

MONTANA FCCLA

January, 2026

News

The State Leadership Conference is March 19-20!



Mike Hall



Brooklynn
Gross



Lindsey
Cobble



Eduardo
Garcia

Save the date for March 19-20 and join members and advisers from all across the state for the 2026 Montana FCCLA State Leadership Conference! We are back on the MSU campus in Bozeman and have so many great things in store for you! A few highlights include:

Competitive Events--It's the annual ProStart Culinary and Management competition on Thursday, and don't miss your chance to show off your skills with Skill Demonstration Events or share your STAR Events successes! Our **Keynote Speaker** is Mike Hall, who will share how to live a life of resilience, determination, and synergy with others. In addition to the keynote on Thursday afternoon, Mike will speak at the Leadership Seminar on Friday morning, and present two afternoon sessions on Friday.

FCCLA 101 with Brooklynn Gross--Learn more about all the opportunities available to you in this dynamic organization!

Service opportunities on site at Haven House and on campus at MSU--help survivors of domestic trauma as they transition to a new life by creating home decor items and through food preparation.

State Outreach Project Training Track with Lindsey Cobble--learn more about the 2026-27 Montana FCCLA State Outreach Project Career Connection and develop a plan for your own chapter's outreach project!

Industry Immersion Tour--learn about careers in the hospitality and tourism industry with visits to local businesses

College and Career Readiness Fair--meet representatives from post-secondary institutions all across the state, and learn more about opportunities to help prepare you for success in your future! Also look for the SLC Store while visiting the College and Career Readiness Fair! Supplies are limited to stock on hand.

Montana Mayhem--Meet your 2025-26 State Executive Council and engage in team building and networking opportunities with other members.

General Sessions--We will recognize chapters and individuals for all of their accomplishments throughout the year, and meet the incoming State Executive Council

Service Swag Bags--These goodies are available for chapters submitting service hours and sending photos of their outreach projects to our state office by February 15.

Workshops and sessions specifically designed to help you as you make connections! Meet chef and entrepreneur Eduardo Garcia during his sessions on Thursday.

FCS Career Connection Training--explore career opportunities, sharpen your skills, and hear from industry experts during Friday's FCS Career Connection sessions.

Early registration is open through January 19, with regular registration closing on February 4.

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New Participation Tracks Offered at SLC



Montana FCCLA is proud to announce the development of three new participation options at the 2026 State Leadership Conference. Attendees are invited to participate in the Career Connections tracks and explore careers related to early childhood education or culinary arts, or develop transferable career-readiness skills.

Each track will be offered on Friday, March 20, from 11:00AM-4:00PM. Participants will explore and develop skills in each of the areas, hear from industry professionals, learn about FCS and FCCLA opportunities available in the field, and participate in skill challenges as a part of the trainings. Chapters may register up to two attendees for each track offered. Space is limited and the sessions are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. See our [SLC website](#) for more information.

FCCLA Week is February 9-13! How Will You Celebrate?

Monday

Member Monday
Showcase and recognize your members



Tuesday

Day of Service
Make a positive impact on your community through service



Wednesday

FCS Educator Day
Celebrate and thank the FCS educators in your world



Thursday

Alumni Day
Showcase the accomplishments of alumni



Friday

Spirit Day
Rock the Red and show your FCCLA Spirit



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All The Awards!

Each year at the State Leadership Conference, Montana FCCLA members, chapters, and advisers are recognized for their exceptional contributions, and we want to showcase YOU and your accomplishments! Check out the available recognition opportunities through FCCLA and get those nominations and applications started today!



Member Recognition

- Ultimate Leader Award:** Recognizing members who exhibit leadership skills and whose actions exemplify the purposes of FCCLA.
- Montana FCCLA Chapter Leader Scholarship:** Recognizes members who are stand-out leaders at the chapter level.
- Leadership and Service Scholarship:** Share how you exemplify the purposes of FCCLA and have contributed through service during your membership.
- ProStart Ultimate Leader Award:** The ProStart Ultimate Leader is someone who mobilizes others to want to excel within the ProStart classroom. They exhibit exceptional culinary and/or management skills and exemplary leadership.
- ProStart Leadership and Service Scholarship:** The ProStart Leadership in Service Scholarship recognizes students from a Montana certified ProStart program who demonstrates exemplary leadership in the ProStart program.

