



## SPOTLIGHT ON CONNIE WITTAK



Connie is the Scobey advisor and is always there to lend a helping hand. She is very knowledgeable in FCCLA and planning events. I have personally never planned a district meeting before and she has been tons of help. She has been an advisor for many years and I often find myself looking to her for sound advice. She always emails me back in a timely manner and if she can't she lets me know. Thank you Connie Wittak for being such a great advisor and mentor! We are so lucky to have you!

~ Zoey Ator, Montana FCCLA VP of Parliamentary Law

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hey Montana FCCLA! I hope you all had a great summer and are ready for this school year! As the school year starts, I would like to wish each chapter good-luck with their first meetings and gaining/retaining membership! Please do not hesitate to contact either myself, or another SEC member with any questions or concerns you may have. Let's make this year "The Ultimate Journey!"

~Lauren Plagenz,  
Montana FCCLA State President

### CONNECT WITH US!





## COMING UP!

September 6, 13, 20 & 27  
New adviser professional development webinars, from 4:30-5:30PM.  
Email [Tracey](#) to register

September 14: FCCLA Adviser Webinar at 4:30PM. Use this [Zoom link](#) to join. Passcode is 720339

September 15: Deadline to enter the Montana FCCLA Bulletin Board Contest (see p. 5)

District Meetings:  
October 11, District 4, Colstrip  
November 14, District 1 & 3/9, Great Falls  
November 15, District 2, Belgrade

Vision Zero priority grant requests are due  
November 17. Final grant requests are due December 1

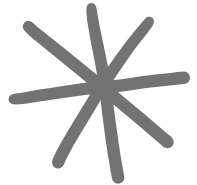
Financial Fitness State Outreach Project Grant applications due December 1

Affiliation is open! Visit the [portal](#) to log in and start adding your members!



## UPCOMING NATIONAL FCCLA DATES

- September 14:** Capitol Leadership Regular Registration and Housing Deadline
- September 29:** National Fall Conference Call for Presentations Application Deadline
- 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)



## CULINARY CORNER

You may have heard of dynamic pairings of food such as peanut butter and jelly, oreos and milk, or cinnamon and apples. Who decided to mix some of these flavor profiles together in the first place? When Remi, the Rat Chef from the Disney movie, Ratatouille, pairs cheese and a grape together in one bite, he takes two very different flavors and combines them for a unique tasting snack. Some flavors balance out or tame the other flavors, while some foods are combined in order to bring out elements of each ingredient more. A fun way to learn more about flavor profiles is to combine seemingly weird food items together to see if it works. Here are some that the internet swears by, which would you be willing to try? 1. Chicken and waffles. 2. Apples and gouda cheese. 3. Chocolate and potato chips. 4. Watermelon, mint, and feta cheese. 5. Steak and pomegranate. 6. Peanut butter and bacon. 7. Strawberry, basil, and balsamic vinegar. 8. Cheese and grapes. 9. Avocado and chocolate. 10. French fries and ice cream. Who knows what strange and tasty combination you might find!

~Jordan Collins, Montana ProStart Coordinator



## DISTRICT MEETING DETAILS

# 1,319

**Date: November 14**  
**Location:**  
**University of**  
**Providence,**  
**Great Falls**

# 2

**Date: November 14**  
**Location: Heck**  
**Building, Belgrade**

# 4

**Date: October 11**  
**Location: Colstrip High**  
**School**

# 8

**Date: November 15**  
**Location: Medicine**  
**Lake**

More  
coming  
soon!

## CHAPTER FUNDRAISING IDEAS

By Annika Sorenson, VP of Finance

- Monthly Bake Sale
  - Break up chapter into “family” groups and establish a date every month for the Bake Sale.
  - Assign families to different months of the year (this helps so the same people are not baking every month)
  - Sell baked goods to the business around your town
  - Create a cute, fun and fresh flier to display around the town too (this helps with advertisement)!!
- Boons Bags: <https://www.boonsupply.com/>
  - Reusable tote bags
  - Water bottles
  - Kitchen accessories
  - Get back up to 80% of profit
  - Super easy, fun, and different!



## STAR EVENTS

By Emma Harrison  
VP of Competitive Events

Do you know what S-T-A-R in STAR events stands for? The acronym STAR stands for Students Taking Action with Recognition. With STAR Events you can compete at a state and national level. There are 23 STAR Events in the categories of advocacy, entrepreneurship, fashion design, nutrition, wellness, leadership, hospitality, family and more. Some STAR Events are very hands-on creating products and others are more geared toward organization, leadership and communication. STAR Events are not only competitions, but they are also great skill builders. STAR Events help you build social, problem solving, public speaking, and time management skills. They also provide the potential opportunity to travel to NLC, which includes workshops to help grow skills, meet people from across the US and have FUN! STAR Events are a great experience we hope everyone will utilize.



