MONTANA FCCLA News

November, 2026

State Leadership Conference T-Shirt Design Contest!

Imagine it. Your school bus rolls into Bozeman, right up to the MSU campus for the 2027 State Leadership Conference. You and the rest of your chapter are so excited for the conference. As your group registers, you look over at the conference t-shirts on the table, and that is when the reality of the situation hits you. That is YOUR DESIGN on the front of the shirt. YOUR creation. It's a YOU original.

Now is the time to take the first step in making that scenario a reality! Design YOUR best creation for the 2027 State Leadership Conference T-Shirt Design Contest, then submit it at this link by December 1. You'll win not only the bragging rights, but a sweet gift card, too!



Culinary Camp Highlights

The 2026 Culinary Camp took place at Sysco in Billings on November 2, with optional events, including a tour of the Northern Hotel and an elevated dining experience on November 1. Attendees learned more about career opportunities in the hospitality field, networked with industry professionals, and explored everything from warehouse tours to plating competitions!















Connect With Us!

FCCLA MONTANA STATE ASSOCIATION

Service Hall of Fame Winners; Quarter 1!

Congratulations to our Quarter 1 Montana FCCLA Service Hall of Fame Winners! A tradition of dedication to serving others has earned recognition for our top three chapters so far in the 2026-27 year!

First Place: Bozeman FCCLA, submitting 464 service hours!





Second Place: Manhattan FCCLA, submitting 289 service hours!





Third Place: Forsyth FCCLA, submitting 273 service hours!





A total of five chapters submitted service hours in this quarter.

A total of 1,246 hours were submitted.

Chapters may submit hours at any time.

The three chapters submitting the most hours each quarter will be recognized in the Service Hall of Fame.

The chapters submitting the most hours per member will be recognized on stage at the State Leadership Conference in March.

Submit your chapter's hours on the Montana FCCLA website! Not sure where to begin, start with our All About Service Hours podcast episode!

Submit your service hours using this QR code!

Welcome To Our Newly Affiliated Chapters!

Conrad
Harlowton
Plentywood
Three Forks
Carter County
Harlowton
Power
Columbia Falls
North Star
Ennis
Helena High
Ronan
Arlee
Dutton Brady
Polson
CJI
Red Lodge
Roundup
Beaverhead
Powell Co .
Bozeman
Fairview
Sidney
Glasgow
Havre

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

November 12-15: Anaheim Fall Leadership Institute
January 13-16: Chapter Adviser Summit
March 3: Safe Rides - Save Lives Contest Deadline

For more details, visit fcclainc.org

Montana FCCLA Dates

November 16: Priority deadline for Vision Zero, Local Impact and State Outreach Project grant applications
November 17: District 3/9 Meeting
November 19: District 10 Meeting
December 1: T-Shirt Contest entry deadline
December 3: FCS Dine With Your Herd
December 7: Final deadline for Vision Zero, Local Impact and State Outreach Project grant applications
For more details, visit mtfccla.org

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.

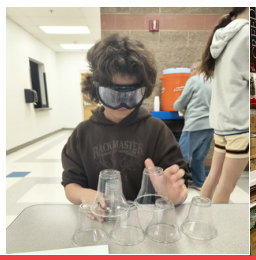
State Outreach Project

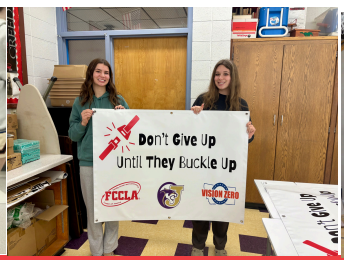
CAREER CONNECTION

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 by November 16 (priority) or December 7 (final). 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 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.









VISION ZERO

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!



Chapter Spotlight: Wibaux FCCLA



Hi everyone! My name is Bailee Wirtzfeld, State VP of Programs and District 5 President. I am from the Wibaux Chapter. For those of you who do not know where Wibaux is, it is located on the very East side of Montana, 8 miles from the North Dakota Border. One unique thing my chapter does every year is an Annual Appreciation and Awards Banquet for our members and Community.





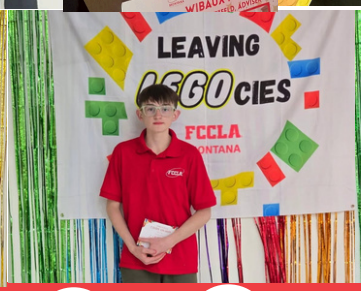
















Connect With Us!

