

Michael Wham

Michael has been interested in science since pre-school and filmmaking since first grade. He made his first documentary on Carolina Chickadees nestlings when he was 7. He began to enter his films in film festivals when he was in 8th grade. In 8th grade he placed first in the junior high category at Houston Young Movie Makers for his film “Autumn in Churchill Bay”, a film about the polar bears that congregate near Hudson Bay each fall.

In 9th grade, Michael’s film “Penguins of Antarctica”, won First Place in the High School category in the Woodlands Young Filmmaker’s festival. It also placed first in the Youth category at the International Wildlife Film Festival, was an official selection of the Kid’s First Film Festival, and won a Bronze Award at the Houston World Fest in the short documentary category. In 10th grade, Michael made a film about the endangered red-backed squirrel monkeys of Costa Rica, “Perilous Progress”. This film was shown at film festivals in Florida, Utah, California, Texas, Alabama and Montana. This film received a silver medal at the World Fest in Houston and First Place in the International Wildlife Film Festival’s youth division.

Michael’s most recent film, “Whale Sharks of Holbox” was made pursuant to a grant he received from the “Save our Seas” foundation. This film received a \$5000 grand prize for high school film at the Culture Shapers Art Festival in Houston. “Whale Sharks” is also an official selection of the Kid’s First Film festival, San Francisco Ocean Film festival, Alaska Ocean Film festival, and the George Lindsey UNA film festival. “Whale Sharks” was a finalist in the Moving Pictures Magazine short film contest, and is featured on the Moving Pictures Magazine Best of 2006 DVD.

Michael has been competing in science fairs since 9th grade. In 9th grade, his project “Getting Alarmed about Wireless Internet Security” took First Place in Computer Science at the Houston Science and Engineering fair, and Third Place in Computer Science at the Exxon Mobile Texas State Science Fair. In 10th grade, Michael’s second year study of wireless internet security took First Place in Computer Science and the Alternate Grand Award at the Houston Science and Engineering fair. Michael was a finalist in the Museum of Natural History’s Young Naturalist contest in both 9th and 10th grades. He recently placed 3rd at the Texas Jr. Science and Humanities Symposium for his paper, “A Computer Assisted Acoustical Analysis of Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Vocalizations”.

Michael works as an intern at a local software company, and has served as a documentarian for a local film production company. He holds a black belt in Kuk Sool Won, a Korean martial art, and has been certified to dive since he was ten.