

(State and National Competition)

The following is a listing of the changes in the 2025-2026 Competitive Events Guides. It is in no way inclusive and participants and advisers should continue to **read the event rules carefully** to ensure eligibility and successful event completion and presentation.

The national **Competitive Events Guide** is divided into five different documents. The documents are available to members and advisers through the chapter and member portals under “Resources,” then “Competitive Events” tab.

- STAR Events Guidelines
- FCCLA Knowledge Matters Virtual Business Challenge Guidelines
- FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl Guidelines
- Skill Demonstration Events Guidelines
- FCCLA Challenge Testing, presented by G-W Publisher

These resources are provided for affiliated chapters and members.

State Knowledge Quest Online Testing Competitions

NEW for 2025-2026- Knowledge Quest Online Testing Competitions for affiliated members will be offered in November 2025, with Top 10 and Top 3 recognized at the 2026 State Leadership & Recognition Conference. An entry fee of \$15/member allows for online access to the following competitive opportunities:

- Child Development & Parenting Knowledge Quest – Levels 2 & 3
- Nutrition & Culinary Basics Knowledge Quest – Levels 2 & 3
- FCCLA Knowledge Quest – Levels 1, 2, & 3

STAR Events

Additional Entries in Select STAR Events- National FCCLA is excited to continue expanding opportunities for students to participate in the National Leadership Conference (NLC) through Competitive Events! Once again, this year, they will allow states to send their top **three** individual participants and/or teams (instead of the usual top two) from each level for the following events:

- Baking & Pastry
- **Career Investigation (Added for 2026 NLC)**
- Culinary Arts
- **Focus on Children (Added for 2026 NLC)**
- Job Interview
- Leadership
- Say Yes to FCS Education
- Sustainability Challenge
- Teach or Train

Career Clusters- All Competitive Events guidelines and resources have been revised to reflect the modernized Career Clusters Framework. Students participating in STAR Events must now reference the updated Career Clusters within their projects, presentations, and materials. FCCLA aligns with six clusters: Arts & Design, Education & Training, Financial Services, Hospitality & Tourism, Human Services, and Public Service.

An Online Judging System will be used for room consultant and evaluator scoring this year at state competition. This will streamline operations and help to reduce errors in tallying. Because of the software and Internet costs for this, the Board of Directors increased the STAR Events entry fees to \$30 (by February 15), \$60 (February 16 – March 6), and \$100 (March 6 to final cut-off).

Copyright Language and Page Numbers- have been added to all Competitive Event Guidelines.

Dates and Deadlines – Confirmation of STAR Event participation by advisers and completion of the Online Orientation Form by students is **NO** longer required for National Leadership Conference competition and does not count for point(s) on the STAR Events Point Summary Form rubrics. Chapter advisers are still encouraged to confirm their participants and schedules for national competition by the specified deadline, as detailed under the Compete section of the FCCLA website in the Dates and Deadlines section.

Display- The definition of the word *Display* in the Glossary has been updated to reflect that laptops, tablets, and electronic devices may not be used as the display. Additional language regarding displays has also been added to the events that require a display as part of the project.

Multiple Presentation Sides- This wording has been “*italicized*” in display event guidelines and has been defined in the glossary as “A display structure designed with more than one clearly defined surface (e.g., trifold boards, or other 3-D displays.) Materials may be placed on all visible surfaces as long as they are easily viewed, accessible, and legible without moving or rotating the display.

Skit- The definition of *Skit* in the Glossary has been updated and is now defined as a “brief, planned presentation by members that uses acting, dialogue, and simple staging to share an idea, promote an FCCLA program, or address a theme.”

STAR Events Bronze Scoring- All STAR Event participants receiving a rubric score between **1-69.99 will continue to be** recognized with a bronze rating and medal per participant. This will be different for scores below 70 at national competition, however.

STAR Events Point Summary Form- The requirement for chapter advisers to confirm STAR Competition and the completion of the Online Orientation Form by participants for National Leadership Competition is no longer associated with a point (2 points total) on the event Point Summary Form. The additional two points have been added back into the event evaluation criteria and varies by event.

Event Specific Changes

- **Baking & Pastry Rubric-** Rubrics have been revised to improve scoring efficiency. Evaluation criteria are now grouped to streamline scoring for the three production evaluators and two presentation/tasting evaluators.
- **Culinary Arts Rubric-** Rubrics have been revised to improve scoring efficiency. Evaluation criteria are now grouped to streamline scoring for three production evaluators and two presentation/tasting evaluators.
- **Culinary Arts Clarification-** The rubric now specifies that all preparation and presentation must be completed at the one-hour mark.
- **Culinary Competition Course Requirements-** In order for a member to enter Baking & Pastry, Chicken Fabrication, Classic Knife Cuts, Culinary Arts, or Culinary Arts Exhibit at the state level, course requirements must be met. Those courses are: 8272 - Catering/Banquet Specialization; 8273 - Quantity Food Specialization; 8274 - Restaurant Operation Specialization; 8275 - Culinary Arts I; 8276 - Culinary Arts II; and 8279 – Baking & Pastry Specialization. (8250/8249 – Introduction to Culinary Arts-not allowed for Baking & Pastry and Culinary Arts; however, members in this course may enter one of the state-only culinary events)
- **Classic Knife Cuts and Chicken Fabrication-** Rules for these state-only events have been updated to add paper towels to the equipment lists.
- **Culinary Arts Exhibit-** Rules for this state-only event have been updated related to the letters of reference and the index card.
- **Promote and Publicize FCCLA-** *Skit* has been added as an allowable presentation element for the Promote and Publicize FCCLA STAR Event.
- **Teaching Strategies-** Added a definition for this term in the Glossary. Added language to the event specifications to make it clear that the event is to be carried out as an educator role-play.

National Skill Demonstration Events/Knowledge Bowl/Challenge Tests

National FCCLA Challenge Tests, presented by G-W Publisher-Challenge Tests will continue to be offered virtually this fall in addition to onsite at NLC. Five additional Challenge Tests have been added to the existing ten. Students will now have 15 different tests to test their competency and skill. Please refer to the Challenge Test Guidelines posted in the FCCLA Portal.

- The Challenge Tests being offered have been updated to align with G-W Publisher's curriculum and the Career Clusters.
- **Test Readiness Resources**- A readiness resource is available for each Challenge Test to support students in preparing for success. Chapters can access these resources through select membership affiliation packages or purchase them directly from the FCCLA E-store.

FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl- National FCCLA will continue to qualify 40 teams for attendance at NLC this year. The spring TeamSmarts Qualifier Quiz will now take place in February 2026, rather than in March. All qualifying teams must confirm their attendance at NLC by February 27. Additionally, teams placing in 41st through 50th are encouraged to complete the quiz, as they may be invited to serve as alternates at NLC.

Please read the 2025 – 2026 event rules carefully to ensure eligibility and receive the highest possible points.

For additional clarification of any of the rules in any of the Competitive Events Guides, please email competitiveevents@fclclainc.org

For additional clarification of any of the policies and procedures used for **state competition**, please email debbiewillFCCLA@comcast.net