

Nebraska FCCLA Red Leader

Running for Officer

By Alexis Cherry, Secretary

Do you want to take your leadership to the next level? Are you looking to make a positive impact on the Nebraska FCCLA Association on a higher level? If you answered yes to either of these questions, then you should look into running for a higher office. Nebraska FCCLA has two opportunities for those members who are looking to take their leadership to the next level, and this article will give you the information you need to start your leadership journey.

The first opportunity that Nebraska FCCLA offers is running for the State Peer Officer Team (SPOT). Each of the three teams focuses on different National Programs each year. The Family Leader Team's focus for the 2020-2021 school year will be STOP the Violence. The Career Leader Team's focus will be Career Connections. The Community Leader Team's focus will be FACTS. If you find interest in one of these National Programs, run for the team that has that focus. When you run for this office, you will have to know everything about that program; you will also be tested on it, so know your programs. To learn more about the application process to become a State Peer Officer, check out the SPOT Red Leader found [here](#).

The second opportunity to take your leadership to the next level is running for the State Officer Team (SOT). The State Officer Team has training in the summer for the upcoming year; the training is called SOLA, the State Officer Leadership Academy. The team will then attend the National Leadership Conference to attend trainings and run state meetings. After NLC, you will plan and run FLW. During the winter, there is also a meeting for the SOT; the meeting is Winter Planning where you finish up planning for State Leadership Conference. The next meeting is the day before the Peer Education Conference; you will work on finishing touches for State. The last meeting is at State Leadership Conference; however, there are many other meetings that you can attend that include many legislative days and DLCs.

To run for the State Officer Team, you have to go through stages in the application process. You first have to fill out your application that is available now on the Nebraska FCCLA website; this application is due January 15. Once you turn in your application, you need to start studying for your knowledge test along with preparing for your interview too. Your test and interview will take place on February 12 at the FCSTN Legislative Day; this will all take place in the Nebraska Department of Education building. After this has taken place, you will be notified if you have moved on to the next stage.

As you are notified that you have moved on, you need to create your speech for the delegate session at State Leadership Conference. This is a 2-3 minute speech about the topic that is located at the bottom of the first page of the application on the website. At the State Leadership Conference, you will also have to give an opening 1-3 sentences when you are introduced on stage. The topic for this opening will be released to you by the state adviser at a later date which is typically a week or two after the Peer Education Conference. On the first day of the State Leadership Conference, you will only have to give your opening. The second day, you will give your speech to the voting delegates; you will also have to participate in a fishbowl activity that will show your leadership, communication, teamwork, and other skills to the voting delegates. After this session is over, you have to attend your letter drop that takes place that night during the dance to find out if you made it. The next morning, you will have an orientation meeting before the Closing Session.

Both of these opportunities are great ways to start your leadership journey. Even if you are thinking about running, I highly recommend that you try it. Whether you make it or not, you will gain skills that you never thought you had. Personally, I ran for the SPOT team two years in a row; I missed out on the team my first year, so I came back better next year after I realized that I was missing a key factor in my leadership - resiliency. That was my first time falling down from something that I put my heart and soul into, and I cannot tell anyone how much this helped build my leadership. I encourage anyone to run because of my experience that I had in this because it changed me for the better. With that being said, good luck to those who are running this year; I wish you all the best! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the State Officer Team. We are always happy to help, and cannot wait to see the future leaders of our State Association.

FCCLA®

November 2019

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Coming Up:

November

15 November Red Leader Published

15-17 National Fall Conference – Dallas, TX

25 Commissioner's Recognition (by invitation only)

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Member of the Month Applications deadline

December

14 SPOT applications due to the State Adviser



Chapter Spotlight: Callaway FCCLA Pop tabs for Ronald McDonald

This summer the Callaway FCCLA officer team was lucky to deliver **720,750** pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House in Omaha. The experience was amazing as they were able to tour the house and see what goes on, including the hard work that gets put in to keeping it up and running. The officers were glad to be able to donate so many pop tabs with help from our school and community.



