

# 2026-27 STATE OUTREACH PROJECT

# CAREER FCCLA MONTANA CONNECTION



Montana FCCLA's State Outreach Project empowers chapters and members to engage in career exploration, build employability skills, and take action in their schools and communities.



Chapters are encouraged to participate individually or as a chapter (or both!) to earn incentives and recognition as Montana FCCLA chapters prepare members for career success. The 2026 State Outreach Project includes many participation options, including:



## MEMBER AND ADVISER TRAINING (OUTREACH PROJECT)

- All advisers attending the 2026 Montana FCCLA Fall Leadership Rally (September 27-28 in Billings) will receive a complimentary copy of Career Connections, a comprehensive career-readiness curriculum and training for curriculum integration.
- Advisers unable to attend may request a copy of Career Connection by submitting the [form linked here](#) or scanning the QR code and completing the form by **October 1**.
- Each chapter may register up to three student members to participate in the State Outreach Project training at the Rally. Attendees will learn about the project, gain project resources, and plan and implement an outreach project.



## PROJECT RESOURCES & SUPPORT

- No matter which participation option(s) you choose, members can increase their career preparation skills. Real world resources are available all across the state to support chapter outreach projects.



## LEARN MORE AT MTFCCCLA.ORG



## CHAPTER MINI-GRANTS AND RECOGNITION

- Chapters can apply for mini-grants to support outreach projects and earn recognition for exemplary projects.
- Mini-grant applications are on our [website](#); priority deadline is November 13; final deadline is December 4
- Final report due March 1
- State-level cash awards: \$500 for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$300 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, \$200 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. See the project guide by Career Connection unit (with implementation guides) on our website.



## INDIVIDUAL MEMBER RECOGNITION

- Complete Career Connection Bingo--five in a row, any direction--then complete this [brief survey](#) using the link or the QR code.
- Submit by February 1 to be entered in a statewide drawing for Amazon gift cards
- Receive recognition at the State Leadership Conference and in the Montana FCCLA Newsletter
- Members may complete as many activities as they choose, but each member is eligible to win only once



**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PROJECT SPONSOR:**



**GET INVOLVED    MAKE AN IMPACT    BUILD YOUR FUTURE**

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# MAKE AN IMPACT



FCCLA chapters can make a difference by leading meaningful outreach projects that align with the Career Connection units and help students explore their potential, prepare for careers, and plan for their future.

## PROJECT IDEAS



### MY SKILLS

Building the skills for success



### TEAMWORK FESTIVAL

Host games and challenges for elementary students that build teamwork and conflict management skills; important qualities for career success.



### CLASSROOM-BASED BUSINESS

Launch a coffee service or entrepreneurship project to build teamwork, leadership, and job skills.



### LEADERSHIP STYLES BULLETIN BOARD

Create a bulletin board featuring leadership styles and quotes from faculty and staff about how they lead.

## PROJECT IDEAS



### MY LIFE

Planning for a balanced and purposeful life



### REALITY FAIR

Partner with a local credit union to offer a financial management simulation where students make real-life spending decisions.



### CAREER PLAN GALLERY WALK

Have members create five-year career plans and design posters to showcase their goals and activities at a parent night or open house.



### LEADERSHIP IMPACT BULLETIN BOARD

Create a bulletin board full of leadership prompts and encourage students to deliver the cards to others who demonstrate leadership.

## PROJECT IDEAS



### MY CAREER

Exploring careers and the world of work



### LOCAL CAREER FAIR

Invite business representatives to host panels or workshops and share their career experiences with students.



### CAREER CONNECTION DIRECTORY

Collect contact cards at school events and build a directory of professional to support student career exploration.



### CAREER EXPLORATION FIELD TRIPS

Visit local businesses and organizations to learn about a wide variety of career opportunities in your community.

## PROJECT IDEAS



### MY PATH

Navigating pathways to the future



### CAREER TRAINING EVENT

Invite training programs, colleges, and employers to share opportunities, financial aid information, and success stories from recent graduates.



### JOB INTERVIEW MAKEOVER

Provide resumes and scenarios for participants to improve career readiness and wardrobe on a budget.



### CAREER CONNECTION PODCASTS

Create a podcast series showcasing what members have learned about career readiness and exploration and share on YouTube.



Montana FCCLA members can earn a Career Bingo when they complete five tasks in a row, in any direction, and complete the short survey by February 1, 2027, to share what they have learned.