FCCLA MONTANA STATE ASSOCIATION

Bringing the Magic of Hospitality Home: Elevating Holiday Hosting in the ProStart Classroom

As the holiday season approaches, our homes often transform into bustling hubs of hospitality. For ProStart educators, this festive time of year offers a unique dual opportunity: it serves as a real-world testing ground for our own hosting skills, and acts as the perfect, relatable backdrop to reinforce foundational curriculum concepts for our students.

The elements that make a holiday gathering memorable are the exact same industry competencies we teach every day. By weaving holiday hosting techniques into your current lesson plans, you can keep students highly engaged while utilizing the robust support tools provided by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF).

Here is how you can connect holiday hosting traditions directly to the Foundations of Restaurant Management & Culinary Arts curriculum, backed by ProStart support resources.

1. Mastering the Flow: FOH Management & Table Settings

Holiday hosting often introduces the stress of managing a crowd in a limited space. In the classroom, this is the perfect moment to dive into Front-of-House (FOH) operations, service styles, and classic table geometry.

- The Technique: Challenge students to design functional buffet flows or formal holiday tablescapes that maximize space while ensuring guest comfort.
- ProStart Support: Leverage the Level 1 and Level 2 exam prep blueprints available on MyProStart to turn these festive layouts into graded practical assessments. Students can map out "guest paths" and table settings as if they were managing a seasonal pop-up restaurant.

2. Scaling the Feast: Kitchen Math & Prep Lists

Nothing tests a chef's prep skills quite like a holiday timeline. Hosting teaches us that success lies entirely in the mise en place and precise recipe yield adjustments.

- The Technique: Have your students take a traditional family holiday recipe and use kitchen math to scale it up for a party of 50, or down for an intimate dinner for two. Create a "Prep Timeline" counting backward from the moment the guests arrive.
- ProStart Support: Utilize the instructional resources from the ProStart Teacher Resources Portal to access ready-made worksheets on costing, scaling, and production sheets.

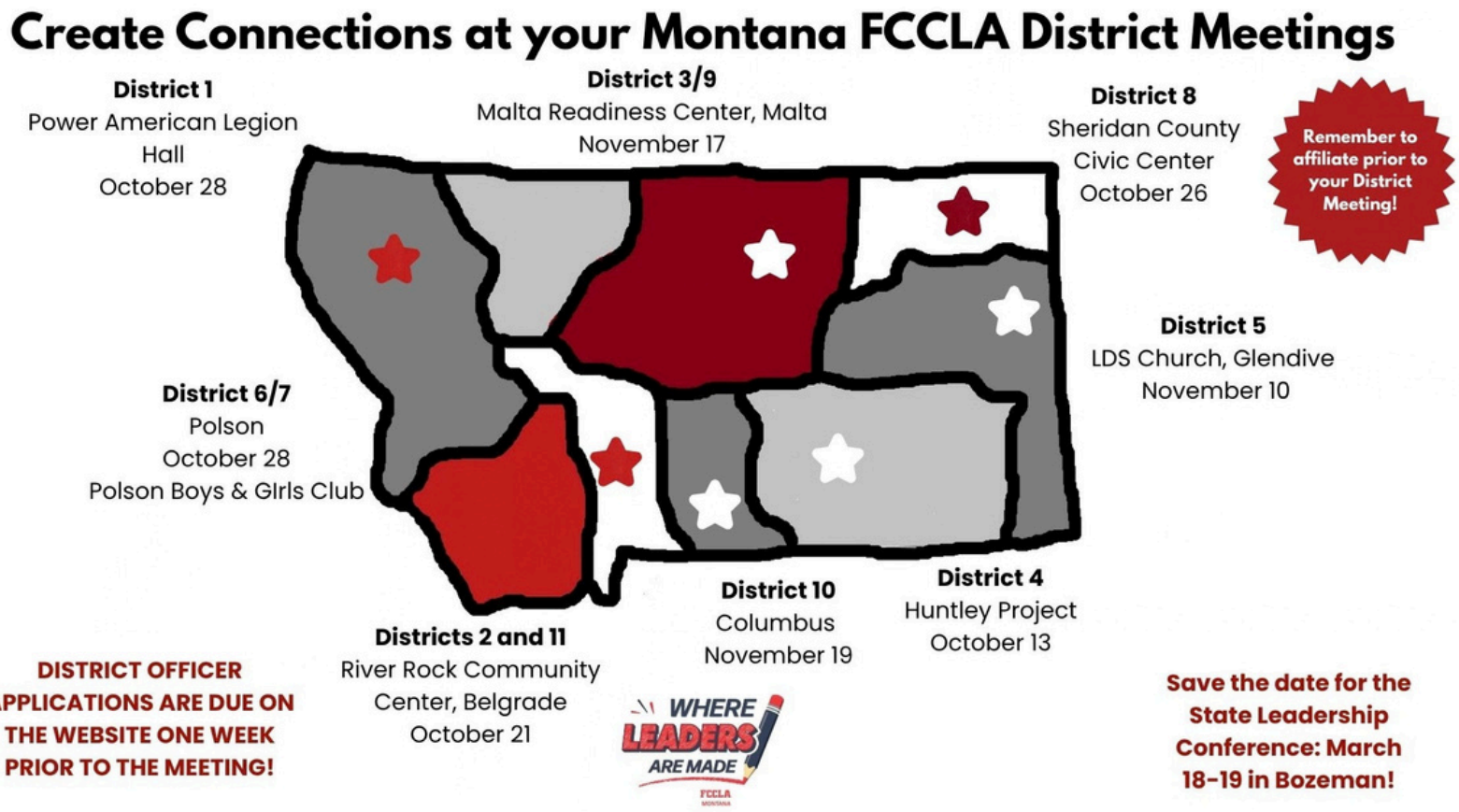
3. Festive Safety: The Golden Rule of Holiday Catering

