

CALIFORNIA FCCLA



MEMBER HANDBOOK

Building Strong Leaders for Families, Careers and Communities

California FCCLA

Member Handbook

Member's Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

School _____

Local Advisor _____

Region _____

Region Coordinator _____

State Advisor _____

**California FCCLA is sponsored by the Family and
Consumer Sciences Education Office, California
Department of Education**

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California FCCLA Member Handbook



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Introduction

California Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a non-profit, Career Technical Student Organization (CTSO) for Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) students in junior and senior high schools, both public and private, and/or regional occupational centers or programs (ROCP). The state association is also affiliated at the national level with FCCLA, formerly known as Future Homemakers of America, Inc.

FCCLA has a membership of approximately 19,500 young men and women in more than 115 chapters. Any student who is enrolled in or has been enrolled in a Consumer and Family Studies Education Program or a Family and Consumer Sciences Related Occupations Career Pathway Program is eligible to join and participate in leadership and career development activities.

This handbook has been prepared to acquaint FCCLA members with their organization—its goals, purposes, projects, and activities—and to relate the state association to their local chapters and FCS Education Programs.

There are approximately 225,000 members throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. Nationally, the sponsors are the U.S. Department of Education and the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. In California, the sponsor is Family and Consumer Sciences Education, California Department of Education.

Creed

“We are the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America.

We face the future with warm courage and high hope.

For we have the clear consciousness of seeking old and precious values.

For we are the builders of homes,

Homes for America’s future,

Homes where living will be the expression of everything that is good and fair,

Homes where truth and love and security and faith will be realities, not dreams.

We are the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America.

We face the future with warm courage and high hope.”

Goal

The goal of the State Association is to help students assume their roles in society through Family and Consumer Sciences Education in the areas of personal growth, leadership development, family life, career preparation, and community involvement.

Purposes

The purposes of the State Association shall be:

1. To provide opportunities for personal development and preparation for adult life.
2. To strengthen the function of the family as the basic unit of society.
3. To encourage democracy through cooperative action in the home and community.
4. To encourage individual and group involvement in helping achieve global cooperation and harmony.
5. To promote greater understanding between youth and adults.
6. To provide opportunities for making decisions and for assuming responsibilities.
7. To prepare for the multiple roles of men and women in today's society.
8. To promote interest in Family and Consumer Sciences and related occupations.

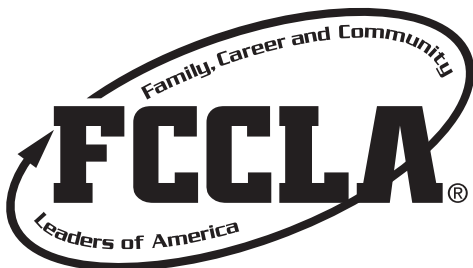
FCCLA Colors

Official colors contribute to the organization's national unity and provide national identity. The FCCLA colors are red and white. Red suggests strength, courage, and determination; personal qualities leading to happiness through a positive self-image. White symbolizes sincerity of purpose and integrity of action; qualities that will help individuals build a better tomorrow.

FCCLA Flower

The flower of FCCLA is the red rose. This flower represents the fact that FCCLA members seek to improve the quality of all aspects of personal, family, community, and work life.

FCCLA Emblem



The emblem shows that FCCLA is a dynamic, active organization bound for the future. The dominant collegiate lettering shows a focus on education and student leadership. The swooping arch represents an active organization that moves toward new arenas. The color of the emblem is one of the organizational colors: red. When wearing the official emblem on the red blazer, members should observe the following guidelines:

- The emblem should not be worn in combination with other school or organization emblems or seals.
- The name of the school should not be combined with this emblem when wearing it on apparel.

Motto

“Toward New Horizons”

The FCCLA motto, “Toward New Horizons,” is a challenge. It reminds members that their contributions to home and community life today will influence the kind of homes they have tomorrow and that the family life of members will influence their employment, their community, and the world in which they live.

Use of Name

California FCCLA recommends certain rules governing the use of the organization name and acronym:

1. When referring to the organization, always use the name California FCCLA or FCCLA.
2. FCCLA may be used to refer to projects, chapters, or events; for example, FCCLA Week, Blakely High School FCCLA Chapter, or FCCLA programs and publications.
3. When describing activities on the local level, always refer to the FCCLA chapter, not the FCCLA club.

