



DETAILS ABOUT DISTRICT MEETINGS

Fall brings many things--changing leaves, football, pumpkin-spiced everything, and MONTANA FCCLA DISTRICT MEETINGS! You do not want to miss out on your chance to network with members from other chapters, grow your own leadership skills, and participate in workshops and district officer elections! Look for the District Meetings flyer later in the newsletter for details about your district's meeting date and location.



SPOTLIGHT ON BROOKELYNN RUCKMAN

Brooke is one of the most hardworking and dedicated people I know. Not only is she a chapter officer, but she was a 2023 National Top 10 Finalist in the STAR Event, Food Innovations. Brooke became an active member of our FCCLA chapter her junior year of high school, and has been an incredible aspect of our school and community. FCCLA isn't the only thing Brooke is involved in. She is also an FFA chapter officer, Student Council officer, an advanced student, as well as participating in other various clubs and extracurriculars. As her peer, I look up to Brooke and her dedication to our school, community, and her family. I am confident that she represents FCCLA well and will continue to be a positive role model for many to come.

~ Lauren Plagenz, Montana FCCLA State President

CONNECT WITH US!



PRESIDENTIAL WELCOME

Hey everyone, it's your Montana State President, Lauren again! I hope you all are having a fantastic fall so far, and I cannot wait to hear more about what you are up to! October is a busy month for Montana FCCLA, and I want to make sure that everyone will "Experience the Ultimate Journey." The State Executive Council has been hard at work planning each district's fall meeting schedule. I am confident that each of you will not only have fun, but grow your leadership skills, friendships, and understanding of FCCLA at your district meeting through workshops, keynote speakers, and more! Please do not hesitate to contact me via my email, lauren.president@mtfcla.org if you have any questions, thoughts or concerns coming up. I hope to hear from you soon!

DISTRICT OFFICER ELECTIONS

We are officially in the season of district meetings! As our current district officers are busy planning this year we hope some of you are thinking about running for district office. Running for an office is a fun experience where you'll be able to represent the district and your chapter on a higher level. There are multiple district offices you can choose to run for. These positions all help your district run smoothly and have a great year.

Being an officer gives you so many opportunities to be a leader as FCCLA is student led, having your voice heard and being part of the decision making is a great feeling. There are different positions that are great first steps for stepping into a leadership position. Start your ultimate journey this year by running for an officer position. To start this process, reach out to your chapter advisor and reach out to your current district officers with questions you may have. Your State Executive Council is looking forward to seeing what you do this year. Have a great district conference everyone!

~Jill Baumgardner, First Vice-President



CULINARY CORNER

COA: the ProStart Way

What is a COA? Have you heard of this acronym before? "The National ProStart Certificate of Achievement (COA) is an industry-recognized certificate that signifies a strong foundation in the basic management and culinary skills considered critical to success by restaurant industry leaders." This means that you have earned this certificate that demonstrates to future employers that you have the skills and knowledge to be successful in a restaurant setting! It looks incredible on a resume, can help you earn more money, and can be the deciding factor between hiring you and someone else at your dream job! In order to earn this, you will need to pass the Level 1 & 2 exams, complete 400 hours of work experience, and prove that you have mastered workplace competencies. It will take some dedication but it is absolutely achievable! Be one of the next students in Montana to earn a COA and get one step closer to an exciting career in the restaurant industry.

Learn more by visiting:

<https://myprostart.chooserestaurants.org/Programs-and-Scholarships/Meet-ProStart/Program-Overview> or by contacting Jordan Collins, ProStart Coordinator at jordan@mtfcla.org

CALLING ALL ADVISERS!

Be sure to sign up for the Adviser Communities program and expand your network for support, ideas, encouragement and inspiration! Complete [this link](#) by October 15, participate in monthly discussions, and qualify for participation incentives!

COMING UP!

October 15: Advisers [register](#) for the Adviser Communities program!

District Meetings:

October 11, District 4, Colstrip

October 24, District 6/7, Deer Lodge

November 14, District 1 & 3/9, Great Falls

District 2, Belgrade

District 5, Glendive

District 11

November 15, District 8, Medicine Lake

District 10, Columbus

November 17: Vision Zero priority grant requests are due

December 1: grant requests are due

December 1: Fitness State Outreach Project Grant applications due

Affiliation is open! Visit the [portal](#) to log in and start adding your members! Membership package options are found on the last page of this newsletter.

National FCCLA Events:

October 11: National Fall Conference Regular Registration and Housing Deadline

October 9-11, 2023: Capitol Leadership (Washington, D.C.)