Cooking a massive holiday meal often means dealing with crowded refrigerators, warm counters, and complex reheating timelines—making food safety more critical than ever.

- The Technique: Run a "Holiday Hazard" workshop. Have students identify potential food safety risks during a chaotic holiday gathering (e.g., proper cooling of leftovers, safe turkey thawing methods, and avoiding cross-contamination during frantic prep).
- ProStart Support: Use this seasonal tie-in to reinforce ServSafe principles embedded within the ProStart curriculum, ensuring your students remain sharp and ready for their upcoming credential exams.



District Meeting Highlights











Inside the Red Jacket: Montana FCCLA's Podcast



Podcast season is back! Newly added episodes include the Montana FCCLA Ultimate Leader award, All About Service Hours, Building Membership, and District Meetings.
Learn from fellow members and advisers about what is working for them and how they leave a legacy in their local communities. Explore our growing library of episodes, and If you have ideas for future episodes, email Tracey at director@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

2026-27 STATE OUTREACH PROJECT

CAREER CONNECTION

FCCLA MONTANA

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 MTFCCLA.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 16; final deadline is December 7
- Final report due March 1
- State-level cash awards: $500 for 1st place, $300 for 2nd place, $200 for 3rd 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: Reach Higher Montana

GET INVOLVED ⚙ MAKE AN IMPACT ⚙ BUILD YOUR FUTURE

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 website
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.

FCCLA MONTANA STATE ASSOCIATION

COMMUNITY SERVICE

MONTANA FCCLA
LOCAL IMPACT PROJECT



MAKE A DIFFERENCE—STATEWIDE!

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Consider utilizing YSA's resources to develop your project plan.



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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

Priority application deadline: NOVEMBER 16
Final grant application deadline: DECEMBER 7

Applications due on our website
Application results announced March 1
Final report, photos, and receipts due March 1
Payments will be issued by late March.
Email director@mtfccla.org with any questions.

IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER 16
Priority application deadline

DECEMBER 7
Final grant application deadline

FACTS
FAMILIES ACTING FOR COMMUNITY TRAFFIC SAFETY

MAKE AN IMPACT ON LOCAL TRAFFIC SAFETY



2026–27 VISION ZERO GRANTS

VISION ZERO | FCCLA MONTANA STATE ASSOCIATION

PRIORITY APPLICATION DEADLINE:
NOVEMBER 16

FINAL GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE:
DECEMBER 7

Visit mtfccla.org for full details!

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).

Together, we can create safer roads and brighter futures in our Montana communities!

Questions? Contact Sheila Cozzie, 406-444-7301 scozzie@mt.gov



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

TEAM Nutrition Montana

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE
FCCLA MONTANA

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

FCCLA Family, Career and Community Leaders of America — The Ultimate Leadership Experience
MONTANA STATE ASSOCIATION

FCCLA
MONTANA

TRADING PIN DESIGN CONTEST





Your design could represent *Montana* at the National Leadership Conference!

★

Create the official trading pin Montana FCCLA members will exchange with members from across the nation.

TOP ENTRIES

Appear on social media for voting!

WINNING DESIGN

Receives an Amazon gift card

DEADLINE JANUARY 1

Submit your design online by January 1

PREVIOUS DESIGN SAMPLES:



What will your design look like?

READY TO DESIGN?

Scan for contest guidelines and to submit your entry.



Montana Family, Career and Community Leaders of America | @fcclamontana | www.mtfccla.org | director@mtfccla.org

On December Third,

Dine With Your 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.

