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The time to choose your STAR event is here! The task of picking only one can be daunting because there are so many to choose from. There are over 40 different STAR events. From Fashion Design to Environmental Ambassador, there is one for everyone. It doesn’t matter if you’re a tech-savvy person or prefer a poster board to display your project, you will find one that fits you. Different STAR events cater to different personalities. The first thing to do is look over the Minnesota Competitive Events Handbook. There is an updated version for every year, so make sure to review all of the options. Some events change while others get added or dropped, so this is your best bet to finding the most recent STAR event options. If you are having trouble deciding which event is best for you, you can always ask your advisor. They might suggest new or less popular events like Parliamentary Procedure, Digital Stories for Change, or Advocacy. These events tend to scare people off with their fancy names, but if you plan out these projects according to the planning process, they are not any harder or complicated than any other. Now that you have chosen an event, make sure to follow through with all of the requirements and make sure all deadlines are met. The next step is to start working! Start with the planning process. The planning process helps you plan out your entire project and it points you in the right direction. It gives you a starting point, so start there and identify your concerns. Another great resource to help you finish your project is the rubric. There’s a special rubric specific to every event. The rubric clearly states what the requirements are and tells you what the judges will be looking for. Be sure to follow all of the rules to ensure that you receive the most points possible and none are taken off due to carelessness. If you need more guidance ask your advisor, a fellow FCCLA member, or an officer. When constructing your portfolio or display, clearly label and organize them in the way that your rubric states. That way, it makes it easier for the judges to evaluate and score your project. Take pride in your project, and remember to have fun!

- Ella Holtz
MN FCCLA State Secretary
The National Organization for Youth Safety (NOYS), selected Herman Norcross student, Andrew Backman along with Hope Norenberg from Wadena Deer Creek, to be one of twenty youth leadership teams traveling to our Nation’s Capital. The team attended the National 2015 Teen Distracted Driving Prevention Summit on October 17th-19th. Motor vehicle injury prevention has been the primary focus area for NOYS. Because car crashes are, and have long been, the number one killer of youth in the United States. During the Summit, the team gained training skills as well as access to materials, resources, and programs to help ensure the success of their own summit to be held in April during the Minnesota FCCLA State Conference. Throughout the year, leading up to their own summit, the team will also hold activities related to distracted driving prevention. Backman, Representative to the Board of Directors, and Norenberg, Vice President of Communications, represented Minnesota FCCLA, 1 of 82 active youth leadership organizations.

The Summit is supported by the nation’s leading traffic safety experts. This youth-led approach—involving teens in peer-to-peer education—promises to prevent injury and save lives. Topics address a variety of distractions including teen passengers, eating and drinking while driving, and the use of mobile devices. NOYS also broadens the agenda beyond distractions to include other safety issues such as seat belt usage, speeding, and auto safety.

Norenberg and Backman said that. “It was one of the most educational as well as hands on safety awareness programs that I’ve ever participated in.” and “It was so exciting to see kids from all over the United States who are working towards the common goal of ending distracted driving!” We also had the amazing opportunity to spend the weekend with professional and dedicated innovators that are working to make the roads a safer place for everyone.

- Andrew Backman, MN FCCLA Representative to the Board of Directors
- Hope Norenberg, MN FCCLA Vice President of Communications
Each fall, FCCLA regions host Fall Region Meetings. They occur during the months of September and October. They normally include workshops presented by officers, speakers, and also some fun learning activities. Each region is unique with planning their Fall Region Meeting to make sure that it is unlike anyone else’s. This year Region 3 decided to change things up a bit.

Instead of having all the junior high and senior high members come to the Fall Region Meeting, they split it into having the junior high attend a Junior High Rally and the senior high attended the local leadership training put on by the state officers. They felt that by splitting the junior and senior high members up, this would maximize the amount of learning that is done by each member. Nolan Onken, an eighth grader at Fulda High School said, “I liked the idea of not having the senior high at our Fall Rally. Although they are great help at times, they can be intimidating to us young kids. I felt more comfortable being around kids more my age and I was able to speak up and participate more.”

