



**Ministry of Tourism
& Trade Development**
Cayman Islands Government

CAYMAN ISLANDS
GRAND CAYMAN | CAYMAN BRAC | LITTLE CAYMAN



INTERNATIONAL SCUBA DIVING HALL OF FAME (ISDHF)

2026 SENIOR FILM COMPETITION

INFORMATION PACKET



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INTRODUCTION

The International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame (ISDHF) was established in 2000 by the Cayman Islands Ministry of Tourism. As a pioneering leader in dive travel and a premier global destination for divers, the Cayman Islands was the natural choice to serve as the home of a hall of fame dedicated to honouring individuals who have made significant contributions to the sport of scuba diving.

In continuation of previous years, the Educational Symposium initiative will once again be offered to secondary school students across Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac. The symposium, held in the days leading up to the induction ceremony, will feature presentations by ISDHF inductees to Year 10 and Year 11 students from both public and private schools throughout the islands.

As part of the 2026 celebrations and youth engagement initiatives, the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism is launching the 2026 ISDHF Senior Film Competition to encourage students to creatively explore marine conservation, ocean awareness, and the relationship between people and the sea through film and digital storytelling.

The competition invites young filmmakers to produce engaging and original films inspired by one of two competition themes centered around ocean conservation, sustainability, marine ecosystems, and the future of our oceans.

OBJECTIVE

The 2026 ISDHF Senior Film Competition seeks to:

- Encourage youth participation in tourism, environmental, and cultural initiatives.
- Promote awareness of ocean conservation and marine protection efforts.
- Inspire creativity and storytelling through film and digital media.
- Showcase the talents of young Caymanian filmmakers.
- Encourage meaningful discussions surrounding the protection and sustainability of marine ecosystems.

GOALS

- To educate young people about the importance of marine conservation.
- To support the development of creative media and digital storytelling skills.
- To encourage appreciation for Cayman's marine biodiversity and ecosystems.
- To inspire environmental awareness and responsibility through artistic expression.



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BENEFITS

- Increase appreciation for the marine environment and the importance of ocean conservation.
- Development of artistic expression, storytelling, filming, and research skills.
- Recognition of students' creative work on a national platform.
- Opportunity for young filmmakers to have their work featured at high-profile tourism events.

COMPETITION THEMES

Participants are required to select one (1) of the following themes for their film submission:

1. Parallel Lives

What stories exist beneath the surface of the ocean? For this challenge, create a short film exploring the idea of Parallel Lives — the hidden worlds, creatures, and ecosystems living alongside us underwater.

Your film may be documentary, narrative, experimental, or animated in style and should creatively explore the connections between human life and life beneath the sea. Participants are encouraged to showcase marine biodiversity, underwater ecosystems, conservation efforts, or the relationship between people and the ocean environment.

2. The World We Inherit

The ocean is one of the most important ecosystems on Earth, and future generations will inherit the impact of the choices we make today.

Create a short film inspired by The World We Inherit, exploring themes such as ocean conservation, climate change, marine pollution, sustainability, marine life protection, or hope for the future of our oceans. Films should encourage awareness, responsibility, and positive action toward protecting the marine environment for generations to come.



COMPETITION RULES & GUIDELINES

Eligibility: Open to filmmakers ages 13–17 in the Cayman Islands. Participants may enter individually or as a team of two (2).

Theme: Participants must choose one (1) approved competition theme:

- Parallel Lives
- The World We Inherit

Films should clearly reflect the selected topic throughout the production and demonstrate creativity, originality, and relevance to ocean conservation and marine awareness.

Participants are encouraged to creatively interpret their chosen theme while highlighting the importance of protecting marine ecosystems and preserving the sustainability of our oceans.

1. FILM REQUIREMENTS

- Maximum Duration: 5 minutes (including titles and credits)
- Minimum Duration: No minimum, but films should present a complete story
- Format: Horizontal (landscape) only
- Resolution: Minimum 1920 x 1080 (Full HD, no larger than 4K)
- Frame Rate: 24fps, 25fps, or 30fps (must remain consistent)
- Aspect Ratio: 16:9

2. FILE DELIVERY

- File Format: .MP4 or .MOV
- Video Codec: H.264 (preferred) or ProRes
- Audio Codec: AAC or PCM
- Maximum File Size: Suggested maximum of 2GB
- File Naming Convention: FilmTitle_DirectorName.mp4

3. AUDIO REQUIREMENTS

- Clear and audible dialogue (if applicable)
- Background music must not overpower dialogue
- No excessive distortion or clipping
- Recommendation: Stereo (2-channel)



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4. CONTENT & ELIGIBILITY RULES

- The selected theme must be clearly reflected throughout the film.
- Films should promote awareness, appreciation, or conservation of marine ecosystems and ocean sustainability.
- No AI-generated videos permitted, including fully AI-created visuals or animations.
- AI tools may only be used for minor editing assistance and not for generating core visuals or storytelling.
- All content must be original and created by the participant(s).
- Any music, images, or footage used must be copyright-clear or original.
- English subtitles are encouraged for accessibility and clarity.

5. TITLES & CREDITS

- Films must include:
 - Film Title
 - Participant Name(s)
- Optional but encouraged:
 - Acknowledgements
 - Credits

6. DISQUALIFICATION CRITERIA

Entries may be disqualified for the following reasons:

- Films exceed 5 minutes
- Vertical video format
- Low resolution or poor-quality exports
- Use of unlicensed copyrighted material
- Use of AI-generated video content
- Failure to follow submission requirements

7. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Participants are required to submit their films and registration form electronically via this link:

<https://wkf.ms/3RrOnW9> Each submission must include:

- Participant Full Name(s)
- Name of School/Institution/Homeschool
- Grade Level
- Contact Information



8. JUDGING GUIDELINES

A panel comprising representatives from the public and private sectors, alongside members of the ISDHF Board and CIDOT representatives, will evaluate submissions based on the following criteria:

1. Creativity & Originality – 30 points
2. Relevance to Theme – 30 points
3. Storytelling & Message – 20 points
4. Technical Quality – 20 points

9. AWARDS & RECOGNITION

All participants are invited to the Film Screening and Award Ceremony held on September 2nd, 2026.

1st Place:

- Cash Prize: CI\$300
- Cayman Airways Travel Voucher (recipient responsible for taxes)
- Film featured at the 2026 ISDHF Induction Ceremony
- Invitation for winner and one guest to attend:
 - Film screening & Award Ceremony, ISDHF Night at the Museum & ISDHF Induction Ceremony

2nd Place:

- Cash Prize: CI\$200
- Gift Card CI\$50.00
- Film shown at ISDHF Night at the Museum
- Invitation for winner and one guest to attend:
 - Film screening & Award Ceremony, ISDHF Night at the Museum & ISDHF Induction Ceremony

3rd Place:

- Cash Prize: CI\$150
- Gift Card CI\$50.00
- Film shown at ISDHF Night at the Museum
- Invitation for winner and one guest to attend:
 - Film screening & Award Ceremony, ISDHF Night at the Museum & ISDHF Induction Ceremony

All Participants:

- Certificate of Recognition
- Opportunity for films to be featured on official ISDHF digital platforms



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IMPORTANT DATES

- Opening Date: Wednesday, May 27th
- Submission Deadline: Friday, August 28th, 2026
- Announcement of Winners, Film screening & Award Ceremony: Wednesday, September 2nd, 2026
- Night at the Museum Event: Thursday, September 3rd
- 2026 ISDHF Induction Ceremony: Friday, September 4th

CONTACT

For questions or additional information, please contact the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism Competition Team at: competition@caymanislands.ky