MONTANA FCCLA

October, 2025

News

Fall Contest Winners Announced!



Congratulations to the Broadwater FCCLA Chapter for their winning entry in the Montana FCCLA Bulletin Board contest! Thanks to all who entered and shared their great ideas for promoting FCCLA in their schools.



Our winning State Leadership Conference shirt design was submitted by Brock Romero, of the Manhattan FCCLA Chapter. Congratulations to Brock, and thanks to everyone who submitted designs for the competition!

Fall Leadership Institute Attendees

Recently, my advisor and I represented Montana at the 2025 Fall Leadership Institute in Anaheim, California. I attended two workshops with Disney Imagination Campus that immersed us in high-pressure teamwork and communication challenges. We didn't just talk about leadership; we actively led, solved problems quickly, and worked to showcase all of Disney's five keys: Safety, Courtesy, Inclusion, Show, and Efficiency.

Through this experience, we learned that true leadership is about responsibility, not just holding a title. We discovered that clear communication under stress can determine whether a team succeeds or falls apart, and that creativity can be developed step by step to transform an idea into reality.

Outside the workshops, we connected with FCCLA leaders and advisors from across the country, exchanged ideas to improve our chapters, and built relationships that we can draw upon throughout the year. We returned not just with notes but with new strategies for building stronger teams in Montana.

~Brock Romero, Montana FCCLA First Vice-President











Welcome To Our Newly Affiliated Chapters!

Baker Polson Butte

Harlowton Malta Carter County

Forsyth Fergus Dawson County

Plevna White Sulphur Springs Arlee

Stevensville Sheridan Skyview

Red Lodge Bridger Bozeman

Hardin Ennis Roundup

Power Columbus Fairview

Chapter and Individual Grants Available!

Apply Today to Make a Difference!

FCCLA Members and Chapters who are eager to make a difference in the lives of students are encouraged to apply for Chapter or Individual Grants through the FCCLA Portal. These grants, reviewed by the National Executive Council, are awarded to projects with the greatest potential to positively impact students, schools, communities, and even entire states. Grants are awarded on an ongoing basis, with applications accepted until May 1. Funding is available up to \$1,000 per chapter, depending on resources.

Please note that requests for conference or meeting registration fees will not be considered. The application can be found in the FCCLA Portal under the Surveys and Applications tab > Ultimate Leadership Fund Grants (ULF) > Chapter & Individual Grants. Don't miss this opportunity to bring your ideas to life and create a lasting impact!

National FCCLA Dates

Montana FCCLA Dates

November 1: Fall Chapter Affiliation

Deadline **November 1:** Adviser Academy

Registration closes

November 3: Chapter Adviser Summit

registration opens

January 14-17: Chapter Adviser

Summit

March 3: Safe Rides - Save Lives

Contest Deadline

For more details, visit fcclainc.org

November 4: District 10 meeting in Columbus

November 10: District 1 & 3/9 meeting, Great Falls

November 10: Chapter Adviser Summit scholarship form due

November 11: District 5 meeting, Glendive **November 12:** District 8 meeting, Ft. Peck

November 14: District 2 & 11 meeting, Manhattan

November 14: Priority deadline for Vision Zero grant applications; deadline for Week of Servce and State Outreach Project grant applications

November 14: Snack Stand Challenge ends

December 3: FCS Dine With Your Herd For more details, visit mtfccla.org











Artificial Intelligence Challenge Competition

The Your AI Horizons Challenge is a nationwide challenge inspiring high school students to envision AI-driven careers. The U.S. Department of Education invites high schools to propose AI solutions that reimagine traditional ways of working. Through this challenge, students will explore artificial intelligence's impact on industries and their future careers. Learn more at this link; entries are accepted through November 19.



Ultimate Chapter Award



What is the <u>Ultimate Chapter Award?</u> 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.

NEW! Virtual Competitions for FCCLA Members!

New online competitions are now available to Montana FCCLA members, through a partnership with Active Learning Labs. Sharpen your entrepreneural and financial literacy skills while you learn, and you can even win gift cards! Competitions are online and offered through the Montana Digital Academy. Look for the flyers later in this newsletter for full details!





Inside the Red Jacket: Montana FCCLA's Podcast



Brand new in 2025 is Inside the Red Jacket; Montana FCCLA's podcast!

Learn from fellow members and advisers about what is working for them and how they leave a legacy in their local communities. Episodes released so far include Running for Naitonal Officer, Chapter Spotlights on Projects, and interviews with Ultimate Leader recipients.

