

# 2025 Wiregrass Film Exchange Announcement

**Aspiring videographers: we're giving away \$15,000 in video production equipment to five high school students across public high schools in Dale, Geneva, Henry, and Houston counties.** Enter by submitting a 2-minute video of someone “Outside the Spotlight” by April 4, 2025. Winners will get the opportunity to attend a 2-day hands-on training on May 1-2 and receive everything they need to start their own video production business.

**Here is the submission video prompt:**

## “Outside the Spotlight”

- In a culture dominated by loud voices and social media highlights, countless meaningful stories remain untold. “Outside the Spotlight” asks you to turn your camera toward the people whose quiet influence deserves recognition. They might be the unassuming friend who’s always there, the humble janitor who keeps everything running, or the relative who offers steady support without seeking praise. Illuminate the genuine moments of everyday impact that so often slip by unnoticed.

## Video Guidelines:

- **Creativity is Key:** Your video will be judged primarily on its creativity. Feel free to express your unique vision and style through the untold story.
- **Use What You Have:** Don't worry about using professional equipment. Any camera, including smartphones, and any editing software are acceptable.
- **Video Length:** Ensure your video is two minutes or less in length.

## Submission Requirements:

- **Video Description:** Accompany your video with a brief description (minimum of 50 words) explaining the video’s content and/or the inspiration behind it.
- **Format and Quality:** Submit your video in a horizontal aspect ratio. Vertical videos will not be accepted.
- **Deadline:** All submissions must be received by 11:59 PM on Friday, April 4, 2025, via the Wiregrass Film Exchange website. For any technical difficulties submitting, reach out to [studentcreativeexchange@gmail.com](mailto:studentcreativeexchange@gmail.com) by 1:00 PM on Wednesday, April 2, 2025.
- **Announcing Winners:** All winners will be announced on the Wiregrass Film Exchange website at 10 AM on Monday, April 14, 2025.

## How to Submit:

Upload your video via the submission portal on [wiregrassfilmexchange.com/apply](http://wiregrassfilmexchange.com/apply) by providing a link to your video via YouTube, Vimeo, Dropbox, or Google Drive. Please make sure all submission links are publicly viewable to ensure the judges can review it.

## Key Dates:

**March 3:** Competition Starts

**April 4:** Submission Deadline

**April 14:** Program Winners announced at 10 AM

**May 1-2:** Winners Attend Film Exchange at Houston County Career Academy | Collaborate on Short Film Project honoring Stephen Durham

**May 17:** Debut Short Film at First Dothan United Home Game at Rip Hewes Stadium

## If You Win:

Congratulations!

If you are selected as the winner from your high school, you will be officially entered into the Film Exchange. As part of this group, you will each receive an extensive array of tools and equipment to jumpstart your filmmaking career:

### **Tech and Equipment:**

- Apple MacBook
- Canon DSLR Camera
- Canon 18-55mm Lens
- Tripod
- SD Card
- Camera Bag

### **Software Suite:**

- Final Cut Pro X
- Logic Pro

- Motion
- Compressor
- Mainstage

**Audio and Recording Gear:**

- Audio-Technica Studio Headphones
- Professional Microphone

**Professional Development Funds:**

- Cash allocation for creating a custom website, designing business cards, and purchasing business attire.

## **Participate in the Film Exchange (May 1-2, 2025)**

To claim your full prize package, participation in both days of the Film Exchange is mandatory. This two-day event will be held on May 1-2, from 9am-2:30pm, at the Houston County Career Academy in Dothan, AL. These days will be excused absences for the program's winners.

**What to Expect During the Film Exchange:**

- **Hands-On Learning:** Engage in practical sessions to master the use of your new equipment.
- **Expert Guidance:** Learn filmmaking fundamentals directly from real-world professionals.
- **Work-Based Learning Project:** Collaborate on a project to create a shortfilm for the life and legacy of Stephen Durham, a filmmaker from Dothan, AL. The film will debut on May 17th at Rip Hewes Stadium during halftime of a Dothan Wolves home game.

**Transportation Assistance:**

If you require help with transportation to or from the Film Exchange sessions, please let us know. We are committed to ensuring all winners have the support they need to participate fully.

**FAQs:**

**Who is Eligible to Participate?**

This competition welcomes entries from any student who is currently attending a public high school within Dale, Geneva, Henry, or Houston County, Alabama.

**How are Winners Selected?**

Winners will be chosen by a distinguished panel of judges, all of whom are professionals in the filmmaking industry.

**How are Prizes Distributed?**

Winners will officially receive their Creator Kit, which includes a MacBook, DSLR camera, studio headphones, professional-grade software, and more, after they have successfully participated in the Film Exchange event and completed the associated project. This event is scheduled for May 1-2 during school hours.

**Will the Film Exchange Sessions be an excused absence from school?**

Yes, each of the winners will be granted two excused absences, allowing them the opportunity to participate fully in the Film Exchange event.