

MONTANA FCCLA

August, 2026

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 27-28 at the Billings Hotel & Convention Center!

Advisers may register three chapter leaders, three State Outreach Project leaders, and three 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 Rhett Laubach 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 13; early registration rates end on September 1.** Find more details on the [Montana FCCLA website!](https://www.mtfccla.org)

Keynote Speaker:
Rhett Laubach

State Outreach Project Track:
Lindsey Cobble, LTT

New Leader Track:
Brooklynn Gross, LTT Trainer



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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 leaders are made in the 2026-27 year! The entry deadline for the Bulletin Board is September 14, with the T-Shirt design due by January 1.

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.



Chapter Spotlight on Power FCCLA!

Power FCCLA is a chapter that is ready to take on any kind of challenge in our school, through volunteering, fundraising, and connecting. We do most of our volunteering after school with our pirate power snacks. It's a free after school snack cart that is stocked daily with tasty and nutritious snacks. Other ways that kids can get snacks throughout the day is one of power's best fundraisers, the snack packs. In each pack you get a drink, a bag of chips, a candy, and a sweet treat. Our main way of connecting as a chapter is friendsgiving during the holiday season. All of these things help our chapter stay together as a team, to better our school.

~ Jessica Toeckes, VP of Parliamentary Law



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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 three, one hour, weekly sessions will help you build a strong foundation for a successful chapter. Register [here](#) for these specialized sessions, August 25, September 1 and September 8, starting at 4:30.

New Adviser Training at the Fall Leadership Rally: For those in the first three years of advising, consider joining us for a Rally pre-conference designed to help you find the resources and develop the plans you'll need for a great year. Register with your [Fall Leadership Rally registration](#). Consider applying for the [First Time Attendee Scholarship](#) as well.

Culinary Camp: While we are still perfecting the plans, you will not want to miss this event, scheduled for November 2 in Billings! Save the date and come learn more about careers in the culinary field and develop some skills that will get you ready for career success!

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
- FCS Career-Focused lessons, including skill development challenges

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.

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!

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Harvest of the Month Meal Planning Challenge!

Looking for a fun, ready-to-use lesson that connects nutrition, seasonal Montana foods, and meal planning? Montana Team Nutrition and Montana FCCLA have developed a **Harvest of the Month Meal Planning Challenge** for grades 7–12. This engaging lesson can be completed in two class periods and provides students with an opportunity to learn about nutrition requirements, healthy foods for healthy lifestyles, menu planning, and seasonal Montana foods. Students can also submit their meal plan to the challenge for a chance to win cash prizes—up to \$450!

- Students may also use their submission as an FCCLA STAR project.
- The lesson should be taught this school year, with student submissions due March 1, 2027.

If interested in participating, please scan the QR code on the flyer included with this newsletter to access the lesson plan and register for the challenge.



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 2026-27 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. New for 2026--check out the **State Outreach Project suggestions and guidelines for implementation** to help your chapter get off to a strong start, and don't forget the recognition opportunities for individual members who complete **Career Connection Bingo**! 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 2026-27 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. Learn more about all the opportunities as well as review past projects for inspiration at our [website](#). Funding for projects is available, with a priority deadline of November 16 and a final deadline of December 7. After completing your project, be sure to submit the final report by March 1 to be eligible for state-level awards.



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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 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. Already a ProStart school? You're all set—just complete the data collection when it's released.

We're Here to Support You!

If you have questions or want to learn more, don't hesitate to reach out to jordan@mtfccla.org. 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!



WHAT EXACTLY DO CONFIRMED PROSTART PROGRAMS RECEIVE?



-  **PROSTART ULTIMATE LEADER RECOGNITION**
-  **INDUSTRY-APPROVED CURRICULUM**
-  **EDUCATORS OF EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION**
-  **CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION**
-  **STATE AND NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
-  **STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS**
-  **INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS**
-  **INDUSTRY EXPERTS & SUPPORT**
-  **CAREER PREPARATION**

 **WORKPLACE SUCCESS BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION**

It's preparation for what comes next.

