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## Film festival has 9 ways to inspire you to get going

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The Upstate is a rapidly growing area.

But while the growth is welcome, members of the community need to take responsibility so that the reasons people are coming are not destroyed, said Angela Viney, Upstate Forever's director of development.



*Image provided*

The short film "Water Loving Doggies" will be part of Saturday's Wild and Scenic Film Festival.

The South River Yuba Citizens League's Wild and Scenic Film Festival features nine short films that aim to inspire children and adults to get outdoors and become actively involved in their community.

Film topics include the story of bottled water, the migration of snake river salmon, a journey into the mind and soul of whitewater, a story of water-loving dogs, and more.

There will be 45 minutes to an hour devoted to child-oriented films; the rest of the event features videos hoping to motivate adults.

"The videos are educational, inspirational as well as entertaining," Viney said. "Stellar filmmaking, beautiful cinematography and first-rate storytelling combine to instill a deep appreciation and a sense of wonder for the natural world that surrounds and supports us. We hope the videos change people's lives."

Upstate Forever, a nonprofit committed to protecting places in the Upstate and promoting smart growth, is proud to bring the Wild and Scenic Film Festival, which has toured annually since 2004, to Spartanburg.

The festival "began in California, but we applied to have it here," Viney said last week. "We are one of 100 cities across the nation that houses this huge event."

Between the short films, Viney and others in the organization hope to teach the viewing audience how what they have seen can be applied on the local level.

“We will present ways that people can make a difference at home and at their work,” she said.

The organization's three programs — land trust, sustainable communities and clean air and water — will also be discussed.

Drawings will occur throughout the festival, and attendees can win door prizes from local sponsors REI and national sponsors Patagonia, Klean Kanteen, Cliff Bars, Grist, Osprey and Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.

Refreshments will be sold as well.

“The Wild and Scenic Film Festival is about membership, recruiting activists and getting people involved in the community,” Viney said.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children at Upstate Forever, 100 E. Main St., Spartanburg.

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