



Nebraska Association
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To: Nebraska FCCLA Chapter Advisers
From: Kristin Vest, State Adviser
Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2018
Re: 2018 National Leadership Conference

Believe it or not, as we wrap up our own State Leadership Conference, plans are already being solidified for the National Leadership Conference. This year, we are looking forward to singing along in the great city of Atlanta, GA (first time in our organization's history!) June 28-July 2. The following information has been compiled to benefit the Nebraska members and advisers that will attend. I would also encourage all of you to download and print the 2018 National Leadership Conference Guide from the National FCCLA website. This will ensure you and your students have all of the information to make this event memorable.

Conference Events

This year's conference schedule is MUCH different than in year's past. Make sure you look through this information prior to making any travel plans!

There are many opportunities you and your students can be involved in during the National Leadership Conference. The conference begins for most of you the afternoon of Thursday, June 28 and concludes for everyone at 7:00 PM on Monday, July 2.

One of the more prominent is STAR Events. Each year thousands of competitors participate which means hundreds of volunteers are needed. Nebraska FCCLA is required to provide 1 volunteer for every 3 participants. This could be students, advisers, parents, and/or guests. Each year we are very short on adult volunteers, specifically. Worried about what your students will do while you're evaluating or serving as a Room Consultant? Work with another adult and volunteer on days opposite of each other to ensure students are supervised. Better yet, volunteer your students the day you evaluate as well. Many of you will have multiple parents attend who have students in STAR Events. What a great way to get them involved as well! In addition, there are always LOTS of opportunities to go to sessions, exhibits, workshops, view candidate speeches, or participate in trainings each day. Get your kids plugged in and set clear expectations for them and their attendance at these sessions. While Nebraska has maintained a true volunteer status with these adult and youth volunteers, if the National association has no-show evaluators and is short evaluators, this may become a required participation component.

While we will no longer require adviser check-in sheets, the expectation remains the same. The primary focus for the trip is for student growth and leadership development during NLC – not sightseeing. The State Association commits a lot of hours and effort into ensuring schools; chapters save money and your payment, and check-in procedures are smooth. However, when members and advisers are not attending sessions, it is hard to justify this work. Attending the sessions for the conference that you have paid to attend is, obviously, the number one reason for being there. There is PLENTY of sightseeing time built in to the schedule throughout the week and if you require additional time, your travel plans should be set accordingly.

There are many things going on at any one given time. This could include student sessions, adviser professional development sessions, large general sessions, candidate speeches, Leadership Academy, and/or exhibitor workshops.

Finally, here are some highlights of each day that you and/or your students will not want to miss:

Thursday, 6/28	Exhibits and College Fair Career Exploration Tours STAR Event Lead and Assistant Lead Consultant Meetings State Officer Training Adviser Academy Sessions Adviser-to-Adviser Sessions Nebraska State Meeting at 8:30 PM – World Congress Center B406/B407 Opening General Session
Friday, 6/29	STAR Events (Evaluators and Room Consultant meeting morning of this year) Exhibits Expo and College Fair Adviser Professional Development Sessions Leadership Academy Exhibits/Partner Workshops LifeSmarts competition begins Nebraska Heads to the Mountains Event at Stone Mountain Park
Saturday, 6/30	STAR Events (Evaluators and Room Consultant meeting morning of this year) Leadership Academy Exhibits Expo and Spotlight on Projects Exhibits/Partner Workshops NOC Speeches (open to all; attendance highly encouraged) Nebraska State Meeting at 4:45-5:30pm World Congress Center B406/B407 Run4Red 5K Fun Run/Walk
Sunday, 7/1	Leadership Academy FCCLA National Program Workshops Culinary Arts STAR Event Adviser Networking Business Session State Officer Training Recognition Session (fashion show, adult and adviser awards, membership, Knowledge Bowl finals) FCCLA Special Event – FCCLA Music Festival
Monday, 7/2	STAR Event Recognition Special Session for Graduating Seniors Youth Networking Closing General Session

State Meetings

Be sure you plan to attend the State Meetings. Important updates are given at these meetings, which will answer most of the questions you may have.