Facts About California FCCLA

FCCLA grew out of various state and local high school home economics clubs which were known by different names and had no unified program.

Visualizing what could be accomplished if all clubs combined efforts by working together, members of the American Home Economics Association and the Home Economics Education Staff of the United States Office of Education, together with student representatives of the various home economics clubs, took the lead in forming the national organization.

Significant dates marking the growth and progress of the organization are as follows:

February 1917

The signing of the first National Vocational Education Act by President Woodrow Wilson brought into being federally-supported, state-conducted programs of vocational education which included home economics. Through home economics education, the foundation was laid for the development of the organization as an integral part of the program.

June 1945

Future Homemakers of America was founded in Chicago as the national organization for home economics students in the secondary schools, both public and private.

July 1946

The California Association FHA-HERO was the 35th state to receive its charter.

July 1965

Future Homemakers of America and New Homemakers of America merged into one organization, keeping the name of Future Homemakers of America. (New Homemakers of America was a separate organization for black home economics students in southern states where segregation was the law.)

May 1971

HERO chapters were established as a part of Future Homemakers of America to meet the needs of students in Home Economics Related Occupations programs.

1973

California renamed its association FHA-HERO to unify students in both home economics programs, Consumer and Family Studies and Home Economics Related Occupations, under one organization.

1975

California State FHA-HERO Executive Council voted to establish the Competitive Recognition Events (CRE) Program.

1982

Voting delegates at the State Leadership Conference voted to divide the state into ten regions.

1985

Voting delegates passed a bylaw amendment to reduce the number of officers to six. This amendment became effective with the election of the 1986–87 officers.

1993

First male installed as California Association FHA-HERO State President.

1998

Golden State Degree Program implemented in the California Association.

1999

The National Executive Council and a majority of the national voting delegates voted to change the name of the national organization to Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc.

2000

Voting delegates voted to change the name of the state association to The California Association FHA-HERO.

2004

Voting delegates voted to insure that the State Advisor for FHA-HERO be an individual with subject matter background and expertise in Home Economics Careers and Technology education. They also voted to change the California Association Creed.

2009

Voting delegates voted to change the closing ceremony.

2011

Voting delegates voted to change the name of the state association to FHA-HERO: The California Affiliate of FCCLA.

2015

The first time California chapters affiliated directly through the FCCLA national affiliation system. FCCLA Students Taking Action with Recognition (STAR) Events became a part of the CRE Program.

2016

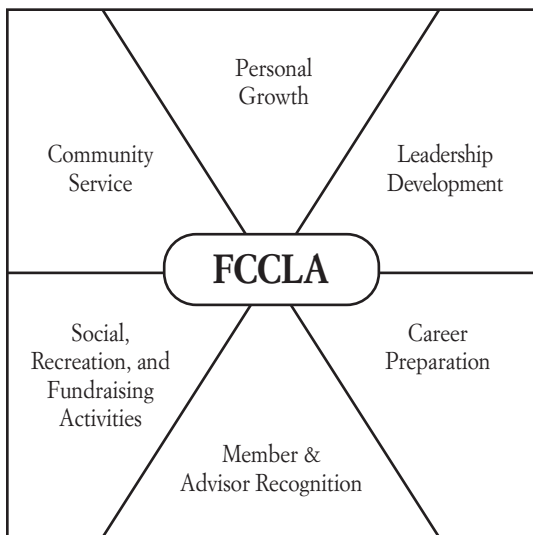
Voting delegates voted to change the name of the state association to California FCCLA.

2025

Voting delegates passed a bylaw amendment to increase the number of state officers to ten. This amendment became effective with the election of the 2025–2026 officers.

FCCLA Program Components

An effective FCCLA chapter is an intracurricular part of classroom instruction and relates the organization's goal and purposes to Family and Consumer Sciences Education through activities focusing on:



FCCLA Organizational Structure and Officers

National

Ten National Officers are elected at the annual National Leadership Conference in June/July. Officers are elected from each of the four national regions.

