



2026 WaterClips Student Video Contest: Basic Rules Summary

This is a basic summary of ACWD Student Video Contest rules. The complete 2026 Official Rules are available at www.acwd.org/Waterclips or by requesting a copy [via e-mail to Renee W. Gonzales, Public Affairs Specialist](mailto:Renee.W.Gonzales@acwd.org).

Applicants must:

- Be middle school and high school students, in grades 6-12, who attend school within Fremont, Newark and Union City. Students can compete as a single individual or as a team of up to three (3) individuals and will be judged in two groups: middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12). **The sponsoring school must receive water from the Alameda County Water District.**
- Focus on the **WaterClips 2025 CONTEST THEME: Create a video that shows how water from the Alameda County Water District influences, inspires or supports physical health and wellness.** Videos that focus on a different message will be disqualified.
- Submit a video.

Contest Theme: Create a video that shows how water from the Alameda County Water District influences, inspires or supports physical health and wellness. From workouts to wind-downs, water's always there for you. Film a 30-second video showing how ACWD water keeps you feeling good inside and out! We want your point of view!

Want your video to stand out? Back it up with real facts! Here's how:

- Use info from **trusted sources** like the Alameda County Water District (acwd.org), your school science books, or official health sites (like EPA or CDC).
- Keep it short and simple—pick 1–2 strong facts that connect to your story.
- Double-check numbers or statistics to make sure they're correct.
- Give credit in your own way: say it in your video (“According to ACWD...”) or add text on the screen.
- Most important: make the facts **real AND relatable**—show how water impacts your everyday life.

To help inspire creative content for your video, here are a few examples to consider:

- Drinking water keeps you energized and hydrated for sports and activities.
- Staying hydrated helps you concentrate better during exams and homework.
- Water cools you down on a hot day or after exercise.
- Water is used for cooking nutritious meals that fuel your mind and body.
- Comfort and connection are provided using water in warm soups, teas or homemade meals.
- Washing fruits, vegetables and ingredients in water increases food safety and reduces the risk of illness.
- Water keeps skin clear, prevents fatigue, helps regulate emotions and boosts your mood.
- Water plays an important role in self-care (brushing teeth, showers, washing hands, etc.)
- Taking care of your pet by giving them a bath or filling their bowl with fresh water every day helps you and your pet feel closer.
- Family traditions, customs or holidays use water in celebrations, festivals, food or activities.

Please keep in mind that we are looking for videos about potable water from ACWD. That is water delivered throughout our service area in Fremont, Newark and Union City. Videos should **not** focus on:

- Oceans, rivers, lakes or streams
- Bottled Water
- Non-localized weather conditions and natural disasters

If you have any questions about your video's content, please send an [email to Renee W. Gonzales, PublicAffairs Specialist](mailto:renee.gonzales@acwd.org).

Videos must:

- Entry must be saved to include student name and original video title.
- Be a minimum of 25 seconds long and no longer than 30 seconds.
- Video should be recorded in landscape (horizontal) orientation.
- Be in MPEG (.mp4) format.
- Max audio peak no more than 12db.
- No commercial product logos in video
- Only refer to acwd.org for facts about Alameda County Water District
- Download the [Required Outro Slide](#) from acwd.org/waterclips and include it at the end of the video
- Be original! The use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) generated content or assistance from AI tools, pre-made templates, such as those available in platforms like Canva or other design software for the entirety of the video, is strictly prohibited. Contestants may use design software photos or elements to create original designs. Contestants must create video to showcase original creativity and design skills. Do **not**, use words, music or images that are copyrighted. Also, **do not use** commercial or product logos. Please view the following examples for clarification of prohibited and allowed content:
 - [Pre-Designed Template Example \(prohibited\)](#)
 - [Elements Used to Create Original Designs Example \(allowed\)](#)
- Submitted before contest deadline: Friday, March 13, 2026, at 11:59 pm.
- Be in compliance with official contest rules. It's your responsibility to know the official rules.

Optional: Teachers can win too! Your teacher can sponsor you or your team's video to be eligible to win prizes! A teacher can sponsor a contestant or team by signing off on the student application form. A teacher may sponsor more than one contestant or team. Teachers can win classroom scholarships up to \$500 for sponsoring winning student videos or for sponsoring the most qualified videos. Details are in the [Official Contest Rules](#).

Your video will be judged on relevance to contest theme, creativity, originality, entertainment value and video quality.

You must submit the following items through Google Forms. You must have a Gmail account to utilize Google Forms. If you do not have a Gmail account, please send an [e-mail to Renee Gonzales, Public Affairs Specialist](mailto:renee.gonzales@acwd.org). Please fill out the following forms online:

- [Application with Video](#) (attach and upload in Application)
- [Eligibility & Release](#)

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IMPORTANT * Your Entry Will Be Disqualified if...

- Your video arrives after the **deadline of Friday, March 13, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.**
- Your video does not focus on the 2026 WaterClips theme
- Your video is not saved to include student name and original video title
- Your video does not include the Required Outro Slide available at acwd.org/waterclips
- Your video is less than 25 seconds or longer than 30 seconds.
- Your video has AI generated content or pre-made templates
- Your video is submitted as a YouTube link.
- Your video is submitted in a format that requires a fee for downloading.
- Your video uses copyrighted material (such as product logos).
- The required 2026 Video Application & Eligibility Forms arrive after the **deadline of Friday, March 13, 2026, 11:59 p.m.**
- You are competing as a team with more than 3 individuals.
- Your school is not located within ACWD's service area of Fremont, Newark or Union City.
- You are not a middle school or high school student, enrolled in grades 6-12.

Have fun. Be creative. Tell your unique story.