NEBRASKA
STATE ASSOCIATION

Competitive Events Handbook

2026-2027

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INTRODUCTION TO NATIONAL FCCLA COMPETITIVE EVENTS

FCCLA Competitive Events promote the organization's mission to focus on the multiple roles of family member, wage earner, and community leader. Competitive events are designed to help members develop specific lifetime skills in character development, creative and critical thinking, interpersonal communication, practical knowledge, and career preparation. Competitive Events allow members to showcase their college and career-ready knowledge, skills, and abilities. FCCLA offers five types of competitive events at the national level, each with separate guidelines that can be found in the FCCLA national membership portal.

- **Challenge Tests, presented by G-W Publisher:** Comprehensive tests designed to measure students' understanding and application of specific subject areas related to Family and Consumer Sciences.
- **Knowledge Bowl:** In partnership with LifeSmarts, Knowledge Bowl is a team competition that challenges students' knowledge in six content areas related to Family and Consumer Sciences and FCCLA.
- **Virtual Business Challenge:** In partnership with Knowledge Matters, the Virtual Business Challenge is a virtual competition that encourages members to test their personal finance or fashion industry knowledge and skills using a competition version of the Virtual Business classroom software.
- **Skill Demonstration Events:** Events that provide opportunities for members to demonstrate college and career-readiness skills in Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) and related occupations.
- **STAR Events:** Students Taking Action with Recognition (STAR) are competitive events recognizing members' proficiency and achievement in chapter and individual projects, leadership skills, and career preparation.

INTRODUCTION TO NEBRASKA FCCLA COMPETITIVE EVENTS

Nebraska FCCLA offers four different competitive event opportunities as part of the annual State Leadership Conference. None of these state-level competitions are connected to the national competitive events described above, except STAR Events. We simply offer these opportunities at the state level to provide competition opportunities for members at SLC outside of STAR Events. Guidelines for these events can be found in this handbook as well as in SLC materials.

- **FCS Challenge Tests:** Members have the chance to demonstrate their knowledge in various Family & Consumer Sciences topic areas and be recognized for doing so; tests are offered at the junior (grades 6-9) and senior (grades 10-12) levels. Students take the tests online prior to SLC, and the top 3 finalists in each test level are announced on-stage during the Recognition session.
- **FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl:** Modeled after the national competition, this is a team event (5 members) that tests members' knowledge in six content areas. Teams take a 50-question quiz together online prior to SLC, and then the top 12 teams will compete in the head-to-head competition at SLC on Monday. The third/fourth place and championship rounds will take place live Tuesday morning on the stage at PBA.
- **Skill Demonstration Events:** These are the same as the national events described above. Students will have the opportunity to compete in specific events at SLC.
- **STAR Events:** These are the same as the national events described above. To participate in STAR Events, members must be affiliated by December 15. Competition begins at the district level, then the state level (if members advance), and finally the national level (if members advance), except for Online STAR Events, which all take place at the national level.

STUDENTS WITH ACCOMMODATIONS

IEPs may be presented when students register if accommodations are necessary for their success in competitive events. This information will be shared with the event Evaluators and/or Room Consultant. Advisers must complete the FCCLA Participant with Accommodations Form prior to the District STAR Event competition and by March 5 for all other competitive events.

DRESS CODE POLICY

Student dress should contribute to the positive, professional image of FCCLA. Unless otherwise specified, appropriate clothing in events that do not allow chef attire is the attire that meets the Nebraska FCCLA Dress Code. The red blazer is not required for participation at the district or state level but will be required for participation at the National level.

DISQUALIFICATION AND PENALTIES

Disqualification is unfortunate for everyone concerned—participants, advisers, and event personnel. To avoid unnecessary disappointment, keep in mind these causes of disqualification:

