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October 7, 2025

The TK1 Test of Time

A Media Contest

December 11, 2025

Projects, Ideas, Prompts

Overview

We all have good things in our lives that have lasted. Cars and clothes, toys from childhood, photo books, recipes and traditions, places we go, pieces of advice and habits and relationships... *so many things that have passed the test of time.* For TK1's next big event, at the Taos Center for the Arts on December 11, 2025, the **TK1 Test of Time** will feature video, social shorts, photography, and animation that explore the many good things in Taos County that have lasted.

There will be approximately ten categories of entries at the event, depending on the number and themes of entries we receive. The audience will vote on their favorite submission for each category (\$100 cash prize for the winner of each), and then for the Best in Show (a \$250 cash prize). Students can submit up to five different entries. Separated by media type, here are the categories with some ideas and prompts to help students explore possible entries.

Video. These can be long-form (up to 5 minutes) or short-form (30-90 seconds). Longer videos typically feature 2-3 interviews, illustrating b-roll, music, possibly some animation, usually an intro/outro from the student filmmaker, and other ingredients. These require careful advance planning, typically with TK1 instructors or media/humanities teachers. Short-form videos feature one interview (maybe 2), illustrating b-roll, captions, and some fun music.

- **Society.** The TK1 Youth Council will complete videos exploring Taos and the UN's *Sustainable Development Goals*. All videos will ask: *what should be the good things that last here?* Students will explore projects relating to poverty, hunger, clean water, energy, climate and more. Students currently not on the Youth Council are encouraged to submit on this topic, but should contact TK1 first.
- **Community.** What are some of the amazing things your community has collectively cared for, preserved, and passed down over the years? From acequias to churches, parks to public spaces, schools to restaurants, what has stood the local test of time?

- **Family.** What in your own family has stood the test of time? This could be an age-old tradition. An ancient book, a treasured old car, a set of photographs, jewelry, paintings, scrapbooks, recipes.
- **Elders.** Interview an elder in your life (a grandparent, a parent, a family friend) and ask them, “What’s one good thing in your life that has lasted for decades?” Find b-roll (illustrative images) to show that good thing.
- **Children.** Interview a child under the age of 10 and ask them, “What’s one good thing in your life you hope lasts until you’re old?”. Why did they choose that?
- **Teens.** Interview yourself, or a friend with the same question: “What’s one good thing in your life you hope lasts until you’re old?”. Why?
- **The Land.** Take video of a field or garden that’s produced food for decades. Shoot video of a playground or forest and tell us *why* it’s passed the test of time. *What makes it so special?*
- **Food.** Record your grandmother making her favorite recipe – the one that she learned from her grandmother, who learned from her own grandmother... Go to an age-old restaurant and interview the owner or a long-time customer - what’s the restaurant’s secret? Why has it passed the test of time?

Photography (5 photos per submission minimum, 10 maximum)

- Photos of your uncle’s amazing 1960s Ford Mustang or the old pickup truck that still carries firewood...
- Photos of adobe. Wooden vigas. Restaurants. Old stores and tiendas.
- Taos Pueblo and other structures originally built long ago.
- People who themselves have stood the test of time...

Animation

- Bring to life something that you want to see last here in Taos for many years to come. Draw something that has indeed already stood the test of time. This could be an idea (peace or happiness), a thing (water in our acequias, a sunset, a rain storm) or a person (or type of person).

TK1 instructors work with students every day after school to help sharpen ideas, and to lend a hand in the production work. Our facility is just north of Albertsons in Taos - a five-minute walk from Taos High School.

For all students with questions, ideas, or who simply want to discuss the project, call 575-425-0222 or email admin@truekids1.org and talk to one of our instructors today.

For teachers or administrators who want to discuss this opportunity, please call Sandy at 505-316-1361 or sandy@truekids1.org.

All submission rules and deadlines will be posted later in October. Videographers are HIGHLY encouraged to use a 4K camera, microphones, and tripods. TK1 can lend all of this gear and more (e.g. drones, lights) to student productions.