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**Two film festivals to collaborate with Keep Arkansas Beautiful for statewide video contest**  
*High school students can compete to produce video commercial*

FORT SMITH, Ark.– The Fort Smith International Film Festival, Ozark Media Arts Festival and Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission will host a statewide video contest for high school students (grades 9-12) to create a 30-second video commercial. The contest will run until Sept. 24 and winners will be announced Oct. 5 at the Ozark Media Arts Festival in Springdale. There is no fee to enter the contest.

Students should focus their video on the Keep Arkansas Beautiful mission of inspiring individuals to improve their communities by educating, preventing litter, promoting recycling and keeping Arkansas beautiful. Videos must be submitted to Ozark Media Arts Festival on FilmFreeway at <https://filmfreeway.com/OMAF>.

“The Keep Arkansas Beautiful staff work with educators around the state to teach the children of Arkansas the importance of a clean, green and beautiful Arkansas. We strive to inspire and encourage children and adults in Arkansas to do their part to help keep Arkansas beautiful,” Michael Barger, Keep Arkansas Beautiful education coordinator, said.

The winning student commercial will be featured on various television channels and showcased at the Ozark Media Arts Festival. The teacher of the winning student(s) will receive one free two-night stay for two people at an Arkansas State Parks lodge of their choosing (based on availability at the time of reservation). If the winner does not have a teacher advisor associated with their project, then the winner can nominate a teacher for the Arkansas State Parks lodge prize.

“These young filmmakers are our future,” Brandon Chase Goldsmith, Fort Smith International Film Festival executive director said. “I cannot wait to see what students across Arkansas create.”

The Ozark Media Arts Festival returns Oct. 4 and 5 for their 13<sup>th</sup> year in downtown Springdale. As a student festival, it provides an opportunity for local and regional students from middle school to high school to showcase their work, compete and gain exposure to the professional worlds of digital film, broadcast television, podcasting, photography, media marketing and graphic design.

**Keep Arkansas Beautiful**

The Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission (KAB), consisting of a professional staff of three and a nine-member advisory board appointed by the governor, is a division of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism. KAB is a certified state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful Inc. KAB inspires and educates individuals to reduce litter, recycle and keep Arkansas beautiful. KAB is funded by 1% of the 1/8-cent Conservation Sales Tax. For more information, visit [KeepArkansasBeautiful.com](http://KeepArkansasBeautiful.com). Stay in the know by following Keep Arkansas Beautiful on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and texting VOLUNTEER to 484848.

**Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism**

The Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism protects and promotes our state's natural, cultural and historic assets, contributing to a thriving economy and high quality of life. It is made up of three divisions: Arkansas State Parks, Arkansas Heritage and Arkansas Tourism.

### **About Ozark Media Arts Festival**

Connecting Education to Industry, the Ozark Media Arts Festival returns October 4-5 for their 13th year in downtown Springdale, AR. As a student festival, it provides an opportunity for local and regional students, from middle school to high school to showcase their work, compete and gain exposure to the professional worlds of digital film, broadcast television, podcasting, photography, media marketing and graphic design. With Upload Competitions, Onsite Competitions, and "Of The Year" nominations, students and teachers have the opportunity to receive awards and prizes to support their programs and futures. Industry professionals across the region gather alongside educators through workshops and the Regional Advisory Council to support the students, grow connections with each other, and strengthen the creative community for a rising future in media. Upload Competition submissions are due September 1 on FilmFreeway and Onsite Competition registration is open at [OzarkMediaArtsFestival.com](http://OzarkMediaArtsFestival.com). Don't miss your opportunity to join the fun!

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