Giving Back to Your Community

By Sydney Schildt, Vice President of Development

With the holidays just around the corner, we begin to find excitement in family, gifts, and delicious meals. We often forget about the giving aspect and the impact it can have on a community. Volunteering has played a huge part in my high school career. From making blankets for the Linus Project, serving soup at community events, and putting flags on headstones of honored Veterans, I am always proud to know I played a part in bettering my community. I hope these examples show you that there are endless ways to contribute.

When we think of giving back to our community we often go towards thinking we have to make a large monetary donation. Giving back doesn't have to be a large donation. In reality, the smallest of gestures make the biggest differences. By simply donating clothing, books, food and school supplies you are helping your community. To me the giving of money or items seems like an easy thing to do. But I believe that one of the greatest impacts comes from the simple donation of time. We can all drop a donation off but to truly be involved in making a difference, this requires time. The question is where your time can be best spent. We all have skills that others can benefit from, it's just choosing the one that will make the biggest difference. What are your hobbies? What do you enjoy doing? Find something you're passionate about and consider volunteering to help teach that skill. Just volunteering at your local food shelter or nursing home or even just picking up trash around your community makes a difference. Giving back is a rewarding and meaningful experience. It is a way to get to know the individuals in your community and make new connections. By becoming involved you open yourself up to challenging experiences and learn to make sacrifices.

FCCLA provides ways for you to impact your community through the IMPACT Fund. Through the IMPACT Fund you are able to give financial support that helps FCCLA members grow and take action in their individual communities. As an FCCLA member, it is our responsibility to take action and stand by who we are **F**amily, **C**areer, **COMMUNITY**, **L**eaders of **A**merica.



Families First

By Jaiden Johnson, Vice President of Programs



"We are family!" Yes it is true Nebraska FCCLA, we truly are family and this month we are going to celebrate it. This month's National program is... you guessed it! It's Families First! Families First can help members become strong family members and strengthen the family as a basic unit of society. Families First has five units: Families Today, You-Me-Us, Meet the Challenge, Balancing Family and Career, and Parent Practice.

The Families Today unit is to help understand and celebrate families. You-Me-Us can strengthen family relationships. Meet the Challenge helped families to overcome obstacles together. Balancing Family and Career is to manage multiple responsibilities. Parent Practice helps students learn to nurture students.

With the holiday season in full swing, now is the perfect time for your FCCLA chapter to start working on a Families First Project. Family is so important around Thanksgiving and Christmas. What better thing to be grateful for than family?



Of course like any other National Program, Families First has awards to apply for. Nebraska's very own Family State Peer Education Team is focusing on Families First this year. Make sure you talk to your adviser about applying for SPOT's Capture the Action Award. More resources and ideas for a Families First project and award can be found on the Nebraska FCCLA or the National FCCLA website.

Chapter Spotlight: Twin River FCCLA ibuckleUp weBuckleUP



Twin River FCCLA conducted an iBuckleUp weBuckleUp Project this fall by surveying patrons at 2 home football games. The first survey showed that 51% of patrons overall use their seatbelts. Using that information, it was determined that a change needed to be made.

By partnering with the Anatomy class, students at Twin River determined the physical impact on the body when a seatbelt is not in use and a vehicle is traveling at various speeds. It was also determined by the Physics class how long it would take for a vehicle to stop when traveling at various speeds. FCCLA students created banners with this information as well as the findings from the first survey to inform patrons of why they should be wearing seatbelts and make them aware of the fact that not enough people in our community are buckled up.

The banners were displayed at the biggest football game of the year where Twin River FCCLA also hosted a chili cook-off and invited the Nebraska State Patrol to bring the "Seat Belt Convincer". Buckle up pledge stickers were placed on the bowls for chili to further encourage patrons of our message. The game announcers informed people of the banners, survey results, and encouraged them to ride the seat belt convincer as well as take the pledge to buckle up. Anyone that pledged to buckle up was given a sticker or a temporary tattoo. 108 rides were given on the seatbelt convincer and 210 people including adults and children at the football game pledged to wear their seatbelt. Following the football game FCCLA members conducted a post-survey and found that 73% of patrons overall were wearing their seatbelt!

Chapter Spotlight: Bloomfield FCCLA Books

The Bloomfield FCCLA Chapter has teamed up with Bloomfield's Michael Foods Company to help purchase books for elementary students. From the months of September to May, all students attending Bloomfield Elementary School will receive a free book every month for them to take home and read with their families. Thanks to a very generous donation, and teamwork amongst the Bloomfield FCCLA Chapter and the Bloomfield Elementary Staff, these Bloomfield students will be given nine free books throughout the year.

