

# MONTANA FCCLA

March, 2026

*News*

## State Leadership Conference Highlights

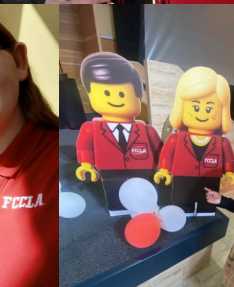
The 79th annual Montana FCCLA State Leadership Conference was held March 19-20 in Bozeman on the MSU campus. Over 600 members, advisers, chaperones, and volunteers met to leave their Legocies and celebrate 80 years of Montana FCCLA. Look for photos of some of the SLC moments throughout this newsletter and check out our social media accounts for even more!



### Meet your 2026-27 State Executive Council!

**Front row: Daisy Anderson, Polson, VP of Finance, Jessica Toeckes, Power, VP of Parliamentary Law, Avereer Matthews, Malta, VP of Community Outreach, Wyatt Williams, Ennis, VP of Competitive Events, and Griffin Wiens, Plentywood, VP of Public Relations.**

**Back row: Bailee Wirtzfeld, VP of Programs, Harper Icopini, Forsyth, First Vice President, Brock Romero, Manhattan, Second Vice-President, Hannah Murnion, State President, and Gracie Bassett, Manhattan, VP of Membership.**



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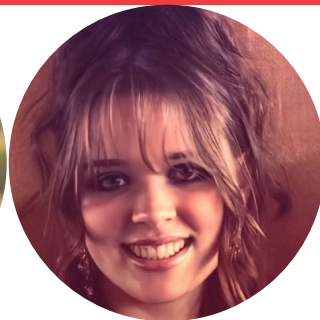
# 2026 Montana FCCLA Ultimate Leaders



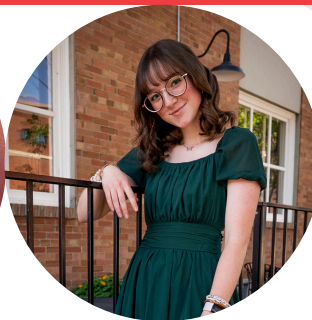
**Gracie Bassett**  
Manhattan



**Lexie Wichman**  
Moore



**Hannah Lotz**  
Red Lodge



**Frankie Struck**  
Billings-Skyview



**Dyvenity Masee**  
White Sulphur Springs

## 2026 Leadership and Service Scholarship Recipients

FCCLA ProStart



**Frankie Struck**  
Billings-Skyview



**Kaitlyn Noyes**  
Broadwater



**Noah Linn**  
Belgrade



**Mackenna Collins**  
Billings-Skyview

## 2026 Montana ProStart Ultimate Leader

**Noah Linn**  
Belgrade



## 2026 Adviser Awards



**Adviser of the Year**  
Jamie Diehl  
Ennis



**New Adviser of the Year**  
Katie Smith  
Malta



**Spirit of Advising**  
Amanda Swenson  
Manhattan



**ProStart**  
**Educator of Excellence**  
Ashley Koss  
Billings-Skyview

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# Congratulations to our Star Chapters!



Each year, Montana FCCLA chapters have the opportunity to earn recognition for a balanced program of work, focusing on local outreach, leadership development, and involvement at the district and state levels. Congratulations to these Montana FCCLA chapters who are leading the way with high-quality programming and impressive leadership!

## Gold Star Chapters

Beaverhead  
Fergus  
Jefferson  
Powell County  
Conrad  
Malta  
Ennis  
Harlowton  
Wibaux

Columbus  
Forsyth  
Moore  
Three Forks  
Manhattan  
Power

## Bronze Star Chapters

Ronan  
Huntley Project  
Sidney

## Silver Star Chapters

Red Lodge  
Stevensville  
Billings-Skyview  
Polson  
White Sulphur Springs

## Rising Star Chapters

Centerville

## Gold Star ProStart Programs

New this year! Montana ProStart programs meeting selected standards can earn recognition for high-quality programs. Three programs earned Gold Star--the highest designation recognized!

