

# MONTANA FCCLA

May, 2025

New

**Save The Date for Fall Leadership Rally!**



**Keynote Speaker**  
**Eddie Slowikowski**



**State Outreach Project Track:**  
**Lindsey Cobble, LTT**



**New Leader Track:**  
**Brooklynn Gross, former LTT**

Montana FCCLA's Fall Rally is back September 28-29 at the Billings Hotel & Convention Center! Advisers may register two chapter leaders, two State Outreach Project leaders, and two new members, in addition to any District Officers. Attendees will receive a registration gift, as well as training in their designated area. Registration is now open and closes September 1. Find more details on the [Montana FCCLA website!](#)

*Creating*  
**CONNECTIONS**

2025 FALL LEADERSHIP RALLY



## Annual Member Survey



It's time once again to tell us why you joined Montana FCCLA, what you like about it and what you would like to see changed! Please take five minutes to complete this [short survey](#) and you could win an Amazon gift card! Even better, you could share your perspectives on how we can improve and offer more to our members. Thanks for your input!

**Welcome to our newly affiliated chapters!**

**Billings Senior  
Helena High  
Centerville**

**Membership  
affiliation is open  
through May 31!**

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# National ProStart Competition

Belgrade High School represented the state of Montana at the National ProStart Invitational in Baltimore earlier this month. The competition was fierce, but the community of chefs, students, industry partners, advisors, and judges was so strong! The culinary team showcased their skills on Saturday morning, while the management team presented on Sunday. In between their own competition times, our students were able to check out dishes and restaurant concepts created by other states, network with industry leaders, take advantage of the Coca-Cola lounge area, sight-see in Baltimore, enjoy a fine dining experience at a fabulous restaurant, attend opening and closing general sessions, indulge in a private viewing of Ratatouille, and even participate in a ProStart Prom! Less glamorous parts of the trip included running around in the rain, packing and hauling all equipment and ingredients to and from hotels, and doing dishes in the hotel tub! Overall, the Montana Culinary team ranked 33rd and the Management team ranked 45th out of all the participating states.



## National Leadership Conference Updates

Montana FCCLA will be represented in Orlando by over 150 members, advisers and chaperones at the National Leadership Conference this summer. Advisers and members are encouraged to check the website for updates frequently. Montana FCCLA has prepared an [NLC Guide](#) to help in navigating the NLC experience.



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# BEEF! It's What's For Lunch!

Hi everyone my name is Lexie Wichman and I am an incoming senior at Moore High School, as well as your 2025-26 Montana FCCLA State President. During my sophomore year of high school I set off on a mission to create a beef donation program for my school where local ranchers could

donate their beef to our school to be served for lunch. This program soon gained the name "BEEF It's What's For Lunch". I decided that this would be a perfect start to my FCCLA STAR Event project for the year, and learned that this program fit perfectly into the Public Policy Advocate STAR project guidelines. With this project, I earned first place at the State FCCLA Conference and first place at the 2024 FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Seattle, Washington.

Creating a Beef to School Program can seem like a daunting challenge, but it is well worth the time and effort the startup takes. If you are interested in starting your own Beef-to-School Program within your school, your first step is to talk to your school administrator. He or she will be one of your biggest partners in this program, so it is important to gain their support. From there, you will work with your administration to communicate with school food service providers, who are your cooks. The food service providers will be able to give you more information about how much beef your school would need on a daily basis. With this information, you will then be able to bring your ideas to your school board trustees. If you receive the board's support, you will work with the board members to find a USDA-certified processing facility, create donor applications, and form a plan on how to make this program best fit your school.



The coolest thing about creating a Beef-to-School Program is that every school has the ability to make it unique to their school to ensure it fits their needs. Something as small as the meat you are eating at lunch time may seem like an unimportant part of your school, but the impact real local meat has on a meal is unbelievable. I implemented this program over a year ago in my school, and still hear students and staff talking about how delicious our school lunches are to this day.

So, if you are ready to make a difference in your school, I encourage you to look into creating your own Beef-to-School Program.