If you have ideas for future episodes, email Tracey at director@mtfccla.org













Chapter Adviser Summit Scholarship

Montana FCCLA chapter advisers are encouraged to apply for the Chapter Adviser Summit Scholarship. This award supports attendance to the 2026 Chapter Adviser Summit held in Washington, D.C., January 14-17. Full details and the application form can be found at this link. Applications are being accepted through **November 10**

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 by November 14. 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.





















All About Service

In the 2024-25 membership year, 31 chapters participated in the reporting of service hours, with a total of over 18,858 hours submitted! While this is an incredible amount of volunteer activity for our organization, our state actually had 60 affiliated chapters in the 2024-25 year. This means that just a little more than half of our chapters submitted service hours, which makes one wonder just how many hours we might have if all the chapters participated?!

Of course, this gives Montana FCCLA an incredible opportunity for growth in the coming year. In an effort to get more chapters reporting service hours in 2025-26, let's take a closer look at what participation can mean to chapters and members, as well as the opportunities participation creates for us all statewide.

- Why Submit?
- **Members** have valuable data to include in scholarship and resume applications.
- **Chapters** have documented hours to use when promoting FCCLA in their local community for fundraising, membership, etc.
- Member awards this is a great tool to use when recognizing members.
- **State recognition** eligilbity for Montana FCCLA awards includes service hours tracking.
- **Supplemental funding** is available to Montana FCCLA based on service hours documentation.

How To Submit Reporting your chapter's service hours is easy! Visit mtfccla.org and click on "Service Hours". Scroll down on the page and download the "Service Hours Reporting Instructions". Members can print a personal service hour log and document their contributions throughout the year. In the What I Did section, indicate the day of the month (per row) and provide a brief description of what you did. This includes activities you complete when gaining work experience or activities completed in conjunction with your FCCLA chapter (activities completed outside of FCCLA chapter programming should not be counted). If an activity is completed in conjunction with another CTSO, you must select only one CTSO to count the hours.

In the Type of Service section, record the number of hours spent on that activity. Track all time spent on the activity including research, meetings, preparation and the actual event. An activity may have more than one type of service. If that occurs, split the total number of hours between the different types of service.

Next, total your hours per type of service and submit to the designated person in your chapter. Chapter leaders and advisers can submit chapter monthly reports using this link, found on the Montana FCCLA website under Community Outreach> Service Hours.









All About Service, continued

What Counts As Service?

- **Direct Service** activities that require you to have direct contact with people.
- **Indirect Service** your work behind the scenes to channel resources to the project rather than working directly with an individual who may need the service.
- **Advocacy** service experience that requires you to lend your voice and talents to the effort to address a problem.
- Leadership roles you serve that supports FCCLA programming at local, district, state and national levels.
- Fundraising fundraising that support FCCLA chapter activities.
- **Work experience** work you do that builds your human capital and prepares you for a future career; this can be work for pay or unpaid and should be related to a FCS Career Pathway.

Benefits of Submitting By adding service hours to your FCCLA routine, members will have a running document of their involvement and dedication to helping others. Many times, scholarship, college applications, and award programs will ask about details such as community involvement and contributions. A member tracking their hours will have a document ready with all the information they need!

In addition to this benefit, chapters are recognized quarterly for their service contributions with the Montana FCCLA Service Hall of Fame. Each quarter, top reporting chapters are recognized, and at the State Leadership Conference held in March, the three chapters reporting the most hours per chapter member are recognized on stage!

Did you know there have already been 382 hours submitted this year? Another benefit helps everyone all across the state. When Montana FCCLA applies for grant funding or communicates our accomplishments with potential funders, we can share these incredible contributions with others. Ultimately, this delivers opportunities for all of our chapters, such as increased chapter mini-grants, state award programs, and so much more! Please consider sharing your contributions throughout the year by submitting FCCLA service hours!



Celebrate FCS with Dine In Day!

In case you did not know, FCS is the acronym for Family and Consumer Sciences, the subject area in which FCCLA is based. Another fun fact is that FCS was previously known as home economics, with the profession changing its name in 1994. Perhaps the most prominent leader of home economics/FCS was Ellen Richards,, who was born on December 3. Learn more about Ellen and FCS here. Annually, FCS celebrates its orgin on Ellen's birthday with a Dine In Day. Montana FCCLA encourages members and advisers December 3rd to Dine With Your Herd. Maybe this means enjoying a great meal at home with your family, maybe this means celebrating a meal out with the friends who treat you like family. Maybe this means inviting someone who needs a family to join you. However your "herd" looks, enjoy some nourishing foods together, snap and upload some photos to social media and tag @fcclamontana or use #mtfccla. Enjoy the celebration!