Thursday, June 28, Nebraska State Meeting at 8:30 PM – World Congress Center B406/B407

Saturday, June 30, Nebraska State Meeting at 4:45-5:30pm World Congress Center B406/B407

STAR Event Recognition

Nebraska will continue with our own state-specific STAR Event Recognition Session, this decision was based off feedback from students and advisers. This event will be organized by the 2018-2019 State Officer Team with support from the National Association. This will take place at the same time as the other STAR Event Recognitions on Monday, July 2 at 1:00p.m.

Hotel

Nebraska FCCLA has been assigned to the Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel (210 Peachtree Street NW Atlanta, GA 30303 404-659-0000). This hotel is a 13-minute walk from the Georgia World Congress convention center. This hotel will house

as a few other State Associations. The rate for the hotel is \$179 per room per night with 16% tax. This means that each hotel room will cost \$208.00 per night.

All STAR Event competitors are REQUIRED to stay at the conference hotel and anyone who stays outside of the room block will incur additional charges from National FCCLA. The hotel does not provide breakfast for free but does have refrigerators in every room. There are several food vendors at the hotel. There are multiple convenience style stores and pharmacies within blocks of the hotel as well.

Nebraska FCCLA will be handling room reservations for each chapter. When you complete your conference registration through the national system, a hotel reservation form will be automatically emailed to you; **DO NOT COMPLETE THIS FORM**. Do NOT contact the hotel directly to set up or pay for reservations! By doing this we can ensure that we can take care of some issues that may arise in advance for our advisers and coordinate an easier payment process. In addition, if you make reservations outside of the state block, you will be charged an additional 9.25% in taxes. In order to complete your reservations, hotel information is required to be entered online through the Nebraska FCCLA form by 6:00 PM on Friday, April 27. Information can be submitted using the link available on the Nebraska FCCLA website under "Meetings" (<http://www.nebraskafccla.org/events/national-leadership-conference/>) or by visiting <https://goo.gl/forms/Yigvkwq2FZwFBmGl2>

Nebraska FCCLA will do its best to combine rooms as available, however, if you would like to have a specific roommate(s) from your school or another school, please make that note in the form. In addition, if you are on your own but are willing to share with others, please indicate that in your room type preference. Rooms with 1, 2, or 3 people will be placed in a single bed room and rollaway will be utilized. Keep this in consideration in making reservations. Nebraska is only allotted a certain number of rooms. Failure to utilize those rooms may result in additional charges and going over that room allocation is not permitted.

Please note that this is a service that the State Association is happy to provide, however, it is in conjunction with the National Leadership Conference. Failure to attend conference sessions will result in refusal to coordinate efforts for your chapter in the future. The expectation is that ALL sessions are attended by the adviser and their students unless someone is committed to evaluate for STAR Events for that day. For information about expected attendance, please visit the NLC section of the Nebraska FCCLA Website under "Meetings."

Only those that are registered for the conference are eligible to receive hotel rooms at the discounted rate. Therefore, if parents or family members are planning on staying in the hotel, they must to be registered conference attendees. Not following this policy will mean additional fees from National FCCLA and/or cancellation of hotel rooms.

Registration

All registration for the conference including STAR Events must take place through the National FCCLA system. In addition, tours organized by National FCCLA and Leadership Academy Registration take place through that system. For more information and the link, visit the National FCCLA website. If you have STAR Event competitors, be sure to check the list for which STAR Events are on Friday and which STAR Events are Saturday, prior to scheduling any other sessions or events.

If your students qualified for the National STAR Event competition but will not be attending, please let the State Adviser know by 12:00 PM on Friday, April 13 so that another student may have the chance to represent Nebraska FCCLA.

State Registration

The following outlines the Nebraska fees for students and adults to attend NLC. Nebraska FCCLA no longer covers any of the STAR Event fees for students, however, the registration fees are reduced to help keep costs low and make up the difference.

