A Letter to Congress
USA, 2017, 3 min. / Directed by: Christopher Newman
Christopher Newman’s short, lyrical visual poem was inspired by and is an homage to Wallace Stegner’s 1960 “Letter to Congress,” in which the writer advocated for the preservation of the wilderness that then remained. “Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed,” Stegner wrote. In hindsight, the 1960s were hopeful; today, the exhortation is more urgent than ever.

Escape
2018, Canada, 8 min. / Directed by: Anjali Nayar
There is something gloriously incongruous – and almost incomprehensible – about a risk-averse, non-athletic, native Rwandan DJ finding the real meaning in his life by pedaling across Canada to its frozen Arctic Ocean shore in an attempt to break the record for the longest continuous, fixed-gear bike ride. Through the course of this unlikely adventure, the protagonist Jean-Aime Bigirimana also finds that the truth about escaping is not as black and white as, say, his spandex silhouette against the cold Canadian snowscape.

Life Coach
2017, USA, 13 min. / Directed by: Renan Ozturk, Taylor Rees
Climber and filmmaker Renan Ozturk makes the pilgrimage to the toothy and harsh landscape of Alaska’s Ruth Glacier every year. This time around, he and fellow climber Alex Honnold have their sights set on a beautiful route up Mount Dickey. But the weather is horrendous. So instead, they end up sitting in tents talking about their feelings. What unfolds is not your typical climbing film, but rather a touching examination into life’s big questions.

The Space Within
2017, USA, 6 min. / Directed by: Frank Pickell, Ben Sturgulewski
Picking through the tidepools of a deserted tropical beach, a young boy finds a mysterious treasure washed up on the rocks and is swiftly transported to a different world. This one is blanketed in snow, muffled by storms and home to skiers carving through shoulder-deep powder.

Hayley: 90 Seconds on Fear
2017, Sweden, 1 min. / Directed by: Stian Smestad
“I must not fear. Fear is the mind killer. Fear is the little death that brings total obliteration. I will face my fear.” That’s the mantra of Hayley Ashburn as she walks a 170-foot highline between outcroppings in the wintry Dolomites.

Felix
2018, USA, 6 min. / Directed by: Allison Otto
Twice a month for the last 40 years, Felix Belmont has hosted a radio show on KVNF in the small town of Paonia, Colorado, spinning big band music of the ’30s and ’40s. Today, at 99 years old, he is believed to be the world’s oldest public radio host. In this endearing short film, Belmont shares the ingredients to life well-lived: a great love affair, a rich relationship with music and just the right amount of top-shelf scotch.
Brothers of Climbing
2017, USA, 7 min. / Directed by: Duncan Sullivan
Go to a typical climbing gym and you’re not likely to see many people of color. But Brothers of Climbing co-founder Mikhail Martin says if young black people never see someone who looks like them, they will think a rock wall is no place for them. His organization aims to change that. With a mission of boosting minorities’ involvement in outdoor activities, the group’s positive energy is increasing diversity and challenging stereotypes in the climbing world.

Why Not Now: Vivian Stancil
2017, USA, 3 min. / Directed by: Riley Hooper
Blind and afraid of water, Vivian Stancil learned to swim at 48. “I heard that blind people can’t swim,” Stancil says, followed by: “Oh, yes they can!” Two hundred and twenty-one medals later, at half her former body weight, Stencil is still at it.

Drop Everything: Michelle Parker Segment
2017, USA, 4 min. / Directed by: Scott Gaffney
Fast, fearless, steep and deep. That about sums up Michelle Parker as she carves graceful lines into the spines of Alaska.

Beyond the Horizon
2018, Honduras, 26 min. / Directed by: Jon Klaczkiewicz
This is, above all, a film about transformation and redemption. And, at the same time, it is fundamentally a fly-fishing film. How those two disparate descriptions square is through the story the film tells of Rankin Jackson, a struggling Honduran islander who gets caught up in the dark and dangerous world of drug running. Well against the odds, Rankin’s experience in that netherworld leads him to a new life that is bright and promising and far beyond the horizon of his old dreams.

A New View of the Moon
2018, USA, 4 min. / Directed by: Wylie Overstreet
Wylie Overstreet was hanging out in his LA apartment one night and, out of boredom, decided to take his high-powered telescope out to the street to peer at the moon. Pretty soon people began wandering up and asking him what he was up to. When he showed them, they nearly fell over in awe. A New View of the Moon is just the reminder we need to keep looking up. Because as Galileo said, back in 1610, “it’s a beautiful and wondrous sight to behold the body of the moon.”