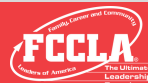


## ISO Graduating Members!

FCCLA involvement can be one of the most impactful experience of high school, so why say goodbye when you graduate? Montana FCCLA would love to stay in touch and invite you back to volunteer at our conferences and meetings! Complete [this form](#) to stay involved with FCCLA as an alumni! Montana FCCLA always needs session presenters, competitive events evaluators, and other volunteers as well!



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# Congratulations to our Retiring Advisers



**Barb Clark  
Jordan**

"I am going to help my husband on our ranch. And quite possibly spend more time with my granddaughter. In the fall for a couple months I will be cooking for a friend's hunting camp."



**Brenda Haase  
Hot Springs**

"In the short-term I will return to Clark Fork, Idaho and referee high school volleyball in the fall. That was something I had to give up when I went to work in Montana. I will also spend lots of time with my grandkids. My favorite memory from FCCLA is riding around downtown Denver one evening on Lime scooters with the kids I took there in 2023!"



**Kim Knoche  
Forsyth**

"My plans are to enjoy my grandkids, sew, travel and enjoy this new chapter! After so many years it is hard to pinpoint one favorite memory- The amazing energy at the opening session of National FCCLA is always a highlight and to see the looks on the faces of my students as they experience it for the first time!"



**Dona Oksa, Plentywood**

"I plan to work my other part-time jobs as a waitress and work on our farm where we raise sheep and cattle. I have also taken an interest in chickens and love to learn new things about the breeds and sell their eggs locally. I grow a big garden and will attend Farmer's Markets as the garden starts to produce. I'm most proud of the Plentywood FCCLA chapter for the service they did as a chapter this year in our community. From raising over \$4,000 for cancer patients at our Pink Out Night for those who travel for treatments in our county to registering over 70 families for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. I hope that each member will remember to serve others as they go through life."

**Montana FCCLA is lucky  
to have so many  
amazing FCCLA  
advisers, and we will  
greatly miss those who  
are retiring this year.  
Please join us in  
congratulating our  
retiring advisers!**

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# *Creating* **CONNECTIONS**

2025 FALL LEADERSHIP RALLY

**SEPTEMBER 28-29**

**BILLINGS HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER**

## **REGISTRATION INCLUDES:**

Conference materials, dinner Sunday, lunch Monday, and an attendee gift!

## **EACH MONTANA FCCLA CHAPTER MAY REGISTER:**

- Two Chapter Leader attendees
- Two Chapter Officer attendees
- Two State Outreach Project training attendees
- Additionally, all District and State Officers, and Chapter Advisers

All chapters registering for Fall Rally agree to affiliate all attending members with Montana FCCLA by December 1, 2025

## **LODGING**

- Billings Hotel & Convention Center
- \$120 per quad room plus taxes; includes free breakfast
- To register, visit <https://billingshotelmt.com> or call 406-248-7151.  
Use code 59383
- Room block is released September 1

## **REGISTRATION OPTIONS**

Register online at [mtfccla.org](http://mtfccla.org)

**\$75** Reserve places; add names by  
September 1

**\$150** Register your members between  
September 2-8. Registration closes  
September 8.

FALL LEADERSHIP RALLY IS HOSTED BY  
YOUR 2025-26 STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



**MONTANA**  
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# Creating CONNECTIONS

2025 FALL LEADERSHIP RALLY

## PARTICIPATION OPTIONS:



### LEAD

**Chapter Officer attendees** and **District Officers** will hone leadership and teamwork skills, developing plans to enhance opportunities for their chapter program of work for the year



### LEARN

**Chapter Leader attendees** will explore all that FCCLA offers to members, developing a personal plan for engagement and growth during the year



### IMPACT

**State Outreach Project training attendees** will explore the FCCLA national program Career Connection, developing a plan for local outreach projects sharing career exploration and preparation activities for the year



### ADVISE

**Adviser** professional development sessions focus on chapter management, Montana FCCLA programming, and a competitive events deep dive, as well as networking and mentorship opportunities.



2025

# JUNE



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 NLC DEADLINES	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 NLC PAYMENT DUE	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

TOP PRIORITIES

NOTES

4: NATIONAL LEADERSHIP  
CONFERENCE REGULAR  
REGISTRATION ENDS  
NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
NAME CHANGE/SUBSTITUTION/  
CANCELLATION AND HOUSING  
DEADLINE