Belgrade  
Billings-Skyview  
Fergus



## Career Connection State Outreach Project Awards

1st: Three Forks  
2nd: Manhattan  
3rd: Power

## Vision Zero Awards



1st: Three Forks  
2nd: Moore  
3rd: Beaverhead & Roundup(tie)

## Week of Service Awards

1st: Manhattan  
2nd: Power  
3rd: Broadwater

## Service Hall of Fame Recognition

24 Chapters Reporting  
13,771 Hours Submitted

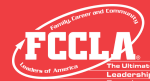
1st: Helena High  
2nd: Forsyth  
3rd: Polson

Largest Chapter:  
Columbus FCCLA



Largest Membership  
Increase: Columbus FCCLA

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# ProStart Competition Results

The 2026 Montana ProStart competition was held on March 19 at Gallatin College on the MSU campus. With seven teams competing in the culinary competition and four in the management competition, spectators and judges were treated to a demonstration of superior skills. Earning third place in the culinary competition was Helena High, second place went to Billings-Skyview, with Belgrade placing first. Earning a third place finish in Management was Fergus, with second place going to Belgrade, and Billings-Skyview taking the first place honors. Good luck to both teams as they advance to Baltimore in April for the national competition!



Belgrade High School Culinary ProStart Team--1<sup>st</sup> Place (Photo by Kortney Douma)



Billings-Skyview High School Management ProStart Team--1<sup>st</sup> Place (Photo by Fallon DeMet Photography)

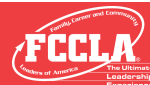


Billings-Skyview High School Culinary ProStart Team--2<sup>nd</sup> Place (Photo by Fallon DeMet Photography)



Belgrade High School Management ProStart Team--2<sup>nd</sup> Place (Photo by Kortney Douma)

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# ProStart and FCCLA Culinary Competition Photos

Special thanks to Fallon Demet Photography for capturing these moments at the 2026 Montana ProStart Invitational!



Special thanks to Fallon Demet Photography for capturing these moments at the 2026 Montana ProStart Invitational!

Special thanks to Kortney Douma, Cassie Koch and Megan Vincent for sharing photos of the ProStart and FCCLA culinary competitions



Special thanks to the Montana Office of Public Instruction Media Team for sharing their photos of our ProStart competitions and FCCLA culinary events in Bozeman.



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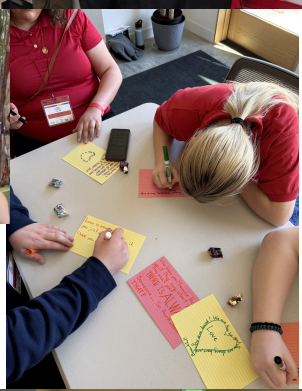
# So, What Did You Do In Bozeman?



We built connections with industry, through our College and Career Readiness Fair, Industry Immersion Tour, and FCS Career Connections Trainings!



MIRACLE MOMENT MONEY RAISED  
**\$1,006.00**



We explored potential careers and leadership roles.



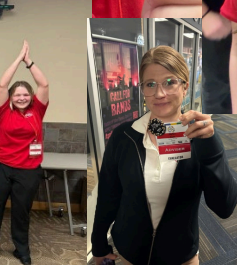
We contributed positively to the lives of others, through our Miracle Moment donations, our Service Room and the Service Road Trip to Haven.



We practiced and developed social skills, through participation in workshops, chapter and district officer trainings, and competitive events.



We made some friends and some great memories.



We left some **LEGOcies!**

We learned we are pretty amazing.



We gained some independence as we navigated the MSU campus



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# Board of Directors Updates

The annual meeting of the Montana FCCLA Board of Directors was held on March 20 at the State Leadership Conference in Bozeman. The group received updates on the organization’s finances and activities, and delegation voted to pass the proposed bylaws amendments, which will allow the Malta chapter to move from District 3/9 over to District 8. The delegation voted to add Cassidy Parsons, Amanda Swenson and Megan Vincent as members of the board for three year terms, and bid farewell to retiring members Lexie Wichman, Luca Helvik, Joanna Krogstad, Adele Stenson and Cathe Felz.

Megan Vincent  
Fergus FCCLA



Cassidy Parsons  
Jefferson FCCLA



Amanda Swenson  
Manhattan FCCLA

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



The 2026 FCCLA National Leadership Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. July 6-10. Members are encouraged to consider the many participation options available--see the next page and the dates below for more details! NLC is a great way to level up your leadership skills, learn more about national-level opportunities within the organization, network, and learn. While at NLC, Montana FCCLA members will have the opportunity to learn, hone their skills, and network while trading Montana pins with other delegates between sessions. Watch for more details coming soon about these elements.