November 10-12, 2023: National Fall Conference (Birmingham, AL)

January 25-27, 2024: Chapter Adviser Summit (Seattle, WA)



NATIONAL PROGRAM SHOWCASE

This month's National Program Showcase is STAR Events. FCCLA offers many opportunities for members to develop skills related to planning, teamwork, and public speaking and STAR Events is one of the best. With over 30 events, there is something for everyone. Learn more about successful steps to STAR Event projects from our Vice President of Competitive Events, Emma Harrison, on the next page.

SHINE THE SPOTLIGHT!

Who do you know that should be featured in next month's FCCLA Spotlight? Please take a moment to nominate someone to be featured in the November issue at this [link](#)



STAR EVENTS

By Emma Harrison
VP of Competitive Events

Are you thinking about a STAR Event Project? Well I am! There are more than 30 STAR Events to choose from. You or your advisor will need to log into the fcclainc.org website and download the Competitive Events Guide to check out all the options and requirements. Once you have looked at the STAR Events, read all of the requirements, and selected the project you want to do, it's time to look at the planning process.

The planning process can be found on FCCLA's website at fcclainc.org. The planning process is a required step in all STAR Event projects.

The first step of the planning process is to identify concerns. This is where you need to show why your project is important to you or the community. Once you have identified the concern and reason for your project, you set a goal.

Goals should be SMART. Specific - How will your project address the concern you identified? Measurable - How will you measure whether you reached your goal or not? Attainable - Is it challenging, but not so difficult that you can't be successful? Relevant - Why does it matter? (tie back to concerns) Timely - You need an end date to fulfill your goal that is before the State Leadership Conference. After you know what your goal is you can start thinking about how you are going to carry out your project and your goal by forming a plan.

In the plan, you will specify the details of what you plan to do for your project: Who, What, When, Where, How. There are two more steps after form a plan that you will complete at the end of your project.

When you have completed your project, you will fill in the Act portion of the planning process, where you will describe very briefly what you did. Then in the Follow Up section you will evaluate if you were successful and what you would do differently.

The planning process is a crucial part of your STAR Event, but it is also meant to be BRIEF. It can't be more than 1 page in total length. If done correctly, someone should be able to look at it and have a pretty good idea of how to run this project.

DISTRICT 6/7 MEETING

District 6/7 will be holding its district meeting on October 24th. It will be at The Rialto, in Deer Lodge, MT. Starting at 9am, and ending around 2pm, our meeting will have FIVE different workshops, along with a local speaker focusing on smart and safe spending. Our five workshops will be STAR Events, Strategic Planning, Financial Fitness, one based on Traffic and Driver safety, and a fun Surprise one! We even have a fun theme this year! Our theme is Neon party! There will be goodie bags with gifts for each chapter that attends. Also, don't forget that we will be electing a new District President. I can't wait to see everyone there, and meet any new FCCLA members!

~Maddie Schrecengost, District 6/7 President and Montana FCCLA VP of Programs

MONTANA FCCLA SERVICE HALL OF FAME!

FIRST QUARTER
2023-24

CONGRATS TO
THREE FORKS
AND BRIDGER
FCCLA
CHAPTERS!



These chapters submitted the most service hours this quarter!

Learn more about how your chapter can make a positive difference in your community and be recognized for your efforts on the [Montana FCCLA website!](#)



VISION ZERO PROJECT RESOURCES



Need some inspiration for your Vision Zero grant project? Check out some innovative approaches to traffic safety at [this link](#). The priority deadline for grant requests is **November 17**, with final grant requests due **December 1**. Find more details on the flyer on the next page.



MANHATTAN CHAPTER WINS BULLETIN BOARD CONTEST!

Congratulations to the **Manhattan FCCLA Chapter**, capturing the most votes in the recent Montana FCCLA Bulletin Board contest. Check out our Instagram and Facebook pages for photos of all this year's fantastic entries!



UPCOMING ADVISER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Don't miss out on updated information about Montana FCCLA and resources designed to make your chapter more successful! Lots of opportunities for FCCLA adviser professional development are coming up soon!

- October 18** @ Fairmont--OPI New Professional Training
- October 19-20** @Fairmont--Montana ACTE Conference
- November 8**--Montana FCCLA Adviser Webinar; Focus on STAR Events
- December 4** @ Helena--Montana Culinary Educator Training
- December 13**--Montana FCCLA Hybrid Conference

More details about PD opportunities are found on the Adviser Resources section of the [Montana FCCLA Website](#).





Strategic Planning, 2023-24

Montana FCCLA wants your perspectives! As a component of our Strategic Planning process, we are collecting input from our stakeholders to ensure our goals and activities reflect the priorities of those we represent so that we can offer The Ultimate Leadership Experience to our membership!

