

Immigrant Story Telling Video Contest Rules

- Applicants should be between 16-26 years old
- Registration deadline is: March 30, 2016 (you can register electronically by submitting your registration form by email in a signed PDF document to Claudia Thrane, Youth Program Coordinator at: cthane@afsc.org or to ssanchez@afsc.org no later than midnight on that date).
- Videos should be submitted in MPEG format either through a DVD disc or a flash-drive.
- Applicants should be willing to attend punctually to three training/community meetings with the other participants registered as required by AFSC's Latino Immigrant Youth program.
- Applicants under 18 years old should get at least one of their parent's approval and get the registration form (front and back sides) signed by the parent(s) or his/her legal guardian.
- Applicants 18 years or older, should signed their own registration forms.
- It should be clear that the contest and awards are for individuals. However, participants are free to get the volunteer support of family members, teachers, and/or friends.
- Applicants will be provided with release forms to be signed by a person or persons shown on the video if they are other(s) than the video contest participant, including family members (parental authorization required for any minors shown in the video).
- Applicants should be willing to attend the awards ceremony whether they are among the finalists or not.
- Applicants will commit to be fully engaged in the activities they may have identified as a result of their leadership development skills to become active on issues that affect them as part of the Immigrants Voice Program after they have agreed on both the issues and their priority(s).
- Applicants under age, should be transported to and from the training(s) facilities by a parent or a responsible adult authorized by a parent; in the case that they may need transportation provided by the Immigrants Voice Program of the American Friends Service Committee, the applicant or his/her parent or legal guardian shall request this service 2 weeks in advance to the training/meeting date to the Youth Program Associate, Claudia Thrane at (515) 201-3189 or email her at cthane@afsc.org
- Accepted participants will have to commit to AFSC's behavior guidelines such as non-violence, respectful communication to participants, instructors and volunteers, and anyone else involved in the contest; avoid use of electronic devices unless necessary during the training/meeting sessions and for training/meeting sessions or to contact their parent(s) for important matters: illness, transportation needs, unforeseen emergencies.
- AFSC/IVP recommends that participants refrain from using any background music in their video or graphics that are not their original work to avoid any copyright liabilities. If a participant chooses to use his/her original composition played by the participant as well, this could be accepted as long as there is no offensive language used at all in the case of lyrics.
- Participants are forbidden from sending any inappropriate verbal or text messages to anyone involved in the Video Contest or to AFSC staff or any other person associated with the contest.
- Paid staff of AFSC and their immediate family members are excluded from participating in this video contest.

- Paid staff of AFSC and immediate family members of participants are excluded from participating in the judging panel.
- There will be two categories of videos being judged by one judging panel composed of an uneven number of jurors: a) five junior semifinalists (ages 16-20), and b) five senior semifinalists (ages 21-26) from where the three finalist videos will be selected by the judging panel.
- There will be an opportunity for a peer review of the semifinalist videos from one group to the other. AFSC will issue a peer finalist certificate to the three finalists chosen by their peers, independently of the judging panel's decision.
- The videos will be mostly judged by the power of the story and the way it was told, including the creativity of the video, and secondly by the quality of the overall product.
- The minimum video quality has to be at or above 640 x 434 pixels (most phones, tablets, and video-cameras have above); suggested ratio would be 1,024 x 695. However, the resolution level of the video will not be a determinant factor for the judging panel; these are only suggested minimums for a good viewing quality of your video.
- Videos that go beyond 5 exact minutes will be automatically disqualified.
- If the contest participant fails to attend more than one of the three required training sessions for a non-justified reason such as serious illness (proof will be required), even if he/she was a finalist, his/her video will be disqualified and his/her place will be given to the next finalist with the closest points to that participant's qualifying card.
- Members of the judging panel will be required to excuse themselves from judging a particular video if they find out at the last minute that this would represent a conflict of interests; for instance: the participant's video is from a close family friend, a student, neighbor, etc. A backup juror will take the place of that juror for purposes of judging the video that may pose a conflict of interests.
- If any issue arises which is not here considered, it will be addressed by the video-contest advisory committee and/or the Iowa Program Committee within ten days from the time AFSC/IVP and/or an associated instructor learns about it.