

MONTANA FCCLA

August, 2025

News

Welcome Back!



It's a new year, full of new opportunities to learn, grow, and connect with others, and Montana FCCLA is here to support your leadership journey! Check out this issue of the Montana FCCLA Newsletter full of updates and join us on social media so that you don't miss out!

Remember to Register for Fall Leadership Rally!

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. Facilitating our State Outreach Project Career Connection track will be Lindsey Cobble, of FCCLA's Leadership Training Team. Brooklynn Gross is back to lead our New Leader training, and our keynote speaker Eddie Slowikowski will share his leadership wisdom with our chapter and district officers in their training.

Attendees will receive a registration gift, as well as training in their designated area. **Registration is now open and closes September 8.** Find more details on the [Montana FCCLA website!](https://montanafccla.org)



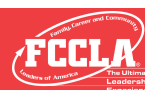
Keynote Speaker:
Eddie Slowikowski

State Outreach Project Track:
Lindsey Cobble, LTT

New Leader Track:
Brooklynn Gross, LTT Trainer



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New Opportunity! Culinary Camp in November!



Montana FCCLA and ProStart have partnered with professionals from the culinary industry to offer the 2025 Culinary Camp in Billings on November 3. Educators attending will participate in a cook-off competition and learn about Montana FCCLA and ProStart updates, and will learn valuable strategies for success in the culinary classroom. Students (up to four per school) attending can expect to experience a Sysco warehouse tour, along with presentations about plating, safety and sanitation, career opportunities in the culinary world and so much more! An optional dinner at Walker's Grill the evening of November 2 is available at an additional cost. Full details can be found by scanning the QR code or visiting our website. Regular registration is open through October 6; late registration is available October 7-13



Welcome Back From Your State Executive Council!



~ Isabel Hunter, VP of Parliamentary Law
Hello, Montana FCCLA! As summer winds down and backpacks fill up, it's time to kick off another exciting school year. But don't stress, we're here to help you.

Whether you're a returning member or just discovering what FCCLA is all about, the back-to-school season is the perfect time to engage with everything this organization has to offer. Connect with your chapter, set individual and team goals, and start planning for an incredible year of leadership, service, and growth. From meetings to service projects and even competitive events, you have so many opportunities to make your school year meaningful.

Remember, the skills you build through FCCLA aren't just for the classroom. They're tools for your future. So get involved, stay engaged, and make a difference. Welcome back, leaders!



Montana FCCLA is Represented at the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Celebration!



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library celebrated two years of full funding in Montana with music and fun in Bozeman, and Montana FCCLA was represented there! Thanks to all the chapters and members for their contributions to the program over the years, and to those representing FCCLA at the event!



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Adviser Professional Development Opportunities



Being an FCCLA Chapter Adviser is a big job---and we want to help your advising experience to be a great one! Join us to learn more about how the organization works, network with other advisers, and get inspired with new ideas and strategies for your chapter! Montana FCCLA is offering the following professional development opportunities and all are free to Montana FCCLA advisers.



Adviser Communities: This community-style mentoring experience helps newer advisers prepare for upcoming events, while all participants have the opportunity to network and get inspired with new ideas. Meet once a month to discuss timely prompts related to chapter management and events. Join [here](#) by October 1.



Welcome to Montana FCCLA New Adviser Training: This series of four, one hour, weekly sessions will help you build a strong foundation for a successful chapter. Register [here](#) for these specialized sessions, August 27-September 17 starting at 4:30.



Culinary Camp: This hands-on culinary experience will offer collaboration, learning from industry partners, and more! Scan the code or click here to register by October 6 for the best rates.



MACTE/FCCLA Adviser Retreat: New FCCLA advisers meet to learn strategies for chapter advising on Wednesday, October 15 at 8:45 AM. After MACTE conference activities, all FCCLA advisers travel to Buff City Soaps to learn about building local business relationships and self care, followed by dinner and FCS game night!

