

Fresh Films Virtual Summer 2021 FAQ

What is Fresh Films?

Fresh Films is a production studio and training ground for youth; we create films, TV shows and documentaries while training future filmmakers in all aspects of film. In traditional Fresh Films programs, youth collaborate on-set rotating through every film position – from camera and sound, to editing and effects – gaining technical and workplace skills. Our productions have been seen on DIRECTV, PBS, IFC, iTunes, Amazon, Redbox, in theatres and in twelve international countries. Productions include the AT&T Hello Sunshine Filmmaker Lab with Reese Witherspoon that brought 21 female filmmakers to Los Angeles to create a documentary about women in film and “The Stream” starring Rainn Wilson (“The Office”) and Mario Lopez (“Extra”)!

What is Fresh Films Virtual Summer?

Youth ages 13-19 can join Fresh Films staff and interns to create two short film projects from July 5-30 (we’ll work on Project 1 July 5-16 and Project 2 July 19-30). You’ll work in small film groups via Google Meet and work collaboratively throughout the production process. You’ll even get a crash course in marketing your film so that as many people as possible get to see your work!

The program is free and no film experience or special equipment is required. You just need an internet connection, a smartphone or tablet, and the desire to gain new film skills.

We have limited program slots available, so apply now to connect with other youth from around the country, learn new filmmaking skills, and get creative telling your stories!

I thought Fresh Films made films and TV shows?

Yep, we do that too! Since 2002, Fresh Films has created films and TV shows as part of our summer programs. In the spirit of distance-learning, we have transitioned our summer programming to include online platforms, which allows for even more filmmakers like yourself to participate in our program. But don’t worry - you’ll still learn the ins & outs of filmmaking while collaborating with your peers and producing high-quality films!

Where and when will Fresh Films Career Chicago take place?

- Where: Online via Google Meet (links will be provided)
- When: Weekdays from July 5 - 30
- Time: 2pm - 4pm Central Time

What if I’m not available for all of the program days?

It is important to commit to all program days. This program relies on group work, and groups cannot work together as successfully when members aren’t able to meet and collaborate. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances.

If you would like to participate in the program but know that you have a scheduling conflict, please feel free to reach out to marketing@freshfilms.org to see if the conflict will prohibit your participation.

Who can participate in the program?

This program is open nationwide to teens ages 13-19.

Do you need previous film experience or a certain GPA?

There is absolutely no experience necessary to join Fresh Films Virtual Summer, and we don't look at your GPA! We will work with you to help build your resume, technology skills, and storytelling skills. All that is required is a passion to learn, get creative, and collaborate with a team. We'll fill you in on the rest!

How do you apply for the program?

To be part of Fresh Films Virtual Summer, just go to freshfilms.org/virtualsummer and fill out the online application.

Who leads the program?

Professional filmmakers along with college-aged interns from previous Fresh Films programs will work to show teens everything they need to know to be a successful filmmaker and media-creator.

Do you HAVE to answer the essay questions on the application?

Yes! It's how we determine your passion for filmmaking and choose our program participants.

What happens after you're selected for this program?

Once you're selected, you'll be sent a filmmaker release form. To confirm your participation, send in your filmmaker release form and any other necessary information. The release form confirms your participation in the program.

So you're going to give us money and resources to make my film?

Sorry, no film grants. But we will teach you the producing, directing and editing skills you will need to create your own short film.

How much is this program going to cost?

The program is entirely free to participate in.

What do you have to buy?

Nothing! There is no purchase necessary to apply to be a filmmaker with Fresh Films. However, you will need access to the internet and a smartphone or tablet in order to film from home.

What if we already have a crew including actors. Can we make our own film?

Sounds like you're well on your way – congratulations! Fresh Films, however, is a team-oriented experience, from start to finish. Our program isn't designed to produce any one filmmaker's vision. But we certainly hope you go on to make your own short films!

Who is the director, the cinematographer?

No filmmaker will be selected over another to serve in any specific position for the duration of the program. During Fresh Films Virtual Summer, you will collaborate with your team and work together to create visual stories.

What equipment are we going to use?

Since this program is virtual and we know not everyone has professional filmmaking equipment laying around their house, filming will be done on our smartphones and tablets! That way, no one needs to go buy a video camera in order to participate. But don't worry - we'll still have online lessons dedicated to learning about professional film equipment!

How do you intern with Fresh Films?

Interns are often chosen from our Fresh Films alumni. Once you've participated in the Fresh Films program, you will receive information on how to apply to be an intern for the following year. To learn more about internships at Fresh Films, visit freshfilms.org/internships

Tell me more about your partnership with Augustana College?

Fresh Films is located on the campus of Augustana College, where Fresh Films and the college launched a new Entertainment & Media Studies program in the Fall of 2017. College students at Augustana get to intern and work with Fresh Films all year long in production, editing, marketing, business and accounting. Our goal is to create leaders in the Entertainment Industry who have a well-rounded background of production, technical skills and distribution. We encourage you to check out Augustana as you get closer to college!

Have a question you're sure we didn't answer? Email us at marketing@freshfilms.org