Chapter Recognition

- STAR Chapter Award:** Recognizes chapters for promoting a well-balanced program of work.
- Service Hall of Fame:** Recognizes chapters submitting service hours throughout the year.
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Recognition:** Recognizes chapters hosting a minimum of two enrollment events AND enrolling a minimum of two new families per affiliated chapter member.

Adult Recognition

- Adviser of the Year:** Recognizes a chapter adviser who inspires members to achieve their goals and build a strong program.
- New Adviser of the Year:** Recognizes a new chapter adviser (5 years or less) who invests in professional development while building a strong chapter.
- Spirit of Advising:** recognizes chapter advisers who are constantly faithful, often quietly working behind the scenes to ensure the success of their students.
- ProStart Educator of Excellence:** recognizes an outstanding Montana ProStart teacher who has made a significant contribution to the Montana ProStart program, their school and community.
- Alumni Achievement Award:** Recognizes a past member of Montana FCCLA who exemplifies the mission and/or purposes of FCCLA and has used his/her experiences to excel in his/her family, career or community.

Award Nominations are due February 15 Applications are found at mtfccla.org

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STAR Events Preparation



It's a brand new year, and January is the perfect time to dive into your STAR Event and set yourself up for success at the State Leadership Conference in March! Whether you are building a project from scratch or putting the finishing touches on one you started last fall, now is the time to finalize your work and focus on what truly makes your STAR Event shine, your presentation.

STAR Events provide you with the opportunity to explore your interests, develop career-ready skills, and make a real impact in your school or community.

From Interior Design to Promote and Publicize, from Career Investigation to Chapter in Review, there's something for everyone, and every event tells a unique story. Ensure that yours is clear, powerful, and well-prepared.

January is about getting organized and staying on track. By finalizing your project early, you'll give yourself valuable time to rehearse your speech, prepare your visuals, and feel confident in front of the judges. Your hard work deserves a strong delivery, and the more time you dedicate to practice, the more prepared and polished you will be when you step up to compete at state.

Lean on your adviser, teammates, and fellow chapter members. Ask for feedback, practice in front of others, and utilize all the resources that FCCLA offers to make your presentation unforgettable. Remember, you're not just preparing for a competition, you're building skills that will last a lifetime.

Let January be your turning point. Finalize your project, start practicing your speech, and bring your best self to the stage in March. You have what it takes, and Montana FCCLA can't wait to see your hard work come to life!

-Brock Romero, 1st Vice President

Moore Member Shows Unbridled Potential

Ali Erickson from Moore FCCLA held an equestrian program for special needs athletes in Central Montana after the Special Olympics program ended due to Covid. Her project is named Unbridled Potential and her group of athletes met seven times this Fall to ride through patterns and ending with a Halloween ride and costumes. Ali utilized skilled equestrian riders and their horses in our area as volunteers to guarantee riders safety but had to use a large portion of her grant for insurance for the arena and volunteers. Ali has built strong partnerships that will help maintain her program for years to come.



UNBRIDLED
POTENTIAL



EQUESTRIAN PROGRAM

Board of Directors Seeking New Candidates!

Did you know that each year there are members leaving the Montana FCCLA Board of Directors? While we hate to see them go, it creates an exciting opportunity for new candidates to serve on the board! Board members commit to Zoom meetings approximately six times per year, as well as committee meetings (also held via Zoom) each month. The group also meets in person once, and attendance at the State Leadership Conference and Fall Rally are encouraged. To learn more about who is on our board, how the process works, or to apply, please visit our [website](#).

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Welcome To Our Newly Affiliated Chapters!



Dutton-Brady

Shepherd

Powell County

Ronan

Cut Bank

CM Russell

Huntley Project

Gallatin

Virtual Competitions for FCCLA Members!

New online competitions are now available to Montana FCCLA members, through a partnership with Active Learning Labs. Sharpen your entrepreneurial 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!