1. **Affiliation Deadline:** Only affiliated members are eligible to compete in FCCLA competitive events; if students are not affiliated (payment received by nationals) by the dates below, they will be ineligible to compete:
    a. **December 15:** STAR Events
    b. **February 1:** FCS Challenge Tests, FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl, Skill Demonstration Events
2. **Substitution Errors:** Chapter advisers must follow the Nebraska substitution policies for the respective Competitive Event to ensure entries are not disqualified for prohibited substitutions.
    a. Nebraska FCS Challenge Test substitution policy
    b. Nebraska FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl substitution policy
    c. Nebraska Skill Demonstration Events substitution policy
    d. Nebraska STAR Event substitution policy
3. **Behavior Expectations:** Participants, both students and adults, are expected to exhibit behavior that supports the smooth management of competitive events and upholds a positive image of the organization. Failure to do so, whether before, during, or after participation in a competitive event, may lead to disqualification of individuals and/or their eligibility for the following year's participation. The Competitive Events Advisory Team determines the penalty for such behavior.
4. **Original Work & Citing Sources:** All work submitted must be reflective of the students' own effort. If Artificial Intelligence tools (AI) are used, they must be clearly cited and acknowledged in the participants' project. Failure to cite the use of AI or any external resources, may result in disqualification.

Participants who do not follow the event guidelines or the definition of the event, or if they create an item that does not align with the current event scenario, their sample/display/project will not be considered for evaluation. However, the participant can still participate in the competition by giving an oral presentation and will only be evaluated based on that presentation.

STATE TERMS

Entry: a team or individual competing in a Competitive Event

Event: a grouping of related competitions with a specific set of rules (i.e. Interpersonal Communications, Chapter in Review, Fashion Sketch, etc.)

State Champion: The highest-rated presentation at the State STAR Event Competition

State Runner-Up: The second highest-rated presentation at the State STAR Event Competition

DISTRICT STAR EVENT COORDINATORS

District	Name	Chapter	Email Address
1	Abby Drake	Weeping Water	adrake@weepingwaterps.org
2	Celeste Brandenburgh	Seward	celeste.brandenburgh@sewardschools.org
3	Jamie Janousek	Elkhorn North	jjanousek@epsne.org
4	Sarah Hubel	Cross County	shubel@crosscounty.esu7.org
5	Britton Andreasen	Twin River	britton.andreasen@twinriver.esu7.org
6	Crystal Feik	Loup City	crystal.feik@lcpublic.org
7	Brianna Wolfe	West Point-Beemer	bwolfe@wpcadets.net
8	Ashley Knust	Elkhorn Valley	mrs.knust@elkhornvalleyschools.org
9	Kelly Bordovsky	Chambers	kellybordovsky@esu8.org
10	Jessica DeLaTorre	Cozad	jessica.delatorre@cozadschools.net
11	Linda Dannehl	Southern Valley	linda.dannehl@sveagles.org
12	Suzanne Neefe	Hemingford	sneefe@gubn.org

WORKS CITED RESOURCES

Several STAR Events require participants to use MLA or APA citation style to cite all references. There are many resources available to assist with this including the FCCLA Quick Reference Chart found at http://fcclainc.org/programs/resources.php.

As a reminder to advisers and participants, just because something is cited, does not mean that you have permission to use it. Be diligent in protecting copyrighted work. If you have questions about what is okay to use, whether it be an image, song, document, or video clip, please visit the Fair Use Checklist through Columbia University for guidance at http://copyright.columbia.edu/copyright/fair-use/fair-use-checklist/.

NEBRASKA FCS CHALLENGE TESTS

These academic knowledge tests cover a wide range of subjects aligned with state FCS standards, allowing participants to showcase the skills and knowledge gained from their FCS courses and involvement in FCCLA. The FCS Challenge Tests are designed to evaluate participants' abilities through a rigorous assessment exam, with test questions developed from current course standards and a variety of curricular resources, so participants are tested on relevant and up-to-date information, preparing them for further education and careers in their respective fields.

FCS Challenge tests are offered at the following levels:

- Level 1 (grades 6-8)
- Level 2 (grades 9-10)
- Level 3 (grades 11-12)

Tests are offered in the following topic areas at all levels, unless otherwise noted:

- Baking & Pastry (Level 2, 3) – *NEW!*
- Child Development
- Counseling & Mental Health (Level 2, 3)
- Culinary Skills (Level 2, 3)
- Early Childhood Education (Level 2, 3) – *NEW!*
- Education & Training (Level 2, 3)
- Event Management (Level 2, 3) – *NEW!*
- Fashion Construction & Design
- FCCLA Knowledge
- Food Science (Level 2, 3)
- General FCS
- Interpersonal Relationships – *NEW!*
- Housing & Interior Design
- Hospitality & Tourism (Level 2, 3)
- Life & Career Readiness
- Lifespan Development (Level 2, 3) – *NEW!*
- Nutrition
- Parents & Families (Level 2, 3) – *NEW!*
- Parliamentary Knowledge
- Personal Finance

Each test is comprised of 25 questions, multiple choice or true/false. There is a 30-minute time limit to complete the test.

