

For immediate release
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Youth Eco Film Contest on Climate Solutions Sponsored by Rotary District 5400

Calling all southern Idaho filmmakers! Students between the ages of 14 to 19 are encouraged to create and submit a three to four-minute video highlighting a climate solution in Idaho. The contest winners will be recognized at a screening event and will receive cash prizes.

This contest is sponsored by Rotary District 5400's Environmental Stewardship Action Team (ESAT) which extends across all of southern Idaho. ESAT's mission is to promote and facilitate stewardship projects and sustainability practices in support of Rotary's new environmental area of focus.

"This is an exciting opportunity for creative young people who want to make a difference," said Linda Engle, Chair of ESAT. "The contest allows students to highlight a climate challenge and the people who are working toward solutions."

The contest encourages participants to explore a wide range of topics related to environmental conservation, including but not limited to recycling, salmon, renewable energy, plant-based diet, regenerative agriculture, electric vehicles, solar and wind power, electricity storage, or other climate action projects in Idaho. All work must be science-based and original.

Cash prizes to be awarded are \$1000 for first place, \$750 for second place and \$500 for third place. Around Earth Day in April, winning films will be shown at multiple venues across the state with opportunities for filmmakers to discuss their work.

Registration for the contest must be completed by February 29, 2024; the video itself must be submitted by March 24, 2024. We encourage all interested students to register early to get a headstart on content creation. A teacher, parent, or guardian must be listed on the registration form. To take part in this exciting opportunity interested students should go to tinyurl.com/EcoFilmContest and complete the registration form by **February 29, 2024**.

ESAT member, Liz Alexander, commented, "Our goal is to engage the next generation of environmental stewards to utilize the power of film to promote climate action and inspire change."

Films will be judged by the following criteria. Does the film give both a climate challenge and solution? Is the information presented well researched, accurate and relevant? Does it give different perspectives but remains science based? Does the film hold the audience's attention and is it compelling?

With two honorable mentions, students have five opportunities to win. There is no limit to the number of submissions from one group. The winners will not only influence others toward a more sustainable future but they will also receive public recognition and cash awards.

Rotary District 5400 is comprised of 40 clubs across southern Idaho and eastern Oregon. The service clubs are part of Rotary International, an organization of 1.4 million people around the world who work together to protect the environment, promote peace, fight disease, provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, save mothers and children, support education, and grow local economies.

For questions, call or text Liz Alexander 208-703-3831 or email Lindarsengle@gmail.com.

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