National Officer Candidate Opportunity

Are you an active FCCLA member who is ready to engage at the next level? Consider applying to be the next National FCCLA Officer! Full details and forms are on the [website](#). Apply by February 1



National FCCLA Dates

- January 29:** Japanese Exchange Program application due
- February 1:** Online STAR Events Registration Due
- March 2:** Deadlines for Safe Rides - Save Lives Contest, all national program awards, and all national FCCLA scholarships
- May 15:** Explore.Act.Tell Annual Challenge Deadline

For more details, visit fcclainc.org

Montana FCCLA Dates

- January 4-19:** Early SLC Registration--best rates available!
 - February 1:** National Officer Candidate Application Due
 - February 4:** SLC Registration closes
 - February 9-13:** FCCLA Week
 - February 11:** Deadline to register for ProStart Culinary and Management competitions
 - February 15:** Montana FCCLA award and scholarship applications due
 - March 1:** Montana State Level Outreach Awards due
- For more details, visit mtfccla.org

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Scholarships for Future FCS Professionals

Become a Family & Consumer Sciences Professional! Are you passionate about helping others and shaping the future? Do you want to make a lasting impact? Now is your chance to join a thriving field with endless opportunities for growth and service!

Montana State University's College of Education, Health & Human Development is awarding over \$45,000 in scholarships annually to students pursuing degrees in Family & Consumer Sciences, Human Development & Family Science, and Early Childhood Education. Plus, we prioritize scholarships specifically for future Family & Consumer Sciences Teachers, supporting students who are dedicated to shaping the next generation of professionals.

Whether you're interested in teaching, counseling, or working with children and families, MSU's programs are the perfect place to build your career and make a difference.

Learn more at these links:

[Family and Consumer Sciences Education](#)

[Human Development and Family Science](#)

Don't miss out! Apply by the scholarship **priority deadline of February 1** and take the first step toward becoming a leader in the field of Family & Consumer Sciences. [Montana State University Scholarships](#)



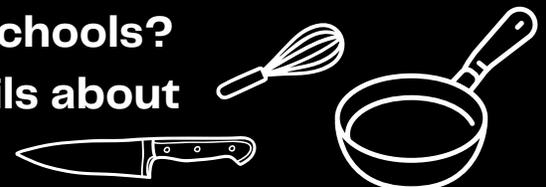
Culinary Competitions Coming Soon!

ProStart-confirmed schools are invited to participate in the 2026 ProStart Invitational on March 19 at Gallatin College on the MSU campus. Both Culinary and Management competitions will be held. Rules and registration information can be found on our [website](#). Interested but not sure where to start? Check out the expanded educator resources found on our [website](#). Registration closes February 11

Even more opportunities are available for individual competition on March 19 through FCCLA's STAR and Skill Demonstration Events. Events offered in 2026 include Baking & Pastry, Culinary Arts, Salad Plating, Cupcake Decorating, and Culinary Food Art. Be sure to take a look at the [Montana FCCLA Competitive Events Manual](#) for full details on these events. **Registration closes for FCCLA SLC on February 4.**



Did you know Zwilling offers discounts for schools? Email Jordan at jordan@mtfccla.org for details about setting up your educator account!



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Somebody's Turning 80.....

That's right, Montana FCCLA is celebrating its 80th birthday this year, and we are proud to be showing our age! Join the celebration at our State Leadership Conference!

One of our celebrations includes photos from ALL the years of Montana FCCLA. So, now is a great time to find your favorite alumni or adviser, and learn about what their FCCLA (or FHA/HERO) experience was like. Ask them to share their historical photos of the organization by sending a copy to director@mtfccla.org



2026 National Leadership Conference is in Washington, D.C. July 6-10

Start making plans now to join us in Washington, D.C., from July 6-10, 2026, for the FCCLA National Leadership Conference!

Centered around the theme "ConneCTEd," this inspiring event will bring together thousands of FCCLA Members, Advisers, and Guests from across the country. Attendees will have the chance to network with peers, explore the nation's capital, and take part in engaging, hands-on workshops that will leave you feeling empowered and motivated to lead.

