



Youth Driven Cinema

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2014

Martin County, FL - February 28, 2014 the first annual Youth Driven Cinema Film Festival presented by The Indian Riverkeeper and Ocean River Institute was held at the Lyric Theater in downtown Stuart. The event was well attended with community members, elected officials and students of all ages from around the county. The top three films from each category were shown during the film festival.

For the Elementary Category : 1. "The Indian River; Pollution Commotion " P. Regan; E. Hurley; M. Reid, 2. "Don't Let Our Dolphins Disappear" K. Mader; C. Wilson, and 3. "I See Sharks" J.Benson. For the Middle School Category : 1. "River Kidz- Join the Cause!" N. Mader; E. Flaugh, 2. "The Worlds Spelling Bee" E. Damm; E. Stroughter; L. Roberts, and 3. " More Than Words 2014" K. Lannon; M. Perry; A. Cole; M. Sands. For the High School Category: 1. "The Ripple Effect" E. trense, 2. "Indian River Lagoon Water Pollution" J lockett, and 3. "Indian River Segment " J.Barco; H.Weis; P.Saccavino.

Prizes for first place, all divisions, were GoPro Hero 3+ cameras. Second place prize for the elementary division was a week at camp at the Environmental Studies Center. Second place prize for middle school and high school was a inshore fishing charter with local guide and writer Mike Connor. Third place prize for all contestants was a full day paddle boarding trip with Treasure Coast Paddle. The premier was generously funded by the Knopf family foundation, The Guardians of Martin County and the Community Service Advisory Board- City of Stuart. The videos ranged in topics from documenting the discharges and their impact on the river/nearshore reefs, lobomycosis in resident Atlantic bottlenose dolphin populations, apex predators, as well as marine debris and the importance/effect of picking up trash on the beach. The event was able to raise \$4000 for The Indian Riverkeeper program. This money will be used for continuing the K-12 education programs of the Indian Riverkeeper and educating our area youth about the importance of the marine environment and their role in protecting this valuable asset.

All 23 entries can be viewed on Youth Driven Cinema's Youtube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMAMHIJ0vIj_CY6Gm_S0Zsg