ARKANSAS ASSOCIATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA

STUDENT MEDIA FESTIVAL

2026 GENERAL FESTIVAL GUIDELINES - PLEASE READ

NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED

1. Entries will be accepted from Arkansas schools only. Non-AAIM members must include a $5.00 entry fee for each entry.

2. The purpose of this festival is to recognize original student work. Students must create their own story and/or produce their own visuals and their own audio to tell the story. It is required that the script, music, sound effects, photography, artwork, video footage, computer graphics, animation, etc. all be student-produced. Faculty and parental guidance and instruction are acceptable, but planning, production, and selection of subject matter and operation of equipment must be student work. Entries that do not reflect original student work will not be submitted to the judges for scoring.

3. The student MUST give credit to the copyright holder of all materials used (images, music, video, websites, books, etc.). Extended use of copyrighted material (i.e. an entire song) requires written permission from an appropriate owner of the copyright.

4. Each individual school is limited to (2) entries per type of production per grade division. For example, Acme Elementary School may have 2 entries per type of production per grade division. Entry levels must be representative of the grades attending that individual school. Each student is limited to a total of 2 entries for this competition. This is inclusive of both group and individual work. Each student may be part of 2 entries total for this competition.

5. A Library Media Specialist may only submit an entry for a student who is enrolled in the school and grade level being served by that particular Library Media Specialist. For clarity, a 9-12 level LMS may not submit entries in any division other than 9-12. However, a 7-12 LMS may submit entries in the 6-8 division and 9-12 division.

6. All entry forms must be filled out completely. All entries must include title and production credits, with the title near the beginning and the credits either at the beginning or end. Credits must list sources for all materials used under fair use as well as materials used with permission.

7. All entrants give AAIM and the Student Media Festival Chairpersons approval to make copies of their entries to be used for future motivation or promotion as the committee deems appropriate.

8. Producers will compete only against students of approximately their own age. Each student participant must be currently enrolled in school.The grade classifications are: K-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12.

9. Entries may be produced by an individual student or a group. All student names must be included on the entry form.

10. Entries submitted to this festival cannot have been entered in previous AAIM competitions and must have been completed within the 2025-2026 school year.

11. The sponsor will need to categorize the entry by selecting a Production Type and Category. Judges retain the right to re-categorize entries.

12. The Student Media Festival Chairs and/or Judges reserve the right to disqualify an entry if guidelines and instructions are not met.

13. Judges will only be required to view up to four minutes of an entry. Video entries are strictly limited to four minutes or less in length. Submissions may be edited excerpts from longer original videos.

14. All entries must be submitted digitally by **Friday, March 20, 2026 regardless of any school closure that occurs during the school year.**

If an entry cannot be viewed or retrieved by the committee, the entrant will be sent an email notification.

The entrant will have 2 days to correct the link for that entry and submit the corrected information to the committee for judging once contacted. Please do not delete any links until after the AAIM 2026 conference is held.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDENT MEDIA FESTIVAL!
Have a great school year!

Tawnya Herring, Student Media Festival Co-Chair

Tia Brickey, Student Media Festival Co-Chair

If you have any questions or need clarification - email at:

tawnya.herring@stuttgartschools.org

tia.brickey@stuttgartschools.org