

TALK OF THE STATE

MONTANA FCCLA

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DISCOVER YOUR COMPETITIVE STORY

Have you ever looked around in an FCCLA conference and wondered, "Where did all of these people find their ideas?" I know I have. My name is Elizabeth Hamilton and as your Montana State VP of Competitive Events,

I understand the feeling completely. When I first joined FCCLA I had no idea what to do for my very first project. My adviser suggested that I create a project around something I enjoy the most. At that time, I didn't want to be anything more than I wanted to be a world-famous illustrator. I went to my adviser and asked what I competitive event I could possibly do in correlation, and she suggested Career Investigation. Thanks to dedicating time to explore the ins and outs of becoming an illustrator as a career, I now have a better understanding of the education and career options in a field that is very interesting to me. I have a passion for writing the books I thought I would illustrate, I am now an accomplished author, and I was able to attend National Leadership Conference in San Diego, California in 2016.

There are multiple ways to choose which competitive event to compete in at Montana FCCLA's State Leadership Conference. First, it's helpful to know that there are different kinds of events. Skill Demonstration Events give members the chance to show off their college and career readiness skills. These events are held only at the National Fall Conference and Montana FCCLA's State Leadership Conference. Examples of Skill Demonstration events include: Culinary Knife Skills, Interior Design Sketch, Interviewing Skills, and Toys That Teach.

Students Taking Action with Recognition (STAR) Events are competitive events that recognize members' achievement in completing individual or chapter projects, leadership skills, and preparing for a career. These events allow members to compete solo or as a team. Members compete at Montana FCCLA's State Leadership Conference and then the top scorers advance for the chance to compete at the National Leadership Conference. NLC will be in Washington D.C., July 5-9, 2020.

There are over 30 STAR Events to choose from and it can be confusing to pick which one to explore. Luckily, there is a STAR Events quiz on the National FCCLA website, here, that may help you decide what project will work for you. Some examples of popular STAR Events are Food Innovations, Professional Presentation, and Repurpose and Redesign.

Regardless of the project you choose, be sure to use the Planning Process to ensure you are well prepared at Montana FCCLA's State Leadership Conference, March 19 & 20, 2020. I look forward to seeing you there!

- Elizabeth Hamilton, VP of Competitive Events



ELIZABETH HAMILTON
VP OF COMPETITIVE EVENTS