

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival was started in 2003 by the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL, pronounced 'circle'), a nonprofit river conservation organization located in Nevada City, CA in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains. The organization was formed in 1983 when a small group of concerned citizens banded together to fight against several proposed dams. The festival's namesake is in celebration of achieving Wild & Scenic status on 39 miles of the South Yuba River in 1999. The festival celebrates its annual event in Nevada City and Grass Valley, CA each January featuring more than 100 award-winning films and welcoming filmmakers, celebrities, and activists who bring a human face to the environmental movement.

SYRCL's Wild & Scenic Film Festival is a call to action! Films can serve as a potent tool to educate and inspire activism and growth, and Wild & Scenic is committed to offering programming that addresses environmental injustice, racism, and inequity as well as lack of representation in the outdoors and environmental movements. The films chosen by WSFF illustrate not only the challenges facing our planet but the work communities are doing to protect the environment and the places we love. The stories give us a sense of place and what it means to be responsible stewards of the earth.

Once the curtain closes in Nevada City and Grass Valley, SYRCL shares their success with other organizations by taking the film festival On Tour to nearly 200 communities across the continent. The tour, now reaching over 65,000 people a year, is building a grassroots network of organizations connected by a common goal of using film to inspire activism. The festival's seven National Partners: Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Tangled Bank Studios, Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, Earthjustice, American Rivers, and Nia Impact Capital have joined together to support this campaign. They help to bring these inspiring and provocative films to communities across the globe.

Enjoy the festival!



For more information about
Wild & Scenic's flagship festival and SYRCL:
wildandscenicfilmfestival.org
yubariver.org

Thank you to our National Partners:



PROGRAM

When It Comes from the Earth, 2023

Film Maker: Katalin Egely

Length: 4:00

Argentinian music band *Canticuénticos* always chooses very important topics for children and families, sometimes not easy ones but always with lots of sensibility. The film's Colombian cumbia-based song has an important educational goal talking about the connection between nature and humans. The conclusion is simple: if we do good things for nature, it will be also good for us. The traditional papercut animation also shows practical steps to reach harmony.

6000 Miles, 2024

Film Maker: Masha Karpoukhina

Length: 10:57

A mini-documentary on CalWild's ambitious goal to permanently protect 6,000 miles of wild and scenic rivers in California. In *6,000 Miles*, Kayla Lopez, a multifaceted artist and river activist, and Steve Evans, the impassioned Wild Rivers Director at CalWild, offer an exciting and educational exploration of California's wild rivers, blending expertise and passion to illuminate the essence and threats to our precious waterways. Their journey unfolds a narrative transcending advocacy, revealing the intricate connection and profound significance of preserving wild rivers.

The Beauty Between, 2024

Film Maker: Austin Mock, Director

Length: 5:10

Utah's Great Salt Lake is often overlooked and misunderstood. Through her passion for wildlife photography, Mary Anne Karren unexpectedly fell in love with the lake's unique landscape and the 10 million birds that rely on it. She now uses her photography to bring attention to the lake's dire situation to save it.

To Be Rich, 2024

Film Maker: Erika Bolstad

Length: 10:02

In *To Be Rich*, journalist Erika Bolstad inherits mineral rights. Then, she sets out for North Dakota to confront the legacy of extractive industries in the American West. The film envisions a new form of mapping that reconsiders what it means "to be rich."

Black Like Plastic, 2023

Film Makers: Graciela Cabello, Christopher Ragland

Length: 24:00

Black Like Plastic highlights some of the inequities that exist in the Black community in relation to the environment. Locally produced and created, the story is shot on California's Central Coast. Chris Ragland, founder of The Sea League, narrates the film which brings to light the connection between access, outdoor recreation, and advocacy.

Mount St. Helen's: A Fire Within, 2024

Film Maker: Rory Banyard

Length: 11:00

This film tells a story of transformation, showcasing the mountain's beauty before the 1980 eruption, the devastation that followed, and the ongoing regeneration. With stunning visuals and personal narratives, it invites viewers to reflect on their relationship with Mount St. Helens and the power of nature's forces.

INTERMISSION

Forward, 2024

Film Maker: Palmer Morse

Length: 16:26

While navigating a myriad of life challenges, Anjelica turned to the outdoors to improve her mental health, only to discover a noticeable lack of other plus-size women of color on the trail. By posting a flier simply looking for more women to hike with, Anjelica created a community she never could have imagined.

Paddle Tribal Waters, 2024

Film Maker: Ruth Sturges

Length: 9:00

When the largest dam removal project in history begins, a group of Indigenous youth learns to whitewater kayak in hopes of becoming the first people to paddle the restored river from source to sea.

Brave Girl, 2024

Film Maker: Mark Pedri

Length: 7:51

Brave Girl is the story of a strong young adventurer who, with the help of her grandpa, is beginning her journey to find out what it takes to climb mountains. Even though she's only 6, she has an unwavering ambition to climb the biggest mountains in the world—starting with the ones in her backyard in Wyoming.

The Quest to Save Parasites, 2024

Film Maker: Emily Driscoll

Length: 11:03

A vast unseen world of parasites has evolved along with wildlife—they're the "dark matter" of ecosystems. These parasites have evolved with their hosts over millions of years and are in a delicate balance with nature. And according to researchers, in some cases these parasites need to be treated as endangered species.

Inseparable Skye, 2023

Film Maker: Palmer Morse

Length: 15:00

For time immemorial, climbing has been a traditional activity for Kanaka Maoli. While history shows Native Hawaiians climbed over mountains and scrambled rocks to trade goods and exchange information with their neighbors, today few practice climbing actively. For Skye Kolealani Razon-Olds, climbing is a way to connect with her ancestors.