The Bloomfield FCCLA Officers are responsible for purchasing one book per student each month. That equals up to 147 books per month. Each grade receives a different book, matching their grade level, each month.

The main purpose of this program is to give each child a book of their own to take home and read. Bloomfield School's Goal is to promote reading comprehension and those who have a part in organizing this program hope that it will help promote this school goal. Bloomfield FCCLA also hopes that this program will help promote family reading. Since FCCLA's main focus is family, Bloomfield FCCLA hopes that the children are able to spend time reading with their parents, siblings, and family.



October Member of the Month

Joseph Haitt

"Joseph has been a very valuable asset to our chapter this last year. He truly goes above and beyond. This year I have the privilege to be his Co-president for our chapter. Joseph has been a member since 7th grade, and has been an officer for his 3rd year now. As soon as he was elected to his presidential office this year he took it upon himself to make sure our chapter had all of the resources available to do amazing things. He made a chapter shared file where all of our materials from the last 2-3 years are. Our advisor and officers have access to this file. Everything in the file has a spot, therefore we have been able to be much more organized as an officer team and chapter this year. He works closely with all of our officers to make sure their duties are getting done. He takes special time to talk to our junior high members and makes sure they are knowledgeable about all of our activities in our chapter. One way he especially encourages them is participate in STAR. If any of them have questions about events or what topic they should do, Joseph is right there to step up and give them ideas or guidance."

Submitted by Kaci Mashino

Congratulations, Joseph, for being our first Member of the Month!





How do you Fuel Your Passion?

By Caitlin Murphey, Vice President

Passion has always come easily for me. I pursue my dreams relentlessly by setting high goals for myself and working to achieve them. FCCLA has become an integral part of my life, and my passion for this organization grows with every passing day. It's difficult to say for sure when FCCLA became part of my story, but it all began before I was even eligible to join. As an elementary student, I attended the community presentation of STAR projects. After seeing a high school student qualify for and attend National Leadership Conference, I decided that I wanted to do the same when I was old enough to join. When I reached seventh grade, the floodgates of opportunities opened before my eyes. I completed my first STAR project, participated in chapter service projects, and even pursued leadership opportunities. Since then, I have qualified for National Leadership Conference with four STAR projects, started community service initiatives, and served in leadership positions at the chapter, district, and state level.

However, there is a lot more to my FCCLA story than meets the eye. Although ambitious, I was extremely shy and unconfident when I joined FCCLA in seventh grade. I vividly remember pacing outside my adviser's door, too nervous to ask a question about my project. The same adviser would serve as a supporter in all of my future FCCLA endeavors. At conferences, I was scared to venture away from my chapter. However, through every experience, I fully committed to what was being asked of me, no matter how uncomfortable it made me. This dedication to improving myself, combined with the amazing opportunities provided through this organization, has allowed me to get to where I am today.

FCCLA has pushed me to get out of my comfort zone and grow in unimaginable ways, and it can do the same for every student who takes the initiative to join. This year, our state theme is "Fuel Your Passion," and the national theme is "Your Story." I have shared my FCCLA story in the hopes that my FCCLA journey encourages you to take initiative and pursue opportunities that will help you grow as a person and as a leader. Regardless of where you are in your FCCLA story, you have the opportunity to discover what fuels your passion and the potential to create a lasting impact in the lives of others.

Nebraska FCCLA

Nebraska Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a dynamic student organization which holds the family as its central focus. We promote leadership and service in the family, career, school and community and help members improve themselves and the world in which they live.

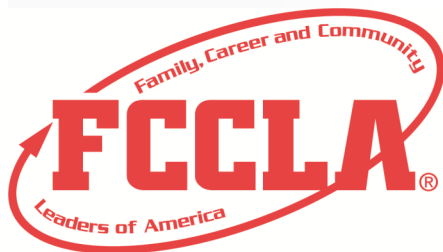
FCCLA is a national Career and Technical Student Organization that provides personal growth, leadership development and career preparation opportunities for students in Family and Consumer Sciences education.



Nebraska FCCLA

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