FCS Challenge Test Guidelines, Rules, and Policies

- Members participating in FCS Challenge Tests must be affiliated members (by February 1) and be registered to attend the State Leadership Conference.
- FCS Challenge Tests are individual events and must be completed by the individual student without any outside assistance or use of resources.
- Members may compete in as many FCS Challenge Tests as they wish.
- Chapters can have as many entries in FCS Challenge Tests as they wish.
- Tests are taken online via the AnswerWrite system prior to the State Leadership Conference.
    - Tests must be taken at school and proctored.

    - Tests must be proctored by the chapter adviser or another adult designated by the chapter adviser.
- All FCS Challenge Test information will be communicated directly with chapter advisers.

FCS Challenge Test Substitution

No substitutions will be allowed for FCS Challenge Tests.

FCS Challenge Test Dates and Deadlines

- **February 1:** SLC Participant Affiliation deadline (dues received by nationals)
- **March 5:** State Leadership Conference Registration deadline
- **March 15 at 7am CDT-March 24 at 6pm CDT:** FCS Challenge Test Online Testing Window

FCS Challenge Test Fees

Each participant pays a fee to help cover expenses such as AnswerWrite expenses, certificates, and test development. FCS Challenge Test fees are nonrefundable after the State Leadership Conference registration deadline.

- $5 per test

FCS Challenge Test Advancement and Recognition

Each participant's score is based on the number of correct answers they provide within the time limit. All unfinished or incorrect answers are scored as incorrect. The participant with the highest score is declared the first-place winner, the participant with the second highest score is the second-place winner, and the participant with the third highest score is the third-place winner for each test level. If multiple participants achieve the same score, the participant who completed the test in the shortest amount of time will be declared the first, second, or third place winner.

All participants will receive a certificate for competing in an FCS Challenge Test. Finalist certificates will be awarded to the first, second, and third place finishers on-stage during the Recognition session.

THE NEBRASKA FCS CHALLENGE TESTS HAVE NO IMPACT ON MEMBERS' ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE IN THE FCCLA CHALLENGE TESTS PRESENTED BY G-W PUBLISHERS AT THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.

NEBRASKA FCCLA/LIFESMARTS KNOWLEDGE BOWL

Knowledge Bowl is a team competition that tests members' knowledge in six content areas:

1. Personal Finance
2. Consumer Rights & Responsibilities *(to include Family, Career & Community Studies)*
3. Technology *(to include Fashion & Housing Design)*
4. Health & Safety *(to include Food Science & Nutrition and Child & Lifespan Development)*
5. Environment *(to include Hospitality, Tourism & Recreation)*
6. FCCLA Knowledge

Round 1: Teams will collaboratively take a 50-question quiz during the testing window.

Round 2: The top 12 teams will compete in the head-to-head competition at SLC on Monday.

Round 3: The final four teams will compete in the third/fourth place and first/second place matches during the SLC Recognition Session on Monday.

FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl Guidelines, Rules, and Policies

- Members participating in FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl must be affiliated members (by February 1), and if qualified as one of the top 12 teams, individual team members must be registered to attend the State Leadership Conference.
- Teams must be comprised of five (5) FCCLA members from the same chapter.
- Teams may be mixed in grade levels.
- Chapters may register up to two (2) teams.
- All FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl information will be communicated directly with chapter advisers.

Round 1: Qualifying Quiz

Teams will collaboratively take a 50-question quiz during the testing window, February 3-12, 2027. Teams will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz.

- The Qualifying Quiz will be taken online.
- The Qualifying Quiz must be taken at school and proctored.
- The Qualifying Quiz must be proctored by the chapter adviser or another adult designated by the chapter adviser.
- All Qualifying Quiz information will be communicated directly with the chapter adviser.