New lessons have been developed and added to our [Lesson Resource Folder](#), available exclusively to Montana FCCLA chapter advisers, which includes:

- A semester-long leadership curriculum--ready to use in the classroom! Throughout the course of one semester, students experience the opportunity to collaborate, build leadership, communication, and teamwork skills, and get a sampling of six STAR Events projects.
- Lesson plans incorporating STAR Events
- Planning Process lesson plans and resources

Be sure to check out the newly updated resources for chapters on our [website](#), including:

Chapter Kick-Off Plan

Montana FCCLA At A Glance

Montana FCCLA Calendar of Events

Ultimate Chapter Award



What is the [Ultimate Chapter Award](#)? The FCCLA Ultimate Chapter Award is the highest honor an FCCLA Chapter can receive, recognizing those and serving to honor chapters that distinguish themselves through exceptional commitment and achievement. From robust member recruitment and retention efforts to career preparation, impactful service projects, leadership development, Competitive Events success, and effective communication, the Ultimate Chapter Award celebrates chapters that consistently go above and beyond to provide an outstanding leadership experience for their members. Earning this award signifies a chapter's unwavering dedication to preparing members for career success and making a difference in their schools, communities, and members' lives.

Ready to Get Started? Begin your journey toward excellence today! Log in to the FCCLA Portal, explore the Ultimate Chapter Award tab, and start completing optional opportunities for points. Involve your members, set goals, and track your chapter's progress as you work toward achieving the highest chapter honor FCCLA offers.

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Montana FCCLA Adviser Wins National Honors



Mrs. Cathe Felz, FCS Teacher and FCCLA Adviser at Three Forks High School, and Past-President of the Montana FCCLA Board of Directors, was recently named as the recipient of the 2025 Home Baking Association Educator Award! Congratulations, Cathe! Learn more about this prestigious recognition on the [Home Baking Association's website](#).

T Shirt and Bulletin Board Competitions Are Now Open!

To kick off the new year, Montana FCCLA is hosting a variety of contests for chapters as they Dare to Dream in the 2025-26 year! The entry deadline for both contests is September 15; be sure to review all contest rules at [mtfccla.org](#)

Bulletin Board Contest--create a bulletin board in your school, following the competition guidelines, then send in a photo for voting on social media.

SLC T-Shirt Design--You could see YOUR shirt design on the next Montana FCCLA SLC shirt! The top five designs will be featured on social media for voting.



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Spotlight On Service



FCCLA is all about service, so remember to submit service hours! Use this Google Form every time you and your chapter has hours to submit, then chapter advisers receive a quarterly email with the statistics. Be sure to submit your service hours regularly to receive recognition for your efforts!

State Outreach Project



The career Montana FCCLA understands how important it is to choose careers wisely, which means investing in career exploration and preparation. After all, one's career choice impacts so many areas of their lifestyle and their future! The Montana FCCLA State Outreach Project for 2025-26 is Career Connection, which means your chapters have so many opportunities to encourage career exploration and preparation in your local communities. Montana FCCLA chapters are eligible to receive a copy of the FCCLA National Program Career Connection, full of engaging activities to help chapters as they work to peer educate others about the importance of career preparation for a stronger future. Chapters are also encouraged to apply for mini-grants of up to \$200 to support community outreach projects designed to impact career exploration and preparation in local communities. Be sure to complete your State Outreach Project report by March 1 so that your chapter can showcase their Career Connection efforts and earn recognition. Full details about all these opportunities can be found on the Montana FCCLA website.

Vision Zero



Traffic safety is an issue that impacts everyone. Montana FCCLA and the Montana Department of Transportation have been partnering for years in an effort to include members in local traffic safety efforts. Our partnership continues into the 2025-26 year, with Vision Zero grants, awards, and presentations. Look for the Vision Zero workshops at your District Meetings, where chapters can learn the basics about implementing a successful chapter project! Chapter leaders will also learn more about this incredible opportunity at the Fall Leadership Rally. Watch for the Vision Zero Toolkit for Chapters coming soon! Develop plans now for your chapter's traffic safety outreach efforts. If you are not sure where to begin, check out some summaries from last year's projects at this link. Funding for projects is available, with a priority deadline of November 14 and a final deadline of December 5. After completing your project, be sure to submit the final report by March 1 to be eligible for state-level awards.



Welcome To Our Newly Affiliated Chapters!