Connect With Us!



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2026 FALL LEADERSHIP RALLY

TRAIN YOUR LEADERS. LAUNCH YOUR CHAPTER. BUILD YOUR PROGRAM OF WORK.



SEPTEMBER 27-28, 2026



**BILLINGS HOTEL &
CONVENTION CENTER**

**WHERE
LEADERS
ARE MADE**



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER
RHETT LAUBACH**

**Inspiring leaders to grow,
connect, and take action.**

*Learn more about Rhett at
yournextspeaker.com*



WHO CAN ATTEND?

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



REGISTRATION

Regular registration fees.
Conference materials, dinner Sunday,
lunch Monday, and an attendee gift!

\$75

EARLY REGISTRATION

Reserve places; add names
between **May 27-September 1**

\$100

REGULAR REGISTRATION

Register your members
between **September 2-13**.



Registration closes **September 13**.
No registration changes can be
made after **September 13**.
All balances are due by **September 20**.



LODGING

- Billings Hotel & Convention Center
- \$122 per quad room plus taxes; includes free breakfast
- To register, visit billingshotelmt.com or call 406-248-7151.
- Room block is released **September 1**.



KEY DATES

- Sept 1** Early registration deadline
Hotel room block released
- Sept 13** Registration closes
No changes after this date
- Sept 20** All balances due



**TAKE A WALK
ON THE WILD SIDE**

PRE-CONFERENCE SPECIAL EVENT!

Arrive early and explore ZooMontana for only \$5 per person; Pre-registration is required for this special event.
Attendees must arrive between 9:30-9:45AM on September 27.

PARTICIPATION OPTIONS



**CHAPTER &
DISTRICT
OFFICERS**

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.

- Each chapter may register three attendees for this track, as well as any FCCLA District Officers from their chapter.



**NEW
LEADERS**

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

- Each chapter may register three new chapter leaders for this track.



**STATE
OUTREACH
PROJECT
LEADERS**

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.

- Each chapter may register three State Outreach Project track attendees.



**CHAPTER
ADVISERS**

Adviser professional development sessions focus on chapter management, Montana FCCLA programming, and a deep dive into integrating Career Connection into FCS coursework, as well as networking and mentorship opportunities. Advisers in their first three years of advising are encouraged to arrive early for New Adviser Training, starting at 11:30 on September 27.



Count on the Montana FCCLA Fall Leadership Rally to offer training for your Chapter and District Officers, New Leaders, State Outreach Project Leaders and professional development for advisers.

The full conference agenda will be available in late May. Expect the conference to begin at 2PM on Sunday, September 27 and conclude by 2:30 on Monday, September 28.



**FALL LEADERSHIP RALLY IS
HOSTED BY YOUR 2026-27
STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**



**MONTANA
STATE ASSOCIATION**



**SECURE YOUR CHAPTER'S SPOT TODAY!
REGISTER ONLINE AT
MTFCCLA.ORG**





Chapter Affiliation and Instructional Support 2026-27

Montana chapters can choose from four affiliation options, including three instructional support packages that may qualify for Perkins funding to reduce fundraising and participation cost barriers for students and families

1

TRADITIONAL AFFILIATION

Each student in grades 6-12 who engages with or benefits from FCCLA programming should be affiliated. Affiliation dues are paid from chapter fundraising or an individual fee. Fees include:

- \$65 flat-rate chapter fee (directly supports State Officer Programming)
- \$18 per member (\$9 to MT FCCLA + \$9 to National FCCLA with a minimum of 12 members)

SUPPORTING TEACHERS, STRENGTHENING CHAPTERS: PACKAGE OPTIONS

Instructional support packages #2-4 provide valuable benefits for both teachers and students, including:

- Access to instructional resources **valued at more than \$500**
 - **Seven National FCCLA Programs**, each featuring 70+ ready-to-use lesson plans that integrate FCCLA into everyday classroom instruction.
 - **Knowledge Hub and Testing Readiness** resources, including Competitive Event and National Program overview videos.
- Flat-rate payment eligible for **Perkins funding**, helping reduce participation barriers and promote equitable student access.
 - Fee includes National FCCLA Chapter Adviser affiliation, chapter fee, and state and national student membership dues.