Each team's score is based on the number of correct answers they provide within the time limit. All unfinished or incorrect answers are scored as incorrect. The 12 teams with the highest scores will move to Round 2: Head-to-Head Competition. If multiple teams achieve the same score, the team who completed the Qualifying Quiz in the shortest amount of time will be ranked higher than teams that took more time to complete the quiz. Teams will be ranked 1-12 based on their Qualifying Quiz scores. The top 12 teams will be announced by Monday, February 15.

Round 2: Head-to-Head Competition

The top 12 teams will compete in head-to-head matches at SLC on Monday, April 5. The Head-to-Head Competition will be structured in a double-elimination bracket, so each team will compete in at least two (2) matches.

Each match will feature the following types of questions:

Head-to-Head Questions – 5 question sets *(up to 15 questions)***; correct answers worth 5 points each**

- The first question is for first person on each team; buzzers are used for this question. Players must be recognized before giving an answer; players have 10 seconds to buzz in.
    - Team cannot confer (no talking).
    - First person to buzz in and provide the correct answer gains control of the question.
- The team with control is asked the second question; buzzers are not used.
    - Team can confer (talking is allowed).
- If the team provides the correct answer to the second question, then they are asked a third question; buzzers are not used.
    - Team can confer (talking is allowed).
- If the team fails to provide the correct answer to the second question, then the set ends.
- Move to the next person on each team (second, third, etc.) until each player on the teams has gone head-to-head.
- Teams cannot request for questions to be repeated.

Team Questions – 16 questions; correct answers worth 10 points each

- Questions are open to all players to answer; buzzers are used. Players must be recognized before giving an answer; players have 10 seconds to buzz in.
    - Teams can confer until someone from their team buzzes in; once someone buzzes in, conversations must cease.
- The first person to buzz in and provide the correct answer earns the points.
- If an incorrect answer is given, the other team will have the remaining time plus an additional 5 seconds to provide an answer.
- If a player buzzes in before a question has been read in its entirety and gives an incorrect answer, the question will be re-read in its entirety, and the other team will have 10 seconds to provide an answer.
- Teams cannot request for questions to be repeated.

Tiebreakers *(if needed)* **– correct answers worth 10 points each**

- Rules from the Team Questions apply.
- The first team to answer a question correctly wins.

Round 3: Championship

The final four teams will compete in the third/fourth place and first/second place matches during the Recognition Session on Monday night. These matches will be structured the same as the matches from earlier in the day, and the same rules will apply.

Spectator/Participant Conduct and Sportsmanship

The Head-to-Head Competition and Championship are open to spectators (students, advisers, chaperones, alumni, and other conference attendees). Spectators are not allowed to enter or leave the competition room during a competition match. Spectators are prohibited from cheering, visual signaling, audible conversations, or speaking to the players during the competition. Any spectators who disrupt the match in any way or are thought to be communicating with competitors will be asked to leave. The room personnel have the authority to control the competition atmosphere within their room.

Disputes concerning their judgment should be directed to the Nebraska FCCLA conference personnel leading the event.

Good sportsmanship is expected of all participants, advisers, chapter members, and other spectators.

Poor sportsmanship on the part of any team member or their supporters may result in disqualification. Any use of extremely negative behavior (such as the use of profanity or yelling) will result in immediate disqualification of the team.

No notetaking, videotaping, audio recording, or photography is allowed during live competition without prior approval from Nebraska FCCLA. The event photographer will be allowed to take pictures during the competition.

FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl Substitution

Once the team has taken the Qualifying Quiz, a substitution may only be made in extenuating circumstances. Substitute players must be affiliated members attending SLC. Substitution requests should be sent to the State Adviser at chelsey.greene@nebraska.gov for consideration.

FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl Dates and Deadlines

- **February 1:** SLC Participant Affiliation deadline (dues received by nationals)
- **February 3 at 7am CDT-February 12 at 6pm CDT:** Qualifying Quiz Testing Window
- **February 15:** Top 12 Teams Announced
- **March 5:** State Leadership Conference Registration deadline

FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl Fees

Each team pays a fee to help cover expenses such as room rental, evaluators, awards, and supplies. FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl fees are nonrefundable after the State Leadership Conference registration deadline.

- $20 per team

FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl Advancement and Recognition

All participants will receive a certificate for competing in the Nebraska FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl. Teams finishing in first, second, third, or fourth place will be awarded a framed certificate on-stage during the Competitive Events Recognition session.

