



Weeki Wachee High School
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To Whom It May Concern,

We are requesting approval for the Digital Video Technology (DVT) program to travel to New York City from October 13th to October 19th, 2026 to participate in the All American High School Film Festival and Film Invitational—the nation's largest and most prestigious high school film event.

This marks our second year representing our school at this national competition. The Film Invitational offers an unparalleled real-world filmmaking experience, allowing students to function as a professional production team. Our journey begins August 12th when our team receives the official onboarding packet and begins ten weeks of intensive pre-production—writing scripts, planning shoots, and securing actors and locations.

The in-person competition culminates in New York City. From 8:00 A.M. on Wednesday, October 14th through 4:00 P.M. on Friday, October 16th, our team will have 56 hours to film, edit, and submit a completed short film. Students work collaboratively under real-world pressure, reflecting industry standards and expectations.

On Sunday, October 18th, our film will be screened at the AMC Theatre in Times Square. That evening, the 2026 Teen Indie Awards will be held at the historic Kings Theatre in Brooklyn, where winners will be announced in a red-carpet ceremony.

Our 2026 itinerary is attached for review. We plan to fly round-trip from Tampa to LaGuardia Airport. Upon arrival, we will use a shuttle service to reach our accommodations and will rely on New York's subway system for transportation during our stay. Students and chaperones will stay at the New York Hilton Midtown Hotel, which is centrally located near festival venues, public transportation, and discounted through the festival program.

The estimated cost per student is approximately \$1,000, which includes airfare, hotel, select meals (some meals are provided through the festival), a MetroCard for subway travel, full festival access, and tickets to special events. Students will be responsible for meals not included in the itinerary. Affordable dining options are readily available throughout the city.

In preparation for the trip, students will participate in fundraising efforts and our program will actively pursue sponsorships to reduce individual costs.

This trip is considered an educational and professional opportunity for our student filmmakers, as participation is invitation-only and based on program merit. While our primary focus is filmmaking, we also plan to explore culturally and historically significant landmarks that may support our creative process and provide additional enrichment, including

- 9/11 Memorial and Museum
- Central Park
- Times Square
- AMC Times Square Theatre
- Additional iconic NYC locations that may be used as film locations

Thank you for considering this request. We believe this opportunity will not only elevate our students' skills in digital media and storytelling but also provide them with invaluable life experiences that align with our program's mission of preparing future professionals in the film and television industry.

Sincerely,
Hunter Schwefringhaus

Hunter Schwefringhaus

#WWSHornets

#TakeFlight

#OneSwarm

2026 All American High School Film Festival
Itinerary [Mr. Schwef: 352-610-0117]

TUESDAY 10/13/26

- TBD: Arrive at Tampa International Airport
- TBD: Tampa International Airport to Atlanta International Airport
- TBD: Arrive, collect bags, shuttle to New York Hilton Midtown Square Hotel
 - ETS Airport Shuttle (718-221-5341) @ TBD
- TBD: Check-in New York Hilton Midtown Square Hotel, tour Manhattan/Brooklyn Bridge Park
 - Address: 1335 6th Ave. (212) 586-7000
- TBD: Dinner
 - Ferry to Dumbo, Pier 3, Walk Brooklyn Bridge back

WEDNESDAY 10/14/26 DAY 1 OF Comp.
Film Invitational production

THURSDAY 10/15/26 - DAY 2 OF Comp.

- Film Invitational production

FRIDAY 10/16/26 - DAY 3 OF Comp.

- Film Invitational post-production
 - 4:00: Submission deadline
- 5:00: High Line Photo Walk
- 6:30-10:00: Opening Night Hudson River Dinner Cruise (Dressy Casual attire)

SATURDAY 10/17/26

- *Screenings @ AMC Times Square*
- *Tour Times Square (day)*
- 12:00-4:00: College Fair@ AMC Times Square
- 4:00: Dinner w/ Patsy's pizza in Central Park (picnic-style)
 - Tour Central Park (Bow Bridge, Bethesda Terrace)
- 8:00-10:00: Best of Fest Screenings and Networking Event @AMC Times Square (Casual attire)

SUNDAY 10/18/26

- *Screenings @ AMC Times Square*
- 12:00-2:00: Pizza & Professionals Networking Event @AMC Times Square
- 3:30: Dinner@ TBD
- 6:00: Red Carpet
- 8:00-11 :00: Teen Indie Awards @ Kings Theatre (Dressy attire)

MONDAY 10/19/26

- TBD: Shuttle to airport
- TBD: LaGuardia Airport to Tampa International Airport