

# NewsRelease

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## **THE ATAXIAN OFFICIALLY ENTERED INTO COMPETITION IN THE 2016 SEDONA FILM FESTIVAL**

**Film will compete for the Directors/Jurors Choice Awards as well as  
the Audience Choice Award in the Documentary and Best of the Fest  
Categories**

Los Angeles- January 27, 2016 - The documentary film, *The Ataxian*, has been officially entered into competition at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sedona Film Festival which takes place February 20-28<sup>th</sup>. The festival celebrates the best of independent and documentary filmmaking from around the world. For more information about the festival and screening opportunities for *The Ataxian*, please visit [www.sedonafilmfestival.org](http://www.sedonafilmfestival.org). The film has been entered into the Directors/Jurors Choice, The Audience Award, the Documentary and the Best of the Fest categories.

*The Ataxian* tells the story of Kyle Bryant, who at the age of 17 was diagnosed with the relatively unknown progressive neuromuscular disease, Friedreich's ataxia (FA), for which there is no medication and no cure. As Kyle lost his ability to play his favorite sports and even walk, he began biking long distances in a specially outfitted "trike." When he is finally relegated to a wheel chair, Kyle enlists the help of three friends, Sean—who also has FA—John and Mike, and the four embark on the "world's toughest bike race" the Race Across America (RAAM).

In this feature-length documentary filmmakers and childhood friends Kevin Schlanser and Zack Bennett capture what is a grueling 9-day non-stop journey for anyone—much less someone with an energy-depriving disorder. The race starts in Oceanside, CA and ends in Annapolis, MD. What happens along the way inspires hope in the hearts of other families battling FA and starts a movement, now known as rideATAXIA.

In attendance at the festival screening will be filmmakers Zack Bennett, Kevin Schlanser and producer Nathan Adams along with Kyle Bryant, the heroic cyclist who started a movement to raise awareness and offer inspiration for families afflicted with FA.

"Being a part of the Sedona Film Festival is a true honor" said Kyle Bryant, the film's star. "To be able to share my story and raise awareness for Friedreich's ataxia is not only personal to me, but an important mission to aid those who continue to be affected by this rare disease."

For more information on the film, please visit [www.theataxianmovie.com](http://www.theataxianmovie.com).

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