State

Ten State Officers are elected annually. The officers are President, 1st Vice President, VP of Community Service, VP of Competitive Events, VP of Development, VP of Finance, VP of Membership, VP of Parliamentary Law, VP of Programs, and VP of Public Relations. The FCCLA State Advisor, State Officers, and Region Presidents comprise the State Executive Council. The State Advisor is a member of the Family and Consumer Sciences State Staff.

Region

California is divided into ten regions. Each region elects six officers annually. Region Coordinators are Chapter Advisors to the Region Presidents.

Chapter

Chapter Executive Councils consist of six officers and their advisors. Other members who chair special committees may also be included on the executive council. Chapter Advisors are credentialed Family and Consumer Sciences teachers in middle, junior, and senior high schools, and ROCP programs.

To hold an office at any level of the organization, a member must meet specific qualifications as outlined in the bylaws. For further information about the offices, contact the following:

National and State – State Advisor

Region – Region Advisor

Chapter – Chapter Advisor

FCCLA Regions

Inthe national organization, California is part of the Pacific Region. Within California, there are ten regions.



Affiliation

FCCLA chapters may be established and operated at individual school sites in middle schools, junior high schools, high schools, charter schools, and/or regional occupational centers or programs (ROCPs). To become a part of FCCLA, individual school sites must submit the required forms, including a membership roster, and purchase leadership packets for a minimum of twelve (12) students. Once a school site has completed the requirements for affiliation, it is certified as a chapter. Upon certification, the chapter is automatically affiliated with the national organization, FCCLA, Inc.

Membership

An individual may become affiliated with FCCLA in one of the following ways:

Active member

A student in grades six through twelve who has been or is currently enrolled in a Consumer and Family Studies (CFS) or Family and Consumer Sciences Related Occupations course is eligible for membership in a certified chapter of the Association. Membership in California is also open to students in regional occupational centers or programs (ROCP).

Advisor member

A credentialed Family and Consumer Sciences Education teacher who serves as an advisor may become a member by submitting affiliation dues.

Alumni and Associates

Former active members and adults who share the goals and purposes of FCCLA and wish to support the continuing development of FCCLA youth shall be eligible for an Alumni and Associates membership. Members of Alumni and Associates shall not be eligible to hold office, make motions, or vote.

Honorary member

Parents, community members, state leaders, business and industry representatives, and chapter advisors who have made outstanding contributions and who give continuing service to the chapter, region, or state association are eligible for honorary membership.

Ceremonies

The opening and closing ceremonies should be used at all meetings:

FCCLA Opening Ceremony:

President: (Raps the gavel twice and says:)

"The meeting will come to order." (Raps the gavel three times, signaling the officers and members to stand, and says:)

"We are members of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. Our mission is to promote personal growth and leadership development through Family and Consumer Sciences Education."

"Officers, upon what do our activities focus?"

Officers: *"Focusing on the multiple roles of family member, wage earner, and community leader, members develop skills for life through character development, creative and critical thinking, interpersonal communication, practical knowledge, and career preparation."*

President: *"Members, as we work toward the accomplishment of our goals, what do we learn?"*

Members: *"As we work toward the accomplishment of our goals, we learn cooperation, take responsibility, develop leadership, and give service."*

President: *"The (insert appropriate title) meeting of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America is now in session. You may be seated."* (Raps the gavel once, signaling members to sit.)

FCCLA Closing Ceremony:

President: (Raps the gavel three times, signaling the officers and members to stand, and says:)

"Members, please stand. FCCLA members, we are challenged to accept the responsibility of making decisions that affect our lives today and the world tomorrow. Let us repeat our Creed."

Members: (Repeat Creed)

*"We are the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America
We face the future with warm courage and high hope.*

For we have the clear consciousness of seeking old and precious values.

*For we are the builders of homes,
Homes for America's future,*

Homes where living will be the expression of everything that is good and fair,

Homes where truth and love and security and faith will be realities, not dreams.

We are the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America.

We face the future with warm courage and high hope."

President: *"The (insert appropriate title) meeting of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America is now adjourned."*
(Raps the gavel once.)

Conferences and Meetings

National

An annual conference is held in June/July. The location rotates yearly. The number of state voting delegates is determined by the state's total membership for the school year.

State

The State Leadership Conference is held annually in the spring. The location rotates regularly.