MISSION

To promote personal growth and leadership development through Family and Consumer Sciences education. Focusing on the multiple roles of family member, wage earner and community leader, members develop skills for life through:

- Character development
- Creative and critical thinking
- Interpersonal communication
- Practical knowledge
- Career preparation

WHAT IS A STRATEGIC PLAN?

A Strategic Plan collects data from a wide variety of stakeholders, then uses that data to determine priorities and set goals for the future. The Strategic Plan works as a guide to determine activities and opportunities offered to members, and to help make important decisions for the organization's future.

MONTANA FCCLA'S STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS & TIMELINE

JULY THROUGH NOVEMBER, 2023

During this phase, we will collect data from many sources in order to get a full picture of our strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. Target groups include: State Executive Council, chapter members, chapter advisers, parents, administrators, Board members, partners

INPUT FROM ALL STAKEHOLDERS HELPS TO CREATE AN ACCURATE, USEFUL STRATEGIC PLAN

DECEMBER, 2023

Once data has been collected, the information we have gained will be organized to help us better understand it.

JANUARY, 2024

The Board and the State Executive Council will examine the data and use it to brainstorm general goals for the organization moving forward

FEBRUARY, 2024

Once we have general goals in place, the Board and State Executive Council will draft specific objectives in categories such as leadership development, growth, partnerships, adviser support, chapter and district support, finances, staffing and board development

MARCH, 2024

Once finalized, the Board and State Executive Council will share the 2027 Strategic Plan at the 2024 Montana FCCLA State Leadership Conference

APRIL, 2024-2029

The 2029 Montana FCCLA Strategic Plan is used to guide decisions regarding programming, funding, and partnerships



STRATEGIC PLANNING 2029: SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

An important piece of Montana FCCLA's future is strategic planning, Your Board of Directors is now collecting input from members, advisers, administrators, parents, partners, and all of our stakeholders to help influence our programming and activities through the next five years. The graphic to the left shares the planned timeline for our 2029 Strategic Plan. Please visit our [Strategic Planning page](#) and complete the survey that best describes your participation with Montana FCCLA, then share the link with others to help everyone have a voice!

✉ director@mtfccla.org

📍 Box 11409, Bozeman, MT 59718

🌐 www.mtfccla.org

WELCOME TO OUR NEWLY AFFILIATED CHAPTERS!

Congratulations and welcome to the following chapters who have affiliated for the 2023-24 membership year!

Bozeman
Forsyth
Jefferson
Skyview

Bridger
Gallatin
Lockwood
Three Forks

Ennis
Garfield County
Moore
Wibaux

Fergus
Harlowton
Plentywood

CONNECT WITH US!



Montana FCCLA District Meetings 2023

Check out the district meeting dates and locations.
If you have questions, contact the adviser listed for the district.

1

November 14
Great Falls
Megan Vincent,
Stacy Aaberg

3

9

2

November 14
Belgrade
Melanie Young

4

October 11
Colstrip
Kim Knoche

5

November 14
Glendive
Adele Stenson

8

November 15
Medicine Lake
Megan Murphy



6

7

October 24
Deer Lodge
Kacie Perkins

10

November 15
Columbus
Sandy Woldstad

11

November 14
Dillon
Kim Konen

EVER WONDER HOW YOU CAN EDUCATE OTHERS ABOUT TRAFFIC SAFETY?



NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO FIND OUT

2023-24 VISION ZERO

Fund your project to help you and your peers reduce distracted driving with a Vision Zero grant!

Priority application deadline: November 17  Final grant application deadline: December 1
Visit mtfccla.org for full details

The percentage of crashes involving young drivers has not changed significantly during the past 19 years.

Texting while driving has the same effect on reaction time as consuming four beers in a single hour.

Inattentiveness, carelessness, and driving speed accounted for over 50% of the crashes in the past 10 years.

Offered through a partnership between the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and the Montana Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)
Questions? Contact Sheila Cozzie, 406-444-7301 scozzie@mt.gov



2023-24 MONTANA FCCLA STATE OUTREACH PROJECT



Financial Fitness is FCCLA's National Program designed to help members learn about:

EARNING



SPENDING



SAVING



PROTECTING



Montana is currently ranked 29/50 states in terms of financial literacy access (source: Montana Office of Public Instruction).

Improved education results in better financial options for Montana individuals and families.

Although the Class of 2026 is required to complete a financial literacy course before graduation, Montana FCCLA has the tools ready now to teach others about earning, spending, saving, and protecting their finances.

Chapters can apply for mini-grants of \$200 to help chapters develop and implement projects to help others better understand financial management. Chapters completing the final report about their efforts are eligible to win cash awards of \$500, \$300 or \$200!