THE NEBRASKA FCCLA/LIFESMARTS KNOWLEDGE BOWL HAS NO CONNECTION TO OR IMPACT ON A TEAM'S ELIGIBLITY FOR THE NATIONAL FCCLA KNOWLEDGE BOWL.

NEBRASKA SKILL DEMONSTRATION EVENTS

These events provide opportunities for members to demonstrate college and career-readiness skills in Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) and related occupations. Members use event criteria to demonstrate skills learned in their FCS courses and through their involvement in FCCLA.

The following Skill Demonstration Events will be offered at the 2027 State Leadership Conference with the noted capacities by level. A waitlist for each event level will be established, and additional entries beyond the state capacities will be accepted, if there are Level(s) of an event that do not reach capacity.

SKILL DEMONSTRATION EVENT	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
Culinary Food Art	--	6	6
Culinary Knife Skills	--	6	6
FCCLA Creed Speaking & Interpretation	6	6	--
Impromptu Speaking	6	6	6
Interior Design Sketch	--	6	9
Interviewing Skills	8	8	8
Lesson Plan Development & Modifications	--	6	6
Pastry Arts Technical Decorating Skills	--	6	6
Speak Out for FCCLA	6	6	6
#TeachFCS	6	6	6
Toys that Teach	6	6	6

Skill Demonstration Event Policies, Guidelines, and Rules

Nebraska FCCLA will follow the Skill Demonstration Event policies, guidelines, and rules developed by national FCCLA, which can be found in the following sections of the 2026-2027 Skill Demonstration Event Guidelines:

- Entries Per Chapter (p. 5)
  - *This policy will apply to the State Leadership Conference.*
- Event Description and Levels (p. 6)
- Maximum Event Entry Policies (p. 6)
  - *Policy 3-4: These policies do NOT apply to the State Leadership Conference.*
- Presenting Policies and Guidelines (p. 7)
  - *Policy 2: Participants are responsible for their own event materials. Any items left behind are not the responsibility of Nebraska FCCLA and may be discarded.*
- Project Development and Completion Timeline (p. 7)

Each participant is responsible for having read all the guidelines. Nebraska FCCLA is not responsible for an entry that is late, lost, misdirected, or not received. Only project materials available onsite at the competition are eligible for review. Any project materials lost or not in hand by the participants during the competition will not be considered for evaluation. Chapter advisers must register competitors by the posted deadline to be eligible for scoring and ranking. All technical issues should be directed to competitiveevents@nebraskafccla.org as soon as possible for resolution.

Skill Demonstration Event Substitution

Once a chapter has registered a student as to compete in a Skill Demonstration Event at SLC, a substitution is permitted, but only if the substitute meets the eligibility requirements of that event. Substitutions are not permitted after March 25.

Skill Demonstration Event Dates and Deadlines

- **February 1:** SLC Participant Affiliation deadline (dues received by nationals)
- **February 5-20:** Registration only open for members NOT competing in STAR Events at SLC
- **February 21-March 5:** Registration open to any member
- **March 5:** State Leadership Conference Registration deadline
- **March 25:** Substitution Deadline

Skill Demonstration Event Fees

Each participant pays a fee to help cover Skill Demonstration Event expenses such as room rental, certificates, evaluators, and supplies. Skill Demonstration Event fees are nonrefundable after the State Leadership Conference registration deadline.

- $10 per participant

Skill Demonstration Event Advancement and Recognition

The Nebraska Association will follow event guidelines and rubrics published by National FCCLA in 2024-25, except for Pastry Arts Technical Decorating, Speak Out for FCCLA, and Toys that Teach which will use the event guidelines and rubrics published in September 2026. Event guidelines will be shared on the Nebraska FCCLA Listserv and will also be available under the State Resources in the FCCLA membership portal.

All participants will receive a certificate for competing in a Skill Demonstration Event and all will be recognized on-stage during the Competitive Events Recognition session at SLC. Finalist certificates will be awarded to the first, second, and third place finishers on-stage during the Competitive Events Recognition session.

The participant with the highest score is declared the first-place winner, the participant with the second highest score is the second-place winner, and the participant with the third highest score is the third-place winner for in each event level. No ties will be allowed for first, second, or third place, but ties may remain for additional placements; evaluators will break any ties that occur. Once event consultants submit scores, all scores in each event will be reviewed to determine accuracy.

