

DIGITAL CINEMA PRODUCTION UPDATE

SLSC26

Teams will submit a short film (including credits) before the state competition. The film may not contain and pre-produced video, photos, or stock footage. The video will use an assigned prompt. Teams will also submit their script and storyboard on submission. All contest activities will be completed in one day.

THE CHALLENGE

Your team will create an **original narrative short film that is up to 5 minutes long**, based on the story criteria provided. All filming, editing, and final delivery must occur within the official contest window. Your film must demonstrate strong visual storytelling, creative interpretation of the prompt, professional production techniques, and effective use of required elements. Required elements will be outlined on the prompt, including a physical object, a line of dialogue, a specific action (i.e., running, searching, yelling), and a location requirement (i.e., doorway, hallway, entry point)

The prompt will be posted to the [Contest Updates page at skillsusafl.org/updates](https://skillsusafl.org/updates) and emailed to the advisor of registered teams at noon on **Monday, March 2, 2026**. Submissions must be received by **5 PM on Friday, March 6, 2026**. *If this window conflicts with your school's Spring Break, contact the State Office as soon as possible.* Late submissions are subject to penalty.

At the competition, teams will participate in an editing challenge using the raw footage from their film, and an interview about their short film. Specific information will be provided at contest orientation onsite.

CONTENT RESTRICTIONS

All content must comply with:

- Digital Cinema technical standards safety & content rules
- School-appropriate language and imagery
- No depiction of real-world brand logos or copyrighted material
- Music must be original, public domain, or royalty-free with proper licensing

CONTEST SCHEDULE:

Monday, March 2, 2026, 12 PM ET – Prompt Released

Friday, March 6, 2026, 5 PM ET – Final film submission deadline

Wednesday, April 1, 2026:

8:00 AM – Contest Orientation, Set up, and Briefing

8:30 AM to 12 PM – Onsite Editing Challenge

12 PM – Submission deadline, Lunch

12:30 PM – Debriefing and equipment clean up

1 PM to 4 PM – Interviews

POSTED: 1/21/2026



SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

Supplied by the Competitor:

- **Final film**, saved to a USB, exported in 1080p, H.264 format. Use the team number as the file name.
- **Title Slate** (5 seconds, before the film)
 - Include team number, film title, and names and roles of team members
- **Statement of Originality** - A brief, team-written document stating:
 - All footage and audio were created during official production time
 - All music and graphics are original or properly licensed
 - The film is an original creative work following all contest rules
- **Script or shot list** – include your working script, storyboard, or shot list used during production.
- **Raw Footage Folder** – A folder containing ALL original unedited clips from the competition window.
- **Two USB flash drives** – one blank, one loaded with short film project
 - NOTE: USB flash drives will not be returned.
- One page typewritten resume, hard copy
- Up to two computers for editing and music composition
- Two 6' multiple-outlet surge protectors