Members-\$22 (This is a required fee in order to attend)

- State gift (Nebraska FCCLA backpack and water bottle – it is hot in Atlanta!)
- trading pins (20)

Adults and young guests-\$7 (This is a required fee in order to attend events or be housed by the Association)

Additional backpacks-\$13 (If advisers or other attendees would like to purchase a polo)

Additional pins-\$.55 each (If advisers would like to purchase pins for trading or students would like additional pins. Additional pins may be available on site but will be on a first-come, first-served basis.)

These fees as well as your hotel, state registration, additional items, and the Nebraska event can all be paid using one check made payable to Nebraska FCCLA.



Meals

While no meals are included in the conference rates, there are LOTS of food options in and around our hotel. The downtown Atlanta area has everything from quick service restaurants to fine dining, so there is something to please everyone! I would highly encourage you and your students to see everything this area has to offer!

Travel

The date you arrive is completely up to you. Most of you will need to be in Atlanta the afternoon of Thursday, June 28. When looking for flights or planning travel, I would suggest arriving to Atlanta by 12:00 PM. The conference officially concludes at 7:00 PM on Monday, July 2 so travel on that date is not encouraged and should be avoided.

Please note that if you choose to drive a vehicle to the conference or rent car overnight, parking fees at the Westin Hotel start at \$25.00 and offer valet parking only.

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL)

This airport is the world's busiest but is easy to navigate and is a 15-minute drive from the hotel assuming there is no traffic. Traffic in Atlanta can be very slow! It is serviced by nearly every major carrier. There are discounted tickets available through Delta and this information can be found in the National FCCLA Conference Guide. From the airport you can opt to take a cab, shuttle, or app-enabled car services. A complete list of ground transportation options from the airport can be found at <http://www.atl.com/rideshare/> or <http://www.atl.com/#acc-gt> A cab will cost about \$30. If you have a smaller group this may be a good option.

However, your cheapest option may be in utilizing an app-enabled car service such as Lyft or Uber. If you select this option, you will see signs that indicate "Ride Sharing." In January, this area was under-construction and at least a 10 minute walk from the Terminal. I hope that this area will be easier to access in June. From there you can request your car using the app of your choice. This will cost approximately \$15-20 one way.

Ground Transportation

Public Transportation

For information on public transportation in Atlanta, visit the Atlanta MARTA website at <http://www.itsmarta.com/>

Dress Code

Please note that the National Dress Code does not include all of the things that the Nebraska State Dress Code includes. It is the responsibility of each member and his or her adviser to ensure that their attire is appropriate prior to arriving in Atlanta. Remember, khaki pants and skirts are no longer allowed for members. This year at the 2018 National Leadership Conference, the National organization will implement a new dress code policy. All student delegates will be required to wear the official FCCLA red blazer as a part of their conference attire.

To assist our chapters in achieving compliance with this new policy, Nebraska FCCLA will be selling 100 blazers at a discounted rate of \$30.00 each.

Blazer information is as follows:

1. Blazer orders will be accepted and filled on a **first come, first served** basis
2. Orders will be accepted immediately following State Leadership Conference in the following rounds:
 - a. Round 1: STAR Event Champions and Runner's Up – April 10-April 20 (or until sold out)
 - i. Orders will be cross-referenced with the advancing competitor list
 - b. Round 2: Other NLC delegates – after April 20 (if not sold out during round one)
3. Email notification will be sent to all chapters once we have received and confirmed payment for 100 orders.
4. If blazers sell out prior to the fulfillment of your chapter's order, you will need to purchase blazers directly from National FCCLA, which are sold for \$65.00 and can be found here: <https://fccla.mybrightsites.com/pages/7985>
5. There will be **NO refunds, returns or exchanges** on blazer orders.
6. Incomplete orders or orders out of compliance with the aforementioned guidelines will not be considered for fulfillment until properly re-submitted. They will not be considered for fulfillment at the time of re-submission.
7. The blazers will be shipped from Blazer Depot to the chapter, thus making them responsibility of the chapter who purchased them. They are not property of Nebraska FCCLA and chapters will responsible for their care and maintenance.