The decision of the evaluators is final. All scores are considered final for placement recognition, and no scores will be changed once the top three scores are validated by event personnel.

THE NEBRASKA SKILL DEMONSTRATION EVENTS HAVE NO IMPACT ON MEMBERS' ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE IN THE SKILL DEMONSTRATION EVENTS OFFERED AT THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.

STAR EVENTS

These events are divided into four categories as listed below. These events enable members to demonstrate proficiency and achievement at the district, state, and national level.

- **Foundational Events:** These events, which build basic leadership and life skills, are for FCCLA members who want to get involved and improve upon themselves.
- **Leadership Events:** These events provide an opportunity for leaders to gain recognition for their work in their chapters. The event content is designed to be a chapter project led by the team who takes it to the competition.
- **Career Focused Events:** These events are for members exploring a specific career area. Most events are available at all levels, but a few events are limited to Level 2 and Level 3 participants who have spent time building career specific skills and knowledge.
    - Participants in Baking & Pastry, Culinary Arts, and Early Childhood Education should be currently enrolled or have been enrolled in related intermediate and/or capstone level courses to be eligible for competition.
- **Online Events:** These events have two rounds of participation. In the Preliminary Round, participants submit their online, digital project for evaluation (by February 2). The top 20 highest scoring entries are invited to present their digital project and an oral presentation, at the National Leadership Conference.
    - These events are not subject to any of the following policies, guidelines, rules, or deadlines.
    - Nebraska members participating in Online STAR Events will be recognized on social media and during the Competitive Events Recognition Session at SLC.

STAR Event Policies, Guidelines, and Rules

Nebraska FCCLA will follow the STAR Event policies, guidelines, and rules developed by national FCCLA, which can be found in the following sections of the 2026-2027 STAR Events Guidelines:

- Event Description and Levels (p. 7)
- Maximum Event Entry Policies (p. 7)
    - *Policy 1: Nebraska members may only compete in one (1) STAR Event annually, including Online STAR Events.*
    - *Policy 3-4: These apply to the National Leadership Conference NOT the State Leadership Conference.*
- Presenting Policies and Guidelines (p. 9)
    - *Policy 2: Participants are responsible for their own event materials. Any items left behind are not the responsibility of Nebraska FCCLA and may be discarded.*
- Project Development and Completion Timeline (p. 9)
- Conference Supplies, Equipment, Electrical, and Wi-Fi Access (p. 10)
    - *If a student requires access to an electrical outlet at the district or state competition, that should be submitted through the Nebraska FCCLA Participant with Accommodations form.*

Each participant is responsible for having read all the guidelines. Nebraska FCCLA is not responsible for an entry that is late, lost, misdirected, or not received. Only project materials available onsite at the competition are eligible for review. Any project materials lost or not in hand by the participants during the competition will not be considered for evaluation. Chapter advisers must register competitors by the posted deadline to be eligible for scoring and ranking. All technical issues should be directed to competitiveevents@nebraskafccla.org as soon as possible for resolution.

STAR Event Substitution

If substitutions/changes need to occur within a STAR Event prior to, during, or after competition, the following guidelines must be followed. Deviation from these guidelines at any time will result in the disqualification of the individual or team.

Before District Competition

- Substitutions or changes may be made freely prior to the district competition, at the discretion of the local chapter adviser.
- Any substitutions or changes must be finalized two days before the day of the district competition. After that point, the competitors listed on the district registration or updated registration will be considered the official competitors moving forward.

After District Competition (state & national levels)

- If any individual competing as part of a group drops out for any reason, the team may compete without that group member. If the team advances to the next level, the individual who dropped may join back into the competition at the next level, at the discretion of the chapter adviser.
    - Except for Parliamentary Procedure, only members whose names appear on the district registration can compete at the next level.
- In Parliamentary Procedure, if a member(s) drops, another member from that chapter may take their place, even if their name does not appear on the original registration. Teams may only replace the same number of individuals as those that dropped.
- If the event is an individual event or involves an individual competing in a team event, absolutely no substitutions can take place.