This was the first year that Region 3 has tried anything like this. The Region 3 president, Massen Kunerth, said, “We want our members to feel comfortable at our meetings, along with stepping outside of their comfort zone. By separating the junior and senior high, we felt this would be the best way to get kids to participate in activities and also have fun with kids their own age. One thing that FCCLA is known for is for making life long friendships. We want to make connections between the older and younger kids, but we felt that the kids would be more comfortable making friends with someone who is in their grade or one around them.” They felt that this was a HUGE success, and that the members really benefitted from this. The members learned about subjects that were focused on areas that would be more useful to them. The Junior High Rally focused on basic FCCLA knowledge and learning what the organization was like, and local leadership training was focused more on how to improve your STAR events.

- Courtney Heppler
MN FCCLA State President
I had never gone to a region meeting before this fall, and I ended up going to three different ones! One was Region 4’s fall region meeting, the second was the Local Leadership training for region 4, and the other was the occupational kids’ LLT as well as fall region meeting! All of them were a lot of fun, and everyone I met was so excited about FCCLA, occupational or comprehensive. The occupational students were very focused, and it was crazy how much we learned about culinary arts from the few hours Brekah and I were at the occupational meeting at Dakota Country Technical College with an occupational culinary arts class. Comprehensive students were much more acquainted with FCCLA and definitely knew more about it than the occupational students, but only because they have been in it for longer. Everything went well and everyone went out of their way to make sure everyone else had a good time! FCCLA members are the best! All of the awesomeness was made possible by Wendy Ambrose and Shelly Barrett!

- Courtney Dinsmore
MN FCCLA Vice President of Partnerships
This fall, Minnesota FCCLA embarked on a new adventure. We began the Local Leadership Trainings, a specialized kind of training for all of our FCCLA agents.

Your State Executive Council sat down and shared with the team some ideas to include in the training. We tested some stuff, we cut some stuff, and we added some stuff, and after several hours of preparation, your master agents (State Officers) were ready to deliver.

Region 3 President Massen Kunerth said the agents at Region 3 had a great and informative day talking about STAR Events and promoting our FCCLA chapters.

Traveling up to Region 4, President Isabella Moorman says that it was not only a learning opportunity for the new agents, but also for the master agents. Even the new agents brought fresh ideas to improve our leadership on.

We thank all the agents who participated. We hope you all had a lot of fun, made new friends, and are excited to become Agents of Change!

- Jacob Just
MN FCCLA State President Elect
Creating interest in an organization is essential, yet can be very challenging! Do you remember what sparked interest in you to join FCCLA? You may not have realized it then, but whoever came up with the campaign to reach out to you probably put a lot of time and thought into it! Recruiting tools that attract a large amount of attention are best when trying to gain new members. One way that your chapter can do this is by creating eye-catching posters and other visuals. When creating a good poster, it is a good idea to keep the information brief and concise. Bright colors also attract more than black and white would. Another way to reach out to prospective members is by creating social media accounts for your FCCLA chapter. Social media has become very widely used by many teenagers. This could be a great tool to attract new members!

It could also be helpful to hold meetings that sound fun and exciting—meetings that would spark interest and encourage students to come and find out what FCCLA is all about. This could include holding themed meetings, having ice-cream, or implementing mini games into your meetings.

When trying to attract new members, always keep in mind if it is something that would seem interesting to others. Creating a positive image for FCCLA is very important for maintaining membership. Students will be attracted to awesome membership campaigns! Remember to be creative and show what FCCLA is really all about!

- Tatym Zins
MN FCCLA State Treasurer
NEW GUIDELINES FOR USING THE NATIONAL FCCLA LOGO WERE RELEASED THIS LAST SUMMER. HERE IS A RUN DOWN OF SOME OF THE LOGO USE RULES DIRECTLY FROM NATIONAL FCCLA TO MAKE SURE YOU’RE ALWAYS USING OUR LOGO CORRECTLY.

- The FCCLA logo should appear in FCCLA red wherever possible. In cases where the red logo is difficult to see, it should be used in black on a light background, and white on a dark background.

- When using the logo as a screened background (or watermark) to a text document, do not use the logo version containing the tag-line as it will be difficult for the recipient to read the contents of the document.

