

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 over 100 communities across the continent. The tour, now reaching over 30,000 people a year, is building a grassroots network of organizations connected by a common goal of using film to inspire activism. The festival's National Partners: Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Tangled Bank Studios, Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, Earthjustice, 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:



The Leap Beneath (2026) by Roman Willi, 4 mins.

A springtail journeys through the undergrowth on a quest to find food.

Here the Wild Things Are (2025) by Kelly Gilbride, 9 mins.

Aotearoa joins a fun, global competition where ecologists and enthusiasts scour cities to uncover the weird and wonderful wild. But can they save the planet, one photo at a time?

River Cowboys: Keepin' it Wild (2025) by Mike Wilkinson, 11 mins

This short film showcases the stunning landscapes of the internationally recognized, Red River Gorge, and KY's only Wild & Scenic Red River. It highlights an ongoing environmental challenge: the removal of scores of discarded tires and trash from Red River (and dumping as a statewide and national issue) and our humble cleanup leader, the original River Cowboy, Russ Miller.

The Bees and the Birds (2026) by Olly Johnson, 12 mins.

Bees, birds, and their impact on community gardens.

Wild Hope: The Great Ocean Cleanup (2025) by Geoff Luck & Sarah Arnoff, 15 mins

Inventor Boyan Slat is on a mission to rid oceans of plastic. His team at The Ocean Cleanup designs and deploys systems that pull trash from the open ocean — now, he's stopping the pollution at its source: rivers where plastic is easier to catch, like those in Kingston Harbor.

Friends of the Frogpool Lane (2025) by David Herasimtschuk, 7 mins

Follow a group of vigilante crossing guards as they help frogs and salamanders navigate a busy road through a rainy Spring night, so these driven amphibians can arrive safely to the unique wetland that is critical for their life cycle.

Beyond Beliefs (2026) by Quamae Hall, 5 mins

Experience the magic as a young woman from Cleveland expands her belief system on a life-changing river adventure!

Kelp Currency (2026) by Michael Stewart, 9 mins.

Scientists race to measure kelp carbon sequestration, to build a new currency for restoration.

Forgotten Flavors (2026) by Kimberly Calvert, 13 mins.

Forager Pascal Baudar transforms California's wild landscape into an edible feast, revealing how forgotten flavors can reconnect us to our deepest relationship with nature.

Wild Hope: Bat Vax (2026) by Geoff Luck & Sarah Arnoff, 14 mins

As White-Nose Syndrome wipes out millions of North American bats, scientists pioneer a bold new strategy to protect them.

INTERMISSION