



Android Video Recording Setup Guide



How to record and submit video for the National Water Dance “April 19th Sunday Watch Party” (In place of Live Streaming)

Optimized for <1GB, 15-Minute Landscape Videos

Objective

This guide explains how to configure an Android device to record a maximum 15-minute video in landscape format, targeting a file size of approximately ~500MB, with optimal quality for YouTube publishing and web embedding. Android devices vary widely by manufacturer (Samsung, Google Pixel, OnePlus, Motorola, etc.), so exact menu names may differ slightly. This guide uses the most commonly found terminology and covers the general path that works on most modern Android phones.

Note on Android Diversity

Manufacturers like Samsung (One UI), Google (Pixel), and others each customize their camera apps and Settings menus. The steps below reflect the most common locations. If a setting is not found where described, look for it in your Camera app's Settings icon (usually a gear icon) or under Settings → Apps → Camera.



Target Outcome:

- **Duration:** ~15 minutes
 - **Estimated Size:** 450MB–600MB
 - **Orientation:** Landscape (horizontal)
 - **Resolution:** 1080p HD
 - **Frame Rate:** 30 fps
 - **Format:** H.265 (HEVC) or H.264 or .MP4
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Recommended Recording Settings (Quick Summary)

Before recording, ensure the following:

- **Format:** H.265 (HEVC) or H.264 or .MP4
- **Resolution:** 1080p HD
- **Frame Rate:** 30 fps
- **HDR Video:** Off
- **Cinematic Mode:** Do NOT use
- **ProRes (if available):** Off

These settings help keep the file size close to 750MB while maintaining professional quality suitable for YouTube and web embedding.

Step 1 – Open Camera Settings

1.1 Access Video Settings

Most Android camera apps have a settings panel accessible directly from within the Camera app:

1. Open the Camera app.
2. Switch to Video mode by swiping or tapping the Video option.
3. Tap the Settings (gear) icon inside the Camera app, usually in the top corner.
4. Alternatively, go to the phone's Settings app → Apps → Camera to find video configuration options.

Why this matters:

Accessing camera settings before recording ensures all format and quality options are correctly configured, preventing oversized or incorrectly formatted video files.

Step 2 – Set Video Resolution and Frame Rate

2.1 Configure Video Resolution

Inside the Camera app settings or the Video settings menu:

1. Tap Video Resolution or Video Size.
2. Select 1080p (Full HD).
3. If a frame rate option is shown alongside resolution, select 30 fps.

Do NOT select:

- **4K (UHD) – creates files that are too large**
- **60 fps – significantly increases file size**
- **Any LOG or RAW video format**

Why 1080p at 30 fps?

This provides excellent quality for YouTube and web playback while keeping the file size manageable. Expect approximately 60–90MB per minute. For 15 minutes, this results in around 450MB–600MB.

Step 3 – Select the Right Video Format (Codec)

3.1 Choose H.265 (HEVC) or H.264

Where available, select a compressed format:

1. In your Camera or Video settings, look for Video Format, Codec, or Encoding Format.
2. Select H.265 (HEVC) if available. If not, H.264 is fully acceptable.

Do NOT select:

- **RAW video**
- **ProRes or LOG formats (available on some high-end Android devices)**

Why this matters:

H.265 (HEVC) compresses video more efficiently than H.264, reducing file size while maintaining high quality – similar to High Efficiency (HEVC) on iPhone. If H.265 is not available, H.264 is still acceptable and widely supported.

Step 4 – Disable HDR Video

1. Open the Camera app.
2. Go to Video Settings.
3. Look for HDR Video, HDR10, or Rich Tone Video and turn it OFF.

Why disable HDR?

HDR increases file size and may complicate post-processing. Disabling it ensures smoother compression and easier processing workflows.

Step 5 – Avoid Special Video Modes

5.1 Use Standard Video Mode Only

When recording:

1. Open the Camera app.
2. Select the standard Video mode.

Do NOT use any of the following modes:

- **Portrait Video / Cinematic Mode – adds blur effects and increases size**
- **Slow Motion (Slo-Mo) – captures at high frame rates, very large files**
- **Director's View, Pro Video, or Expert RAW – may produce uncompressed or oversized files**
- **Instagram, TikTok, or social media recording modes – may compress or crop the video**

Why standard mode?

Special video modes increase file size and add processing effects that are unnecessary for this project. Standard video mode produces the cleanest, most compatible file.

Step 6 – Record in Landscape (Horizontal)

6.1 Proper Orientation

1. Hold the Android device horizontally (sideways).
2. Ensure the preview appears wide, not vertical.
3. If your phone's screen rotation is locked, unlock it temporarily under Quick Settings → Auto-Rotate before recording.

Important Rules:

- **Do NOT record vertically.**
- **Do NOT rotate the phone during recording.**
- Keep the orientation consistent from start to finish.

The entire video must be recorded in landscape format for proper YouTube and website embedding.

Step 7 – Stabilization and Framing Best Practices

To improve final quality:

- Use a tripod or stable surface.
- Keep the phone at eye level.
- Avoid using digital zoom (pinching to zoom degrades quality).
- Ensure good lighting – place the light source in front of the subject.
- If available, use an external microphone for better audio quality.
- Video Stabilization: If your camera has an EIS (Electronic Image Stabilization) option (not “Super Steady” which can crop the image), you may enable it.

Tip:

Better lighting improves compression efficiency and produces a cleaner final result. Avoid recording in low-light conditions as this significantly increases file size and reduces quality.

Step 8 – Check Available Storage Before Recording

1. Open Settings.
2. Go to Storage or Device Care → Storage (varies by manufacturer).
3. Ensure at least 2–3 GB of free space is available.

Even though the final file should be around 500MB, extra space prevents recording interruptions. Android may also use temporary space while writing the file.

Expected File Size Breakdown

With 1080p Full HD, 30 fps, H.265 or H.264:

- Approximately 60–90MB per minute
- 15 minutes ≈ 750MB–950MB

File size may vary depending on:

- Lighting conditions
- Amount of movement in the frame
- Background detail and complexity
- Codec used (H.265 produces smaller files than H.264)

This range is fully acceptable for YouTube upload and backend compression.



Final Checklist Before Recording

Confirm the following before pressing record:

- H.265 or H.264 selected (NOT RAW / LOG formats)
 - 1080p Full HD at 30 fps selected
 - HDR Video OFF
 - Not using a special video mode (Portrait, etc.)
 - Phone held in landscape
 - Stable support or tripod used
 - Adequate lighting
 - Sufficient storage available (2–3 GB free)
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After Recording – Before Sending the File

Participants must:

- Trim the video if it is longer than 15 minutes or if the file is larger than 1 GB.
- Do NOT add transitions, graphics, or other elements to the video.
- Do NOT compress using WhatsApp, Telegram, or other messaging apps – these degrade quality.
- Do NOT trim or edit inside social media apps.
- Send the original file only.

Accepted delivery methods:

- Submission form will be available on National Water Dance website at a later date
- Deadline for submitting your video file is **10:00pm ET** Saturday, April 18, 2026

Always send the original, full-resolution file.