On occasion it may be necessary to use the FCCLA logo with other organization logos. It is critical to not shrink the logo to the point where it is unreadable. In addition, the FCCLA logo should be a minimum of .5” from the other logos.

DO I HAVE TO OBTAIN PERMISSION TO USE THE FCCLA LOGO FOR THINGS LIKE FCCLA SHIRTS?
FCCLA allows chapters to create unique items for their chapters such as shirts, as long as the product also has your chapter and/or state name. These items must be ordered through the official emblematic supplier and may not be sold for profit. If the official supplier cannot meet your custom item order, your vendor can seek logo use permission from FCCLA.

- The FCCLA logo does not have a standard size. But the logo must always appear large enough to be readable.

FCCLA developed guidelines for using the logo and tagline to protect the integrity of our most recognizable features and to protect the FCCLA brand. An organization’s logo and tagline need to be consistent. Consistent usage of the logo and tagline suggests stability and reliability of the organization they represent. You can find a copy of the FCCLA Logo and Tagline Usage Guide on the FCCLA website.

DO I HAVE TO OBTAIN PERMISSION TO USE THE FCCLA LOGO FOR THINGS LIKE FCCLA SHIRTS?

- Ali Juntunen
MN FCCLA State Vice President of Public Relations
The ribbons we receive at state are awards you receive from projects that your chapter takes part in. You apply for one of these 15 awards by filling out applications online or by paper applications. You send these applications to your state office by the given due date. If you meet all the given criteria and prove that your chapter completed these projects and receive the award, when you arrive at state conference you will receive a name tag with the ribbons that corresponds with your award to show off your accomplishments! So it's time to start applying for these awards!!

- McKenna Larson, MN FCCLA State Vice President of Service
**What NOT to Wear... FCCLA Edition**

Dress codes are very important at FCCLA conferences. To keep our level of professionalism, we want to make sure everyone is looking sharp, professional, and picture ready at every FCCLA function. So here’s a run down of the dress code requirements for all FCCLA events.

### MALES

- Red, black, or white polo or oxford shirt (long or short sleeves) *
- Jeans, t-shirts, and athletic wear are NOT acceptable

*Polo shirts and oxford shirts are not required to have the FCCLA logo. All attire with the FCCLA logo must be purchased through the official FCCLA emblematic supplier.

### FEMALES

- Red, black, or white polo or oxford shirt (long or short sleeves) *
- Black dress slacks or khaki pants or capris (no shorts)
- Black or khaki skirts – no shorter than 2 inches above the knee
- Black sheath dress · Dress shoes or sandals
- Jeans, t-shirts, and athletic wear are NOT acceptable

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- Casual attire including denim, t-shirts, tennis shoes etc. is allowed. Please note that the general meeting dress code for the Closing General Session will be strictly enforced.

### UNACCEPTABLE ATTIRE AT FCCLA SESSIONS

- Skin-tight or revealing clothing
- Midriff-baring clothing
- Extremely short skirts (shorter than 2 inches above the knee)
- Clothing with printing that is suggestive, obscene or promotes illegal substances
- Athletic clothing (Athletic shoes are included in athletic clothing)
- Swimwear · Rubber, beach type flip flops
- Night wear (pajamas) should not be worn outside of your hotel room

### COMPETITIVE EVENTS

- Skill Demonstration Events Participants: follow event specifications for attire. If attending meeting sessions prior to, or immediately following competition, be prepared to change into clothing that adheres to the meeting dress policy.
- FACS Knowledge Bowl Participants: follow the published dress code for all competition activities.

*Please remember that during STAR events dress code is not required. But, your clothes still need to be business professional.

- Brekah Baker

  MN FCCLA State Vice President of Resource and Development
On Halloween night, the Wadena-Deer Creek Family Career & Community Leaders of America coordinated a “We Scare Hunger” project. The students left the school at 5:00 with their empty grocery bags to go door to door. They “trick or treated for food to eat” until 7:30. They collected 453 pounds of nonperishable food items plus some cash.

Mary Ann Hagen, Wadena Food Shelf director said this food collection was very timely as the food shelf is in need of more food this month.

Want your chapter to be in the next chapter spotlight? Email Ali your story and you might be featured!