of your film. We will accept your film submission on DVD only, regardless of original shooting format. No films will be returned, so please keep a copy. DVDs must be playable on U.S. consumer grade DVD players in format playable for Region Code 1 (North America) or Region Code 0 (universal). If you wish to record other digital film formats on your disk, that is acceptable as long as all versions fit on a single disk and at least one plays on a consumer grade DVD player. Do not include labels or stickers on the DVD. You may use a printable DVD or a black Sharpie pen to write your name and email address on the DVD. Foreign language films are acceptable only if subtitled or dubbed in English. Do not send English translated scripts with your film. We reserve the right to ask for resubmissions. Submissions that do not follow these technical requirements will not be judged.

Entries may be scripted or candid, fictionalizations, live film or animation or any combination thereof.

With your entry, please provide a still photo of you and your crew or team.

**Length:** Film Length: All films must have a total running time of 3 minutes or less (not including credits).

**Copyright:** Your film may not contain any copyrighted material (music or film, for example). You must include a statement in writing with your submission asserting that the film does not include copyrighted material.

**Permissions**

All entry materials will be kept for use in whole or in part, without restriction or fee, by Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, or any possible sponsors of this competition.

Questions? Contact [meetings@sigmaxi.org](mailto:meetings@sigmaxi.org)