2

MIDDLE LEVEL INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PACKAGE

- Package includes 27+ members grade 9 or younger
- Requires a separate affiliation from a high school chapter
- Email Tracey for support when setting up multiple chapters

\$450 TOTAL

3

TOP 25 INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PACKAGE

Includes membership for up to 25 students; additional students are \$18 each.

\$640 TOTAL

4

UNLIMITED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PACKAGE

Membership for 45 or more members!

\$1245 TOTAL

HOW CHAPTER GROWTH BENEFITS YOU

- **Increase Your Funding:** Receive \$400 in Montana CTE funding plus a per-member allocation. Increasing membership this year boosts your 2027-28 funding.
- **Strengthen Montana FCCLA:** Higher statewide membership increases state funding, expanding resources for chapter advisers and student leadership opportunities.



director@mtfccla.org



3701 Trakker Trail, Ste 1B, #162, Bozeman, MT 59715



www.mtfccla.org



**STUDENT PRIZES
UP TO \$450**

HARVEST OF THE MONTH MEAL PLANNING CHALLENGE

Hosted by Montana Team Nutrition

- Seeking 7-12 grade teachers interested in implementing a fun grab and go menu planning lesson! See QR code for the lesson plan and registration.
- Students will learn about seasonal MT foods and complete the meal planning challenge in SY 2026-2027. Submissions due March 1st. Awards to be announced April 2027.
- Students may use this as a FCCLA project.
- A panel of school nutrition and farm to school professionals will score the entries based on the rubric in the lesson plan.
- Three students will win up to \$450, with prizes for first place, (\$450), second place (\$300) and third place (\$150), awarded in winter 2026.

**SCAN CODE FOR
LESSON PLAN**



montana.edu/teamnutrition/

CONTACT:
HALEY.SCOTT1@MONTANA.EDU
406-994-5641



MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY





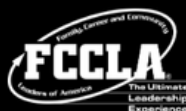
T-SHIRT DESIGN Contest

**YOUR DESIGN COULD BE
FEATURED ON THE 2027
MONTANA FCCLA SLC
SHIRT!**



**SUBMIT YOUR DESIGN
BY DECEMBER 1**

**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 14
- All entries will be posted on the Montana FCCLA Instagram and Facebook pages.
- The chapter submitting the photo receiving the most votes by October 9 will receive an official FCCLA Llama!
- One entry per chapter
- Open to Montana FCCLA chapters only



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
 - The chapter name
 - The FCCLA logo
 - FCCLA's 2026-27 theme

AUGUST 2026

SUNMONTUEWEDTHUFRI

SAT

26	27	28	29	30	31	01
02	03 FALL RALLY EARLY REGISTRATION IS OPEN	04	05	06	07	08
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 NEW ADVISER WEBINAR	26	27	28	29
30	31	01	02	03	04	05

TO DO LIST

SUBMIT SERVICE HOURS ONLINE



NOTES

SEPTEMBER 2026

30	31	01 FALL RALLY EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS NEW ADVISER WEBINAR RALLY FIRST TIME ATTENDEE SCHOLARSHIP DUE	02	03	04	05
06	07	08 NEW ADVISED WEBINAR	09	10	11	12
13	14 FALL RALLY REG. ENDS BULLETIN BOARD CONTEST ENTRIES DUE	15 ADVISED POWER HOUR, 4:30 VIA ZOOM	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 FALL LEADERSHIP RALLY	28 FALL LEADERSHIP RALLY	29	30	01	02	03

TO DO LIST

UPDATE THE STAR CHAPTER
APPLICATION

SUBMIT SERVICE HOURS ONLINE



NOTES