STAR Event Dates and Deadlines

- **December 15:** STAR Event Competitor Affiliation deadline (dues received by nationals)
- **March 5:** State Leadership Conference Registration deadline
- **April 14 at 12pm (noon) CDT:** NLC STAR Event Competitor decision deadline

Review the Competitive Events Dates & Deadlines on the national FCCLA website.

STAR Event Fees

Each participant in a team or individual event pays a fee to help cover STAR Event expenses such as room rental, certificates, evaluators, awards, and supplies. STAR Event fees are nonrefundable after the State Leadership Conference registration deadline.

- **District:** Districts may set their own fees as stated in their policies.
- **State:** $15 per participant; $20 per participant for Baking & Pastry and Culinary Arts.

STAR Event Advancement and Recognition

The Nebraska Association will follow event guidelines and rubrics provided by National FCCLA.

District to State Competition

Advancement from the district competition to the state competition will be determined using the following guidelines:

- If multiple entries from the same chapter are competing in the same event at the same level, only one (1) entry per chapter is eligible to advance to the state competition.
- To qualify for the state competition, entries must earn a Silver or Gold medal at the district level, scoring at least 70.0 points or higher.

- The number of qualifying entries from each district will be determined annually, based on the district's membership in relation to the total state membership from the previous year.
    - For the 2027 state competition, the number qualifiers per event level for each district is outlined below.

	SLC QUALIFIERS PER EVENT LEVEL
District 1	2
District 2	2
District 3	3
District 4	1
District 5	3
District 6	1
District 7	2
District 8	2
District 9	2
District 10	1
District 11	1
District 12	1

Wildcard Invitations

To provide additional opportunities for outstanding STAR Event participants, Nebraska FCCLA may extend Wildcard Invitations to select competitors who did not originally qualify for the state STAR Event competition through their district competition.

Following the completion of all district STAR Event competitions, district results and scores will be reviewed. Participants who demonstrate exceptional performance at the district level but did not earn an automatic state qualification may be considered for a Wildcard Invitation.

Wildcard Invitations will only be extended when space is available within a specific STAR Event and event level. Invitations will be based on the quality of the participant's performance and available competition capacity. Nebraska FCCLA is not obligated to offer Wildcard Invitations in every event or event level.

Advisers who have entries receive a Wildcard Invitation may choose whether to accept the opportunity to compete at the State Leadership Conference. Acceptance of a Wildcard Invitation is voluntary and is not required.

Entries which accept a Wildcard Invitation must meet all applicable State Leadership Conference registration deadlines, event requirements, and competition policies. Advisers must notify Nebraska FCCLA of their intent to accept the invitation so the participant(s) can be added to the State Leadership Conference registration system.

Nebraska FCCLA reserves the right to determine the number of Wildcard Invitations offered, the events in which invitations may be extended, and all procedures related to the selection and invitation process.

State to National Competition

The highest score at the state competition becomes the State Champion in that event, the second highest score becomes the Runner-Up, and the third highest score becomes the Third-Place winner. All these designations will qualify participants for the National STAR Event competition, if the entry

receives a score above 70.00 points. If an individual or team drops out of an event, the entry with the next highest score may be eligible to compete at the next level, if their score meets the minimum requirements.

All participants will receive a certificate for competing at the state competition. Medals will be awarded to member who receive 50 points or higher.

- 50-69.99 points — Bronze
- 70-89.99 points — Silver
- 90-100 points — Gold

The decision of the evaluators is final. Only when scoring errors are discovered which impact the medal placement, will scores be altered.