*Nebraska FCCLA is only selling 100 blazers at this reduced price. We may have over 100 competitors qualify for NLC. Please do not order additional blazers if your chapter currently has blazers for students to use.

How to Order:

- State Champions and Runner's Up will be invited to try on a blazer immediately following Closing Ceremony during SLC to identify proper sizing.
- Check out Blazer Depot's website for sizing information (at the bottom of the screen) https://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens_blazer/classic.html
- Fill out the Google form – one form per person: <https://goo.gl/forms/AGByq7pnhUVLjJb2>

The complete guidelines for dress can be found at <http://fcclainc.org/meetings/fccla-dress-code.php>. For tours, even those organized by National FCCLA and Metro Connections, attire is casual.

For the Nebraska Heads to the Mountains Stone Mountain event, attendees may wear casual attire.

Nebraska Only Special Event

This year, Metro Connections, the National Association tour company, did an outstanding job planning a variety of group activities that are very reasonably priced and held at a variety of times throughout the week. In looking at these options there isn't a whole lot that I can "beat" in terms of price and/or experience. With that being said, all of the Metro Connections tours can be viewed in the National FCCLA Conference Guide.

Because of the nature of NLC, students may or may not be involved with something at any given time. Advisers should check the "At-a-Glance" conference handout on the National FCCLA website to confirm availability prior to booking a tour. In addition, your professional discretion and consideration when booking tours and other activities is appreciated. It is incredibly disheartening when Nebraska is represented by less than 30 at the National Officer speeches or people are leaving early because they want to get to an event that they scheduled during a conference event.

Nebraska Heads to the Mountains-June 29

Nebraskan's have to head south to get to the mountains! Experience Georgia's number one attraction as a Nebraska delegation! This event will take place at the Stone Mountain Park (outside of metro Atlanta) and will be held on Friday, June 29 4:30 PM-11:00 PM. The ticket cost is \$75/per person and includes round-trip motorcoach transportation, dinner and drinks, gratuity, all access pass to all of Stone Mountain Park's attractions (which include the Summit Skyride, Adventure Golf, Ride the Ducks, Geyser Towers, Skyhike, Lost World 4D) and a VIP pass to the country's longest Lasershow which includes a glow item and unlimited Coke! This is will be a very special event! All students that attend are required to have at least one adult chaperone in attendance and is limited to the first 112 registered due to transportation! Visit <https://www.stonemountainpark.com/> for additional information!

Other Sights to See

Despite what you generally hear, there is truly something for everyone in Atlanta. Visit <http://www.nebraskafccla.org/events/national-leadership-conference/> to see the “Top Things to Do in Atlanta.”

Staying Connected

Stay tuned on the FCCLA listserv for more information. Please note - I will have limited access to email during NLC so the best way to contact me is via cell phone.

GroupMe

A GroupMe messaging group has been set up for the conference. This messaging group is open ONLY to advisers for NLC and Nebraska FCCLA business only. Please note that when using this service that anything you send goes to EVERYONE in the group, so text with care! If it is something that doesn't apply to the whole group, please do not send to the whole group. Details about signing up for this service will be shared in the coming weeks.

FCCLA 365 App

All conference attendees are encouraged to download the FCCLA 365 App. From this app you will be able to access the conference schedule, receive push notifications about room updates, and complete a variety of activities and evaluations. This app is available in the Google Play and iTunes stores for free.

All hotel and event registration must be completed by 6:00 PM Friday, April 27. The early bird registration for the conference ends on May 1, 2018.

Information can be submitted using the link available on the Nebraska FCCLA website under “Meetings” or by visiting <https://goo.gl/forms/Yigvkwq2FZwFBmGI2>