## National FCCLA Dates

- April 1: Go For The Red application deadline**
  - May 1:** National Board of Directors Local Adviser Representative Application Deadline
  - May 1:** Application Deadline for Fashion Show, Content Creator Program, National Anthem Singer, Say Yes to FCS Signing Ceremony, and Workshop Proposals
  - May 7:** Early NLC Registration ends
  - May 16:** Explore.Act.Tell. Annual Challenge Deadline
  - June 4:** Regular NLC Registration ends
- Visit [fcclainc.org](https://fcclainc.org) for more details**

## Montana FCCLA Dates

- April 1:** NLC Registration Assistance Webinar at 4:30PM. Use [this link](#) to join for registration support.
- May 31:** Final Affiliation Deadline & deadline to submit service hours

**Visit [mtfccla.org](https://mtfccla.org) for more details**

Brock Romero, of Manhattan FCCLA, will serve as Montana FCCLA’s National Officer Candidate at NLC 2026!



**Congratulations,  
Brock Romero  
and  
Ms. Cathe Felz!**



Ms. Cathe Felz, of Three Forks FCCLA, was selected as one of the top 15 finalists for FCCLA’s Adviser of the Year!

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# National Leadership Conference Competition Opportunities

One great way to represent Montana FCCLA at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference is to earn a spot in the STAR Events competition at the State Leadership Conference. Did you know there are also many other ways to compete at the national level of FCCLA?



**SKILL DEMONSTRATION EVENTS:** Eight (8) Skill Demonstration Events (SDE) will be offered this year at the National Leadership Conference, including:

- Culinary Knife Skills
- Fashion Sketch
- FCCLA Creed Speaking & Interpretation
- Impromptu Speaking
- Interviewing Skills
- Pastry Arts Technical Decorating Skills
- Speak Out for FCCLA
- Technology In Teaching
- Toys That Teach



Students do not have to qualify to compete in Skill Demonstration Events at NLC. SDE's are first come, first serve. We encourage advisers to register their members early, due to capacity limits. Registration is non-refundable.



**CHALLENGE TESTS:** FCCLA is offering in-person Challenge Test opportunities for 2026 at the National Leadership Conference. Participants may compete in the same Challenge Test more than once, including those who took part in the Fall Online Challenge Test. Open to Levels 1-4, these tests provide FCCLA members the opportunity to demonstrate their college – and career readiness skills in Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) related occupations. Challenge tests offered this year include:

- Apparel: Fashion Design & Construction
- Child Development: Early Stages Through Adolescence
- Counseling and Mental Health Services
- Culinary Math
- FCCLA Knowledge
- Hospitality Services
- Housing and Interior Design
- Interpersonal Relationships Challenge
- Math for Financial Literacy
- Nutrition & Wellness for Life
- Principles of Food Science
- Principles of Human Services
- School to Career
- Teaching
- Working with Young Children



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# THANK YOU, CONFERENCE PARTNERS!

## Platinum level



**MONTANA  
STATE UNIVERSITY**

College of  
**EDUCATION, HEALTH &  
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**



**MONTANA**  
Department of Transportation

## State Outreach Partners

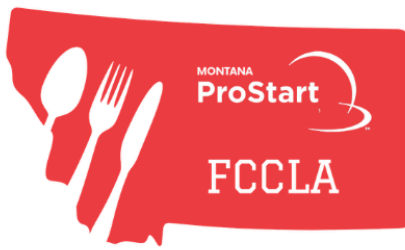


## Gold level



## Industry Immersion Tour Partners





# THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS!



**MONTANA  
STATE UNIVERSITY**

College of  
**EDUCATION, HEALTH &  
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**



ZWILLING  
J.A.HENCKELS



SADIE'S CATERING

DILLY DALLY DONUT BAR

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR EVENT WINNERS PROVIDED BY:



# ADD YOUR ORGANIZATION TO THE LIST HERE





*Thanks to our  
Conference Exhibitors!*

**MARCH 19  
LEIGH LOUNGE  
11:30-3:00**

**AT THE**



# CONFERENCE EXPO AND COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS FAIR



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

## 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 2024-25 membership will increase your 2025-26 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.



# MARCH 2026

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

TO DO

NOTE





# APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			National Chapter and Adult Award Applications Due 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	28	29	30		

TO DO

NOTE





# MAY 2026

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	28	29	30
Final Affiliation Deadline <b>31</b>						

TO DO

NOTE