Region

Each active region holds a minimum of three meetings annually. The date, place of the meetings, and number of delegates are determined by each region. Officers' and members' leadership training meetings are held several times throughout the year.

Chapter

As an intracurricular part of the Family and Consumer Sciences and instructional program, FCCLA activities and projects are correlated and integrated into the curriculum and the classroom instructional program.

The number of meetings per month varies with the activities of a local chapter. Each chapter holds at least one scheduled meeting per month during the school year.

Chapters often conduct summer activities, program planning, and/or leadership training workshops.

Official Pins

Members and Chapter Officers

Members and Chapter Officers are entitled to wear up to four pins: the member pin or officer pin and guard if applicable, the chapter degree pin, the region degree pin, and the state degree pin on the left lapel of their blazer.

Region and State Officers

Region and State Officers are asked to limit their pins to two: their officer pin and guard and their highest degree pin on the left lapel of the blazer.

Official Dress

FCCLA members are expected to be neat in appearance and well-groomed at all times. The manner in which members dress is important in providing a professional image as well as a means of identification with FCCLA.

Dress for FCCLA meetings and activities should be as follows:

1. The official FCCLA uniform should be worn at all meetings and appropriate activities. This consists of the official FCCLA blazer worn with the following:
 - a. Solid black skirt or dress slacks
 - b. White dress shirt with tailored collar and sleeves
 - c. Shoes: black, with closed toe and heel or laced or slip-on style dress shoes (with solid black dress socks)
 - d. Official FCCLA striped ascot or tie
 - e. Flesh-tone nylons (optional for members, required for region and state officers)
2. Refer to the current *STAR Events Guide*, for specific dress-check information during STAR Event activities.
3. The official casual FCCLA attire includes either the State FCCLA T-shirt or polo shirt (red, white or black) and black pants, skirt, capris, or long shorts (mid-thigh length).

Inappropriate attire for FCCLA meetings and activities includes coveralls, short shorts, jean-type denim pants, T-shirts, school sweaters, and halter tops.

Guidelines for Conduct

As a member of California FCCLA, you have privileges as well as responsibilities. The following guidelines were developed by the FCCLA State Executive Council so that California can be proud of its representatives and have them reflect a professional image at all official activities:

- Members should conduct themselves in a manner which brings credit to them, their families, their schools, and FCCLA. This includes respecting the rights, safety, and comfort of others with regard to manners, noise, language, and general conduct.
- Members will follow the directions of chapter advisors and chaperones. They will be respectful and courteous in their speech and behavior.
- No alcoholic beverages, unprescribed drugs, cigarettes/E-cigarettes/spit/smokeless tobacco/vaping or JUULing products in any form shall be in the possession of or consumed by members at any time while representing the FCCLA organization.
- Members and their chapters will be responsible for damages they incur.
- Advisors shall be informed by members of their activities and whereabouts at all times.
- Members will abide by the established curfew at each FCCLA activity.
- Male and female socializing will only be allowed in places and at times designated by delegates and advisors.
- Instances of misconduct will be reported to advisors, parents/guardians, and appropriate school authorities.
- The participation of a member in an FCCLA activity may be terminated in the event the guidelines for conduct are not followed. The expenses of telephone calls and travel will be assumed by the member and his or her parents or guardians.

FCCLA Week

Typically celebrated during the second full week of February, FCCLA Week provides chapters with the opportunity to publicize the organization at the school site and in the community. Active chapters plan and conduct activities for each day of the week to focus on one of the six components of an effective chapter. Chapters also participate in special statewide activities that address the State Project Goals and support annual goals as identified by the current State Officer team. This week is a great time to recognize people who have helped the local FCCLA Chapter in a special way.

State Project Goals

FCCLA State Project Goals are goals selected biennially by the State Officers. Each year, chapters plan a Program of Work to emphasize these areas. This program includes a broad work range of activities or projects based upon the needs and interests of chapter members. Chapters are encouraged to concentrate their efforts toward the State Project Goals so that the FCCLA Program will have a coordinated impact on making a positive contribution to individual communities and to society through Family and Consumer Sciences and State FCCLA curriculum.

