



Rosenberg teenager wins short film contest, earns scholarship

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Making a short film about the U.S. Constitution wasn't something that excited Rosenberg teenager Josef Junek, but after his teacher gave him the assignment, he ran with it.

His short film was for the Constituting America's "We the People 9*17" contest.

The national contest awards prizes and scholarships to students from kindergarten to age 65 and over, for creating original songs, short films, public service announcements, speeches, poems, drawings and essays inspired by the U.S. Constitution.

Josef's short film was named the Best High School Short Film for the high school category.

As part of his winnings Josef will receive a \$1,000 scholarship, a trophy, a certificate, and a trip to Philadelphia, which will be his first trip outside Texas.

Josef, who is home-schooled by his mother, Lisa Junek, said being taught at home has afforded him many opportunities other school kids don't have.

"You don't have to get up early," joked Josef.

"And there's no schedule, so that frees up a lot of time for making movies."

The idea to enter a contest came after Lisa was teaching her kids about the Constitution. She found a book by Juliette Turner called "Our Constitution Rocks" and subsequently ended up finding out about the contest from the book.

"The teacher in me went, 'oh cool, this is an awesome way to wrap up the school year,'" said Lisa.

"It's wonderful he won, it's terrific, but that wasn't my main goal for him to enter it to win. My

main goal was for him to put this project together to show what he's learned."

Josef shot his 10-minute film during June and early parts of July, but before he started shooting he took online filmmaking classes to better prepare himself.

His family was supportive from the get-go and even split the cost of a new camera with him. During the shooting, Josef said the hardest thing was "getting my dad and grand-dad to remember their lines."

Toward the end of the shooting, Josef said he was more concerned with getting the film done than actually winning the contest.

Josef has been making movies for the past five years with his younger brother, Jonny, but it wouldn't have been possible had the family not watched a sci-fi classic.

The filmmaking started after the Junek family saw “Star Wars” for the first time.

The intergalactic space movie left an impression on Jonny, who became obsessed with making a “sequel” to “Star Wars.”

The experience of making that “sequel” proved to be the catalyst for Josef’s interest in filmmaking. Five years after making his first short film, Josef has seven under his belt. And now, at just 14 years of age, Josef already has an award to his name.