Three Forks

East Helena High School

Manhattan

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Is Your School Ready to Become a ProStart Program?

As we gear up for our annual ProStart Data Collection, we want to encourage all Montana schools offering culinary or hospitality coursework to consider becoming a Confirmed ProStart School. Whether you're already doing great things in your classroom or just beginning to explore culinary curriculum options, this is your opportunity to join a program that opens the door to valuable resources, support, and opportunities for your students.

What Is ProStart? It is a nationally recognized, career-focused culinary and hospitality program designed for high school students. It offers educators access to free curriculum, training, competitive opportunities, and direct connections to industry professionals. But you don't have to compete to be part of the program—you're likely already doing many of the required components in your classroom. Becoming a ProStart school is easier than you think!

 **Myth-Busting Alert:** Think ProStart is only for schools with large programs or competitive teams? Think again! Click to view the [Common ProStart Misconceptions Poster](#) and see how attainable it is for your program to participate and begin their journey to preparation for a career in one of Montana's top industries!

Ready to add ProStart? Here's What You Need to Do:

- Step 1: Watch for the ProStart Data Collection Form, coming your way soon.
- Step 2: If you're not already a confirmed program, fill out the Confirmed ProStart School Educator and Proctor Application (available now through October 1, 2025). Already a ProStart school? You're all set—just complete the data collection when it's released.

Why Join?

- Access to classroom resources, culinary and educator trainings
- Eligibility for student scholarships and competitions
- State and national recognition
- A strong, supportive professional network
- Increased funding and benefits for Montana schools through expanded participation

We're Here to Support You!

If you have questions or want to learn more, don't hesitate to reach out. During the coming weeks, ProStart Coordinator Jordan will be on light maternity leave (baby #2 is due August 15!). In the meantime, please contact Tracey Eatherton at director@mtfccla.org for support or questions.

Let's work together to grow Montana's ProStart community and give students the tools they need to succeed in the culinary and hospitality industries!



ProStart Certificate of Achievement



Have any of your students been working summer jobs?

Not sure? Ask them! Once students start returning to school, ask them about their summer and see if that includes working a summer job - specifically in the hospitality industry. If they have, they may be well on their way to earning a Certificate of Achievement (COA)! Students who work in the hospitality industry, help with catering events, work concessions at school, and many other related activities are unknowingly gaining invaluable skills that could be checked off a list to help them earn this COA. Some of the traits needed include: proper handwashing, showing up to work on time, measuring ingredients accurately, counting change back correctly, and many other things. While there are some specific technical and culinary skills on the list, it is not as intimidating and advanced as you might think. Earning this can set students apart from the competition in the job market for higher wages or jobs that are past entry-level. We as Montana ProStart will also recognize the efforts of these students at our State Leadership Conference.

Please reach out to me at jordan@mtfccla.org for more information if you think you might have students who meet some of these requirements.

Connect With Us!



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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

\$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.



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
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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
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\$450 TOTAL

***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 <u>free</u> memberships)	+	STATE CHAPTER DUES \$65 per chapter Flat rate to support State Officer Programming
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\$640 TOTAL

MEMBERSHIP PACKAGES #3 & #4

Membership packages include numerous chapter adviser and student benefits.

\$325 VALUE

- 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 download 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 year subscription to the Knowledge Hub and Testing Readiness resources.
- Learn more about these resources [here](#)

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
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\$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 2025-26 membership will increase your 2026-27 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.





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 from 4:15-5:15 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.

8/27



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!

9/3



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.

9/10



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!

9/17



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Sessions are open to all Montana FCCLA Advisers
Please register here or with the QR code by August 26
Questions? Email Tracey at director@mtfccla.org





T-SHIRT DESIGN Contest

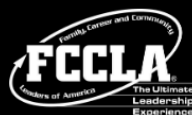
**YOUR DESIGN COULD BE
FEATURED ON THE 2026
MONTANA FCCLA SLC
SHIRT!**



**SUBMIT YOUR DESIGN
BY SEPTEMBER 15**



**The top five entries will be featured on our social
media accounts for public voting
Review the complete contest rules before submitting**