Chapters may also apply to receive FREE Financial Fitness curriculum!
(Advisers: contact Tracey to request the curriculum for your chapter)

Visit the [Montana FCCLA Website](#) for more information, project ideas, and to apply for grants by December 1

This State Outreach Project is possible through the support of BlueCross BlueShield of Montana and the Montana Financial Education Coalition





Financial Fitness in FCS and FCCLA

A Hybrid Professional Development Opportunity
for Montana FCCLA Advisers

December 13, 2023

Who should attend: Any Montana FCCLA Adviser

How it works: This conference offers a hybrid experience, combining the benefits of in-person with the flexibility of virtual attendance

What you will gain: Innovative strategies for integrating financial education into your FCS classroom and FCCLA activities

How to register: Complete [this form](#) by December 1

Cost: Attending is free; attendees pay for lunch at host sites

Attend in person at one of the hosted locations, or remotely on your own (some event activities will only be offered at one of the hosted sites below):

Adele Stenson
Glendive

Katie Umbracio
Ronan

Kim Knoche
Forsyth

Sandy Woldstad
Harlowton

Cathe Felz
Three Forks

Stacy Aaberg
Confad

Montana Chapters have four affiliation options to choose from. This includes three packages that allow **Perkins Funding** as payment to mitigate chapter fundraising and individual payment participation barriers for students and families, along with an option exclusively for middle-level chapters, serving students up to grade 9.

1 TRADITIONAL AFFILIATION

This is a continuation of past membership affiliation processes. Each student grades 6-12 who engages with or benefits from FCCLA programming is affiliated. Affiliation dues are paid from chapter fundraising or an individual/family fee.

- \$ **NATIONAL DUES**
\$9 per person
Minimum of 12 individuals
- +
- \$ **STATE PER PERSON DUES**
\$9 per person
No Minimum
- +
- \$ **STATE CHAPTER DUES**
\$65 per chapter
Flat rate to support State Officer Programming



2 MIDDLE LEVEL PACKAGE

27 or more members, grade 9 or younger.

- \$ **NATIONAL DUES**
\$250
- +
- \$ **STATE DUES**
\$135
(based on 15 members; over 15 members are free)
- +
- \$ **STATE CHAPTER DUES**
\$65 per chapter
Flat rate to support State Officer Programming

\$450 TOTAL

NEW IN 2023!

*USING THIS PACKAGE REQUIRES A SEPARATE CHAPTER AFFILIATION
*THE CHAPTER FEE IS WAIVED FOR SCHOOLS ALSO AFFILIATING A SEPARATE HIGH SCHOOL CHAPTER.
*PERKINS FUNDING MAY BE USED TO PAY WITH THE MIDDLE LEVEL PACKAGE

3 TOP 25 AFFILIATION PACKAGE

Up to 25 members.

- \$ **NATIONAL DUES**
\$395
- +
- \$ **STATE DUES**
\$180
(this includes 5 free memberships)
- +
- \$ **STATE CHAPTER DUES**
\$65 per chapter
Flat rate to support State Officer Programming

\$640 TOTAL

MEMBERSHIP PACKAGES #3 & #4

Membership packages include numerous chapter adviser and student benefits.

- Flat-rate payment can occur via **Perkins Funding**, eliminating per-member dues solicitation and enhancing equity by reducing participation barriers.
- Chapters receive a National FCCLA program of their choice with 70+ lesson plans to integrate FCCLA into the classroom (\$75 value).
- Free National FCCLA Chapter Adviser affiliation (\$9 value).
- One (1) Adviser Academy Registration (\$90 value).
- One (1) Lifetime Alumni & Associates membership for any one of their choice (\$150 value).

\$325 VALUE

4 BIG SKY UNLIMITED AFFILIATION PACKAGE

Unlimited chapter members.

- \$ **NATIONAL DUES**
\$775
- +
- \$ **STATE DUES**
\$405
(based on 45 members; over 45 members are free)
- +
- \$ **STATE CHAPTER DUES**
\$65 per chapter
Flat rate to support State Officer Programming

\$1245 TOTAL

LONG-TERM BENEFITS FOR THE TOP 25 AND BIG SKY PACKAGES

- **Chapter Benefits:** Montana CTE funding provides \$400 for existing chapters + a per-member allocation. Increased 2023-24 membership will increase your 2024-25 CTE funding allocation.
- **State Benefits:** House Bill 86 funding, which comprises most of FCCLA state funding, is heavily based on membership. Increased statewide membership means additional funding to support chapter advisers and provide student leadership opportunities.