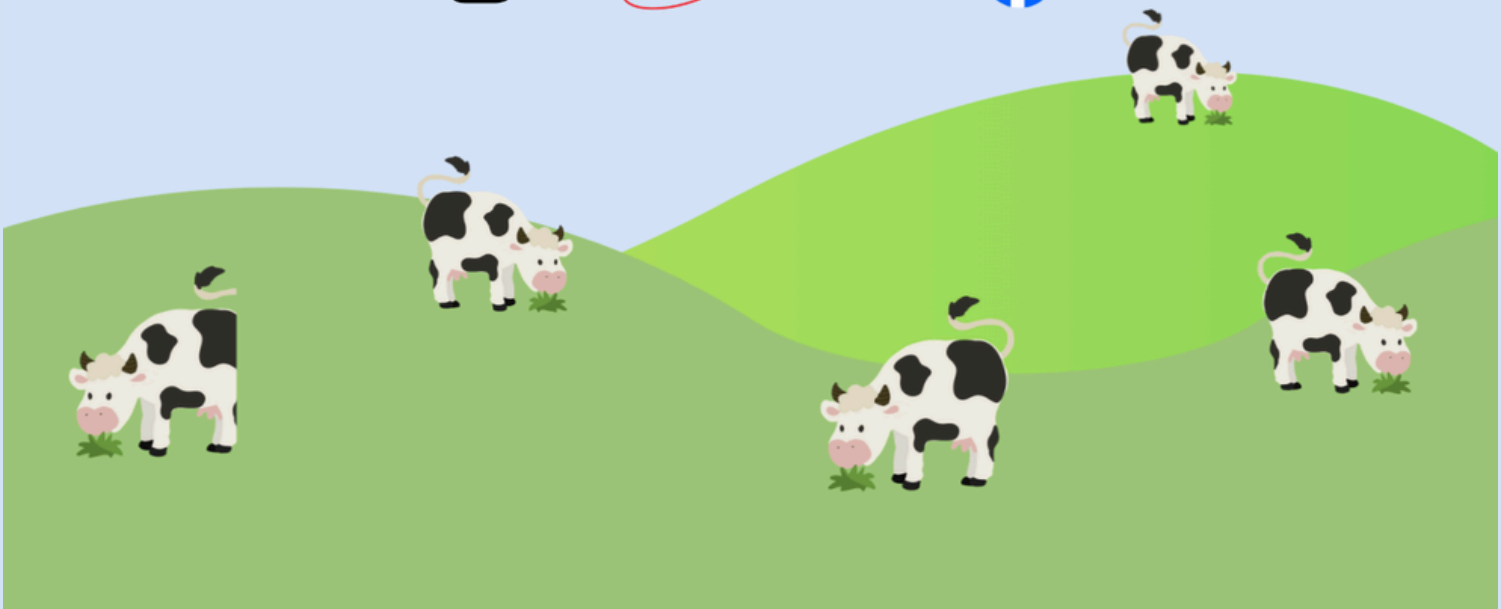






On Thursday, December 3, make plans to dine with your family, or the friends you consider family.
Share a photo on your favorite social media platform and tag @fcclamontana or use #mtfccla

FCCLA MONTANA STATE ASSOCIATION



NOVEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
01 ADVISER ACADEMY REGISTRATION CLOSES	02 CHAPTER ADVISER SUMMIT SCHOLARSHIP APP. DUE CULINARY CAMP, BILLINGS	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10 ADVISER POWER HOUR, 4;30 VIA ZOOM	11	12 FALL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE, ANAHEIM	13 FALL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE, ANAHEIM	14 FALL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE, ANAHEIM
15 FLI ANAHEIM	16 PRIORITY GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE FOR VISION ZERO, SOP, AND LOCAL IMPACT	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	01	02	03	04	05

TO DO LIST

UPDATE THE STAR CHAPTER APPLICATION

SUBMIT SERVICE HOURS ONLINE

SUBMIT AFFILIATION BEFORE DISTRICT MEETING!

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

FCCLA MONTANA

NOTES

DECEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	01 SLC T-SHIRT ENTRIES DUE	02	03 FCS DAY	04	05
06	07 FINAL DEADLINE FOR VISION ZERO, LOCAL IMPACT, AND SOP GRANTS	08 ADVISER POWER HOUR, 4;30 VIA ZOOM	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 CHAPTER ADVISER SUMMIT REG. REGISTRATION CLOSES	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	01	02

TO DO LIST

UPDATE THE STAR CHAPTER APPLICATION

SUBMIT SERVICE HOURS ONLINE

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

FCCLA MONTANA

NOTES