Changes Between District, State, and National STAR Event Competition

District Level	State Level	National Level
Extent of Individual Participation		
Determined at district level.	Each member is limited to one event.	Each member is limited to one event.
Entries in the Same Event + Level per Chapter		
Determined at district level.	Only one (1) entry per chapter is allowed per event level. Three (3) entries per chapter will be allowed in Baking & Pastry and Culinary Arts.	Each member is limited to one event.
Registration and Orientation		
Determined at the district level.	No on-site registration. At least one team member must be present at orientation to receive points.	Adviser should confirm STAR Event Schedules, and participants should watch the online orientation video.
File Folder Label		
Name of STAR Event, Level Participant Name(s) Nebraska	Name of STAR Event, Level Participant Name(s) Nebraska	Name of STAR Event, Level Participant Name(s) Nebraska
Documentation of Number of Presentations Required (Proof of Presentation)		
Determined at district level.	**Professional Presentation and Sustainability Challenge ONLY** Level 1: 1 presentation Level 2: 2 presentations Level 3: 3 presentations *District competition DOES NOT count as prior presentation!*	**Professional Presentation and Sustainability Challenge ONLY** Level 1: 1 presentation Level 2: 2 presentations Level 3: 3 presentations *District & state competitions DO NOT count as prior presentations!*
Supplemental Material Preparation Times – Case Studies, Tests, Writing Samples		
Determined at the district level.	Participants in the following events will complete their Case Study or Writing Sample as part of their scheduled event time on Monday. • Early Childhood Education • Hospitality, Tourism, & Recreation • Interpersonal Communications • Promote & Publicize FCCLA The Parliamentary Procedure test will be administered during the Online Testing Window, March 15 at 7am CDT - March 24 at 6pm CDT.	Case Studies and Writing Samples will be completed during the scheduled STAR Event competition time. Parliamentary Procedure Online Testing Window is April 12 - May 7, 2027.
Handling a Tie		
Determined at the district level. Refer to the National STAR Events Tie-Breaker Procedures (p. 22-23 in the STAR Events Guidelines) when deciding how to break ties for specific events.	Participants may be asked to bring items back in order to break a tie. The National STAR Events Tie-Breaker Procedures (p. 22-23 in the STAR Events Guidelines Front Pages) will be used.	The National STAR Events Tie-Breaker Procedures (p. 22-23 in the National STAR Events Guidelines Front Pages) will be used to break ties at the National level.

District Level	State Level	National Level
Resolving Conflicts		
The district shall have the authority to determine action to be taken when situations arise. Nebraska CEAT is selected for the purpose of resolving issues that may arise at the district competition, only if they cannot be resolved at that level.	A Nebraska Competitive Events Advisory Team (CEAT) is selected for the purpose of resolving issues that may arise in the State level competition. The team is comprised of one (1) District STAR Event Coordinator from each Region and may also include the Vice President of Competitive Events, Board of Directors member(s), State Competitive Events Staff, and/or State Adviser/Human Sciences & Education Career Field Specialist.	Issues can be referred to the National Competitive Events Advisory Team.
Evaluator Requirement		
Determined at the district level.	1-3 entries = 1 evaluator 4-6 entries = 2 evaluators 7-9 entries = 3 evaluators 10+ entries = 4 evaluators	1 volunteer required for every 3 STAR Event competitors from Nebraska. Evaluators must be registered for NLC or volunteer as a VIP evaluator.
Evaluator Minimum Qualifications		
Determined at the district level.	Juniors and Seniors are eligible to serve as a STAR Event evaluator for an event they have competed in at the National level. Affiliated chapter advisers are not eligible to serve as evaluators, unless approved by the State Adviser.	Volunteers may represent any subgroup including students, advisers, adults, alumni, and sponsors.
Lead Consultant Requirement		
Determined at the district level.	The number of Lead Consultants each district must provide will be determined annually based on the number of chapter advisers in the district compared to the total number of advisers in the state association – see the required numbers below. CEAT members count towards their district's required number of Lead Consultants.	Nebraska is required to provide at least one (1) STAR Event Lead Consultant & one (1) STAR Event Assistant Lead Consultant, if deemed necessary. Additional Lead Consultants might be needed to support Skill Demonstration Events and/or Challenge Tests.
District 1 – 3 Lead Consultants District 2 – 4 Lead Consultants District 3 – 3 Lead Consultants District 4 – 2 Lead Consultants	District 5 – 5 Lead Consultants District 6 – 3 Lead Consultants District 7 – 4 Lead Consultants District 8 – 3 Lead Consultants	District 9 – 3 Lead Consultants District 10 – 3 Lead Consultants District 11 – 3 Lead Consultants District 12 – 3 Lead Consultants
Lead Consultant Minimum Qualifications		
Determined at the district level.	Districts may select the required Lead Consultants using their own methods; however, the current District Competitive Events Coordinator must be included as one of the volunteers. Lead Consultants who are not affiliated chapter advisers must be approved by the State Adviser.	Lead Consultants should be a State Adviser or Chapter Adviser with strong competitive event management experience.