## AFFILIATION REMINDER!

By Alexis Phelps  
VP of Membership



As our year draws through to our first official months of school we also have to remember in the next few months we will be having our district meetings! Make sure all your current and new members are affiliated so we know how many amazing FCCLA members we have across the state! We are all so excited to see you all!







## THREE FORKS WINS STATE FACTS AWARD

### NATIONAL PROGRAM

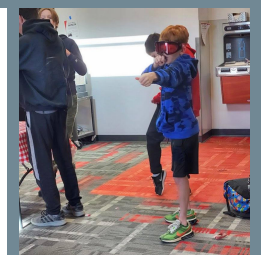
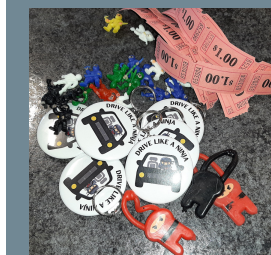
### SPOTLIGHT

Families Acting for Community Traffic Safety is the FCCLA National Program designed to educate adults and peers about traffic safety and support enforcement of local rules and regulations. Again this year, Montana FCCLA is partnering with the Montana Department of Transportation to help increase traffic safety in Montana. Visit the [Montana FCCLA website](#) to apply for Vision Zero grants to fund a traffic safety project in your community, and submit your chapter's final report by March 1 for a chance to win cash awards for your chapter! See the flyer in this newsletter for additional information.

The Three Forks FCCLA Chapter was named the State Families Acting for Community Traffic Safety project winner, earning \$500 for their chapter. For this project, Three Forks FCCLA members worked with Three Forks Student Council to offer several activities during traffic safety week, in February. The goal was 45% student participation. The theme was "Drive Like a Ninja" Be patient, Avoid Distraction and be Observant. They held a logo contest for students to design the signs and keychains. Safe driving statistics were shared on the morning announcements, and a student created PSA played throughout the day. Several interactive games were created around the ninja theme for students to participate in and earn tickets for a prize drawing at the end of the week. Activities included a ninja hunt, ninja darts using the distracted driving goggles to hit a target, ninja pong using drowsy driving goggles and Mario Kart with drowsy driving goggles at lunch.

Chapter leaders met with Student Council leaders to determine fun activities which would teach our students about the hazards of distracted driving. Students shared information about our project on social media and submitted articles for publication. Prizes were awarded to daily participants, additional drawings were held for pizza certificates, coffee cards and the grand prize was a Nintendo switch. Overall the week was a success with 178 students participating in the activities during the week.

If your chapter has a great project idea, be sure to submit your final report in the FCCLA portal! Your chapter could be the 2024 State FACTS Award Winner!







# Bulletin Board Contest

## TO ENTER:

- Create your real (not virtual) bulletin board
- Take a photo
- Email the jpg or png file to [director@mtfccla.org](mailto:director@mtfccla.org) by September 15
- All entries will be posted on the Montana FCCLA Instagram and Facebook pages.
- The chapter submitting the photo receiving the most likes by September 21 will receive an official FCCLA Llama!
- One entry per chapter
- Open to Montana FCCLA chapters only

Your chapter could win an official FCCLA Llama!



- ALL BULLETIN BOARD ENTRIES MUST INCLUDE:
- At least one of the items in the National FCCLA Membership Kit or Communications Plan. This might include printables, flyers, or customizable templates from the FCCLA website
  - The chapter name
  - The FCCLA logo
  - FCCLA's 2023-24 theme





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.



# 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](http://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](mailto: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!

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



BlueCross BlueShield  
of Montana





# WELCOME TO MONTANA FCCLA! ADVISER TRAINING SERIES

New to FCCLA advising? Looking for a refresher on a few topics or maybe some fresh ideas? Please join fellow Montana FCCLA new advisers and experts in the field to strengthen your advising skills and set your year up for success! Please register below and join us via Zoom on Wednesdays in September from 4:30-5:30 to help your students **EXPERIENCE THE ULTIMATE JOURNEY!**



## Session 1: Where Do I Begin?

This session will help you understand what FCCLA is and how it all works. Attendees will develop strategies to secure administrator and parent support, and gain membership recruitment strategies.

9/6



## Session 2: Build A Strong Foundation

This session focuses on building your chapter leadership and organizing your first chapter meetings. Don't miss out on great chapter meeting resources!

9/13



## Session 3: Maximize Your Involvement

You've got the basics covered, now it's time to add elements to your chapter plans to really make it shine! National Programs, State Outreach Project, and Service Hours will be highlighted in this session.

9/20



## Session 4: Maintain The Momentum

With a solid plan for the year, it's important to keep the momentum going! We will explore competitive events options, Montana's Adviser Communities, share resources for idea inspiration, and strategies for surviving the first year!

9/27



Sessions are open to all Montana FCCLA Advisers  
Please register [here](#) or with the QR code by September 1  
Questions? [Email Tracey](#)