**MONTANA
STATE ASSOCIATION**

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 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 October 10 will receive an official FCCLA Llama!
- Open to Montana FCCLA chapters only
- One entry per chapter



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
 - Chapter name
 - The FCCLA logo
 - FCCLA's 2025-26 theme



2025 CULINARY CAMP

NOVEMBER 2-3

SYSCO, 1509 MONAD RD, BILLINGS

OPTIONAL SUNDAY EVENING EVENT:

5:30-8:30 PM

Tour and Dinner at Walker's Grill
2700 1st Ave. N., Billings, MT 59101

Pre-registration required; Additional cost of \$15 per person; limited availability; transportation is not provided

STUDENT CULINARY CAMP AGENDA:

8:30 Check In

9:00-11:00 Station Presentations

- Sysco Warehouse Tour - Justin Brown
- Costing & Creating Menu Items - Jeff Shultz
- Safety & Sanitation in the Workplace - Andy Fulton
- Plating Techniques- Matt Lauer
- Career Development in the Hospitality World - Parker Aldridge

11:00-11:45 Lunch

11:45-12:30 Knife Skills Demonstration - Nick Steen Gullings

12:30-1:45 Marketing Challenge - Greg Beachey, Zwilling/JA Henckels

1:45-2:00 Wrap Up, Surveys, Farewells

EDUCATOR CULINARY CAMP AGENDA:

8:30 Check In

9:00-11:45 Collaborative Challenge Cook-Off
Jordan Collins, Montana ProStart Coordinator

11:45-12:15 Lunch

11:45-12:30 Montana ProStart
Jordan Collins, Montana ProStart Coordinator

12:30-1:45 Marketing Challenge - Greg Beachey, Zwilling/JA Henckels

1:45-2:00 Wrap Up, Surveys, Farewells

Questions? director@mtfccla.org

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CULINARY CAMP SPONSORS FOR MAKING THIS EVENT POSSIBLE!



2025 CULINARY CAMP

Who should attend? Teachers who are:

- ProStart Confirmed
- Teaching Culinary Arts
- Interested in learning more about ProStart and FCCLA Culinary Competitions

Teachers attending are encouraged to bring *up to four* culinary arts students!

NOVEMBER 2-3
SYSCO, 1509 MONAD RD,
BILLINGS

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration fee of \$30 per person (both teachers and students) includes registration materials and lunch; due by October 6

Late registrations are accepted October 7-13 at a rate of \$60 per person

Optional dinner & restaurant kitchen tour available at an additional cost of \$15 per participant

**REGISTER AT
THIS LINK BY
OCTOBER 13**



Questions? director@mtfccla.org



EVENT ATTIRE



- Attendees are encouraged to wear chef's attire, if possible, including chef's coat and pants
- Alternative attire options include school spirit wear, khaki or black pants, or jeans without holes. An apron to protect clothing is recommended.
- Closed-toe, non-skid shoes are required and hair must be contained during lab-based activities



Optional Lodging available at :

Trailhead Inn 5500 Midland Road
Billings, MT 59101
\$89 per room; breakfast included
Call 406-248-7701 to make your
reservations by October 27 and mention
"Montana Pro Start"

Avid hotel Billings West
3350 Ember Lane
Billings, MT, 59102
\$119 per room; breakfast included
Call 406-506-0844 to make your
reservations by October 3 and mention
"Pro Start Meeting"

Best Western Plus Clock Tower Inn
2511 1st Ave N | Billings, MT 59101
\$104 per room before taxes;
breakfast included
Call 406-238-1793 to make your
reservations by October 27 and
mention "Montana Pro Start"



AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 New Adviser Webinar	28	29	30
31						

TO DO

Register for the Fall Leadership Rally in Billings!

NOTE



SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Fall Rally 1 Early Registration Ends	2	3 New Adviser Webinar	4	5	6
7	Fall Rally 8 Late Registration Ends	9	10 New Adviser Webinar	11	12	13
14	Entries due 15 for Bulletin Board and T-Shirt Contests	16	17 New Adviser Webinar	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Fall Leadership Rally at Billings 28	Fall Leadership Rally at Billings 29	30				

TO DO

NOTE