Friendsgiving

This year has been busy for all of us, whether we have been busy with school, sports, FCCLA, or maybe personal things. But lucky for us, November is the month for giving thanks. We are all getting older every day, we've watched our family grow up, our friends, and even when we look in the mirror, we see ourselves getting older each day. I have a challenge for you this month, along with a member engagement idea for your chapter's November FCCLA meeting. First, for your challenge, I challenge you to try and slow down in all the chaos this month and look around. See how far you have grown and everything you have achieved. When you are at your district meetings, pay attention to your District President and see how passionate they are. They too are so thankful for you. Let's also say thank you to all of our FCCLA advisors we couldn't make anything happen without you guys. To go along with all of the thanking we are doing this month, I have a great member engagement idea YOU and YOUR chapter could do this month at your meeting. It is called Friends giving you and your members would volunteer to bring food/drinks/dessert items to a meeting, and with your FCCLA chapter you will have a delicious Thanksgiving feast. How my chapter has achieved this is by doing it during lunch on a school day, and our members ate our Thanksgiving lunch instead of the school's lunch that day. This is a great opportunity for your members to say what they are thankful for. Thank you, Montana FCCLA, for being the best. Have a great month from your SEC!! ~Laurlynn Harrell, Montana FCCLA Vice-President of Community Outreach

















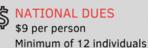
2025-26 Membership Affiliation Options

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.



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.





\$9 per person No Minimum



CHAPTER DUES

\$65 per chapter Flat rate to support State Officer Programming



MIDDLE LEVEL PACKAGE

27 or more members, grade 9 or younger.

\$135

NATIONAL DUES

Email Tracey to obtain the chapter fee waiver code!

(based on 15 members; over 15

members are free)

\$65 per chapter Flat rate to support State Officer Programming

*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



TOP 25 AFFILIATION PACKAGE

Up to 25 members.

NATIONAL DUES \$395

STATE DUES

\$180 (this includes 5 free memberships)



CHAPTER DUES

\$65 per chapter Flat rate to support State Officer Programming



BIG SKY UNLIMITED AFFILIATION PACKAGE

Unlimited chapter members.

\$405 (based on 45 members; over 45 members are free)



\$65 per chapter Flat rate to support State Officer Programming

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 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

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.











CAREER CONNECTION



2025-26 MONTANA FCCLA STATE OUTREACH PROJECT

Leave a lasting legacy in your community as you improve your own employability skills and share your knowledge with others!



Improve your skills and knowledge with Career Connection curriculum in your chapter and:

- Explore potential careers and find options that are a great match for you!
- Develop skills and habits employers want!
- Learn strategies to share what you have learned about career exploration and preparation with others.

Chapter advisers: request your curriculum using the QR code by October 15.

Be sure to register up to two leaders for the Career Connection State Outrech Project Training at the Fall Leadership Rally



Develop your chapter's outreach project to share what you learned with others; mini-grants are available! Apply online by October 15 to fund your chapter's Career Connection project.

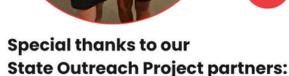
Some project ideas include:

- Career Fair
- Community Career Tours
- Mini Job Interviews
- Career Preparation Podcasts

DEADLINE EXTENDED! APPLY BY 11/14

3

Submit your State Outreach Project report online by March 1. The top three chapters win cash prizes!









Montana FCCLA Week of Service



MAKE A DIFFERENCE--STATEWIDE!

Montana FCCLA his offering chapter mini-grants for community outreach projects

All chapters are encouraged to participate and make a positive difference statewide!