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Create a short reflection about what you learned in one of your career-related experiences and post on social media using #MTFCCLA</p> |  <p>Create a professional resume and obtain feedback from a hiring professional or a Career Coach</p>                                           |  <p>Build your employability skills by volunteering at a local organization for a minimum of 3 hours</p>                                        |  <p>Participate in a local service activity; report your participation on the <a href="#">Montana FCCLA website</a></p>                                               | <b>FREE!</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>FREE!</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  <p>Participate in a mock job interview with a hiring professional or a Career Coach</p>                                                        |  <p>Engage as an FCCLA District Officer candidate, completing all the requirements as outlined on the <a href="#">Montana FCCLA Website</a></p> |  <p>Present a career-readiness workshop at a chapter or District FCCLA Meeting</p>                                                                                    |  <p>Explore your own strengths and careers that are a great match by completing 50% or more of the requirements for the Career Investigation STAR Event</p>                                                                                |
|  <p>Explore potential careers in the <a href="#">Design Your Future</a> lesson</p>                                                        |  <p>Build your employability skills by volunteering at a local organization for a minimum of 3 hours</p>                                      | <b>FREE!</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  <p>Apply what you've learned in an early childhood education course by completing 50% or more of the requirements for the Early Childhood Education STAR Event</p> |  <p>Participate in a local service activity; report your participation on the <a href="#">Montana FCCLA website</a></p>                                                                                                                  |
|  <p>Organize and complete a job shadowing experience with someone who works in a career that is interesting to you</p>                    |  <p>Learn more about careers as an FCS educator by completing 50% or more of the requirements for the Say Yes to FCS Education STAR Event</p> |  <p>Participate in a local service activity; report your participation on the <a href="#">Montana FCCLA website</a></p>                       | <b>FREE!</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  <p>Research the MT FCS-related career pathways; choose one and design a poster or bulletin board showcasing at least five potential careers in the pathway, along with five skills successful candidates will need in those careers</p> |
|  <p>Learn more about career readiness from the experts at the Montana FCCLA Fall Leadership Rally exhibits</p>                            | <b>FREE!</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  <p>Learn more about job interviews by completing 50% or more of the requirements for the Job Interview STAR Event</p>                        |  <p>Complete the <a href="#">Power of One</a> Working on Working Unit</p>                                                                                           |  <p>Complete a dual credit course related to a future career OR earn an industry-recognized credential.</p>                                                                                                                              |

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# EXPLORE RESOURCES



Together, we can build connections, create opportunities, and prepare Montana students for success. Meet representatives from some of these organizations and learn more at our Fall Leadership Rally.

| ORGANIZATION                                                                        | SERVICES OFFERED                                                                                                            | CONTACT INFORMATION                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | Resources to help all Montana youth explore potential careers and research and fund career preparation programs.            | <a href="http://reachhighermontana.org">reachhighermontana.org</a><br>Contact Jodi Heard at <a href="mailto:jheard@reachhighermontana.org">jheard@reachhighermontana.org</a>       |
|    | Ready-to-use resources to support career exploration and preparation in the classroom.                                      | <a href="http://lmi.mt.gov/career/index">lmi.mt.gov/career/index</a><br>Contact Mary Ellen Earnhardt at <a href="mailto:maryellen.earnhardt@mt.gov">maryellen.earnhardt@mt.gov</a> |
|   | Resources to strengthen career-connected learning and support student career awareness, exploration and preparation.        | <a href="http://dli.mt.gov">dli.mt.gov</a><br>Contact Erica Swanson, <a href="mailto:Eswanson@mt.gov">Eswanson@mt.gov</a>                                                          |
|   | JMG offers career exploration curriculum and funding to help students develop a plan for their future                       | <a href="http://jmg.mt.gov">jmg.mt.gov</a><br>Contact Heather Merritt at <a href="mailto:Hmerritt@mt.gov">Hmerritt@mt.gov</a>                                                      |
|  | Offers an immersive Reality Fair experience designed to help students connect career decisions with life management skills. | <a href="http://rmcu.net">rmcu.net</a><br>Contact Beta Wilhelm at <a href="mailto:beta.Wilhelm@rmcu.net">beta.Wilhelm@rmcu.net</a>                                                 |
|  | Provides support to help students explore entrepreneurial options for their future                                          | <a href="http://montanachamber.com/empowered">montanachamber.com/empowered</a><br>Contact James Easton at <a href="mailto:james@montanachamber.com">james@montanachamber.com</a>   |
|   | Semester- and year-long curriculum that prepares students for both financial and career success.                            | <a href="http://www.ngpf.org">www.ngpf.org</a>                                                                                                                                     |
|   | Activity-based, ready-to-use career exploration curriculum                                                                  | <a href="http://takechargetoday.arizona.edu">takechargetoday.arizona.edu</a>                                                                                                       |