You will also hear from renowned speakers who will share their journeys and insights, sparking new ideas and passions. Throughout the conference, you will build essential skills like effective communication, team-building, and problem-solving—tools that will serve you well not only in FCCLA but throughout your life and career.

Do not miss this incredible opportunity to grow as a leader, make lifelong connections, and experience all that Washington, D.C., has to offer. Get ready to stay ConneCTEd in D.C.—and make 2026 a conference to remember!



Connect With Us!



MONTANA STATE ASSOCIATION

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

*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

Email Tracey to obtain the chapter fee waiver code!

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.

\$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

\$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.



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!



1

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 Outreach Project Training at the Fall Leadership Rally



2

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

3

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

**DEADLINE
EXTENDED!
APPLY BY
11/14**

Special thanks to our State Outreach Project partners:



BlueCross BlueShield
of Montana





COLLABORATIVE VIRTUAL CHALLENGES

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

Each team member of the winning statewide team receives a \$25 gift card.

Winners will be judged on profitability, teamwork, and the quality of their responses to reflective questions.



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 school-branded apparel, focusing on product selection, branding, promotion, pricing, and purchasing.

Food Truck Scramble

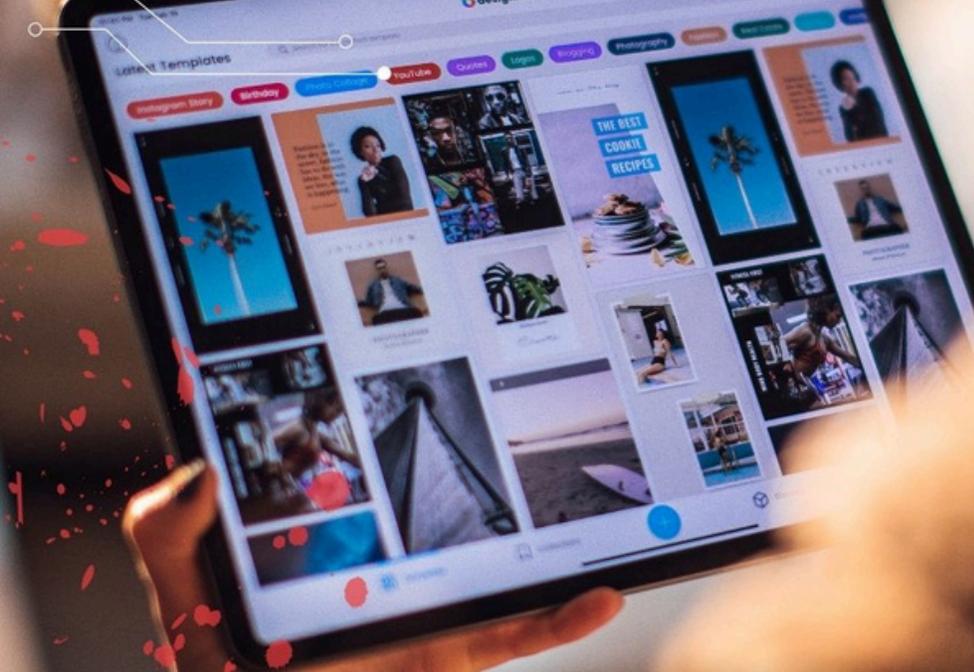
Spring Competition

(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





SHORT COURSE MASTERY COMPETITIONS

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

Teaching 21st Century Skills...
ActiveLearningLabs
...to help make a better world.

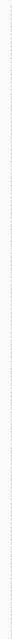


JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 SLC Regular Registration Opens	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Chapter Adviser Summit Washington, D.C.
18	19 SLC Final Registration Opens	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

TO DO

NOTE





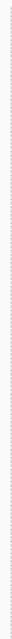
FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 National Officer Candidate & National Adviser Mentor Applications Due	2	3	4 SLC Final Registration Closes	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Montana FCCLA and ProStart Competition Documents Due	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

FCCLA Week →

TO DO

NOTE





MARCH 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
National Program Awards & State Level Awards & Grant Final Reports due ¹	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	ProStart Competition & State Leadership Conference in Bozeman ¹⁹	State Leadership Conference in Bozeman ²⁰	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

TO DO

NOTE