Consider utilizing YSA's resources to develop your project plan

CHAPTER MINI-GRANT PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- Chapter must be affiliated with Montana FCCLA
- Up to \$200 may be awarded to support supplies for a project addressing a need in the chapter's local community





EXPAND YOUR PARTICIPANTS

Projects must be youth-led and:

- Engage middle and high-school aged students
- Include non-members, students from low-income and diverse backgrounds, and students who are not usually asked to participate

ALL THE DETAILS

DEADLINE EXTENDED!
APPLY BY
11/14

October 15: Applications due on our <u>website</u>
December 1: Application results announced
March 1: Final report, photos, and receipts due.
Payments will be issued by late March.
Email director@mtfccla.org with any questions,







MAKE AN IMPACT ON LOCAL TRAFFIC SAFETY







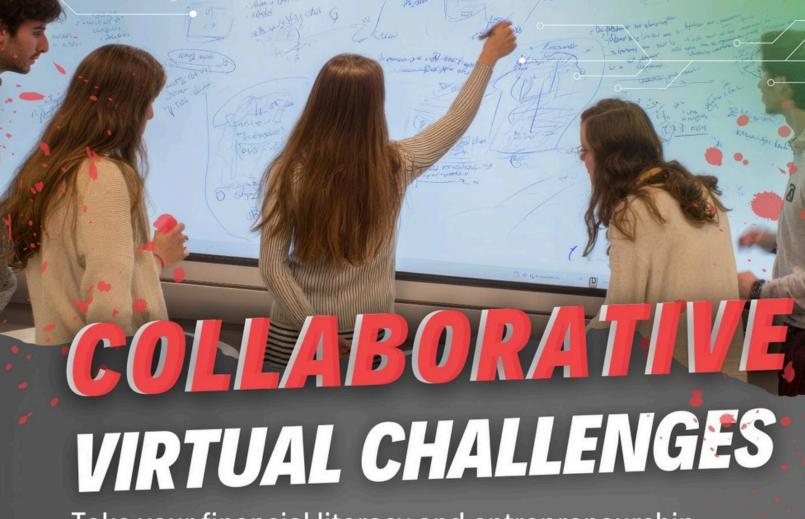
Any Montana FCCLA Chapter completing traffic safety programming in their community is encouraged to submit an activities report to be eligible for a cash award, even if your chapter did not receive a grant.



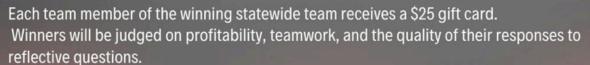
If your chapter receives a Vision Zero traffic safety grant, this report is mandatory



Offered through a partnership between the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and the Montana Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)



Take your financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills to the next level and win gift cards!





Choose your competition, or enter all three:

Snack Stand Challenge

Fall Competition

(October 21 – November 14, 2025)
Run a snack stand at your school's simulated field day. setting options and prices for four snack items to earn the highest profit at the end of the day.

Virtual School Store

Winter Competition

(January 19 – February 27, 2026)
Launch and manage a virtual
online store selling schoolbranded apparel, focusing on
product selection, branding,
promotion, pricing, and
purchasing.

Food Truck Scramble

Spring Competition (March 9 – April 3, 2026)

Launch a virtual food truck business, using competitive analysis to choose locations and set product prices to maximize sales.

All Montana FCCLA members are eligible to compete.

Advisers, register your teams here









Demonstrate mastery of entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills through statewide short course challenges.

MTDA enrollment is required for individual mastery competitions; courses are offered once per semester at no cost.

Choose your challenge, or enter all three

Culinary Business Challenge

- Awards: \$50, \$25, \$15 gift cards for top finishers
- All students who complete the course receive a \$5 gift card

Workplace Ethics Challenge

- Awards: \$25, \$15, \$10 gift cards for top finishers
- All students who complete the course receive a \$5 gift card

Personal Finance Challenge

- Awards: \$50, \$25, \$15 gift cards for top finishers
- All students who complete the course receive a \$5 gift card

All Montana FCCLA members are eligible to compete; MDTA enrollment is required for Short Course Challenges.

Advisers, register your teams here



FCCLA MONTANA



On December Third,

Dine With Your W Herd!

On December 3, we honor Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) and celebrate the birthday of Ellen Swallows Richards, American chemist and founder of the home economics/FCS movement in the United States.







On Wednesday, December 3, make plans to dine with your family, or the friends you consider family.

Share a photo on your favorite social media platform and tag @fcclamontana or use #mtfccla





















NOVEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						Adviser Academy Registration Closes
2	Chapter Adviser 3 Summit Reg. Opens	4	5	6	7	8
Culinary Cam	np in Billings					
9	10	11	12	13	Vision Zero Priority Grants Due	15
16 Capitol I	17 Leadership	18 in Washing		20	21	22
30	24	25	26	27	28	29

TO DO NOTE



DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	Family and Consumer Sciences Day	4	Vision Zero Final Grants Due	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

TO DO NOTE