State FCCLA Website

Members, advisors, and other interested individuals should visit the FCCLA website at www.ca-fccla.org to learn about all of the leadership and career development opportunities as well as types of recognition that are available. The site contains information about the Association, including a statewide calendar of activities, STAR Events, affiliation, State Leadership Conference, awards and scholarships, and the Golden State Degree Program. In addition, there are sections devoted to State Officers and to region activities. Forms needed by members, advisors, and chapters to apply for awards, officer candidates, or to order emblematic materials are also posted.

STAR Events

FCCLA STAR Events are designed to provide additional opportunities for FCCLA members to develop career and leadership skills and to receive recognition for knowledge and skills learned in the Family and Consumer Sciences classroom. Each year, members have found participating in STAR Events to be a worthwhile learning experience.

Through STAR Events, members can represent their chapters at Region, State, and National level competitions. **Team Events include:** Chapter in Review Portfolio, Chapter Service Project Display, Entrepreneurship, Event Management, Fashion Design, Focus on Children, Food Innovations, Hospitality, Tourism & Recreation, Interior Design, National Programs in Action, Nutrition & Wellness, Parliamentary Procedure, Professional Presentation, Promote & Publicize FCCLA, Public Policy Advocate, Repurpose & Redesign, and Sports Nutrition. **Individual Events include:** Baking & Pastry, Culinary Arts, Culinary Display, Fashion Construction, Job Interview, Leadership, Menu Planning & Table Display, Personal Finance, Salad Preparation, Say Yes to FCS Education, Teach or Train, and Teaching Strategies. Events are subject to change. Please check website for updated information.

Scholarships

Several scholarships are awarded annually to graduating seniors who are FCCLA members and who plan to pursue advanced studies or training in the field of Family and Consumer Sciences Related Occupations at one of the following:

1. An accredited four-year college or university
2. A community college prior to transferring to a college or university
3. A public or private advanced occupational training institution

In addition, leadership scholarships are annually awarded to State Officers who meet the established criteria. For more information on State Officer Scholarships, contact the FCCLA State Office.

California FCCLA Recognition Awards

In addition to certificates of appreciation the following types of recognition shall be given when the FCCLA State Executive Council and staff consider that it is appropriate to recognize individuals in these ways.

Citation of Honor Certificates

Advisors who provide leadership by serving either as Region Coordinators or as STAR Events Chairpersons shall receive a Citation of Honor Certificate during the annual State Leadership Conference.

Star Advisor Award

The Star Advisor Award is given annually to recognize a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher who has served as a FCCLA advisor and who has worked to develop a strong FCCLA program in his/her Family and Consumer Sciences Department. These advisors have provided leadership in working with students and adults to expand FCCLA beyond the local chapter level.

One advisor is selected from each region to receive the award, with one of those winners being named as the FCCLA Star Advisor.

Honorary Membership

The purpose of Honorary Membership is to recognize those persons who have made outstanding contributions and who are giving continuing service to the state organization.

Chapter and Individual Awards

State Superior Chapter Award

The purpose of the State Superior Chapter Award is to recognize those chapters who have developed an exemplary FCCLA program of work based on the established criteria. A State Superior Chapter has a strong, active membership; encourages participation in chapter, region, state, and national activities; and promotes cooperation within the school and community. In addition, a State Superior Chapter has an effective leadership development program for its members, builds positive public relations, and develops ongoing alumni relations.

Golden State Degree Program

The Golden State Degree Program, implemented in the 1998–99 program year, provides FCCLA members the opportunity to achieve recognition for meeting established criteria for chapter, region, and state degrees. Each degree requires the member to demonstrate additional knowledge of and commitment to the organization. As FCCLA members participate in chapter, community, region, and state activities, they can develop leadership skills and make a plan to achieve the FCCLA Golden State Degree.

Members are eligible to wear the emblem of the degree they attain on the left lapel of the official blazer. Local chapter advisors have information regarding qualifications for each level of the degree program.

Publications

National FCCLA publishes a weekly "Member Minute" e-newsletter for members, and a weekly "Fast Facts" e-newsletter for advisors. These newsletters contain upcoming dates and deadlines along with important reminders and also showcase the work of members and chapters across the nation. The State electronic newsletter is posted on the State website.

Why Belong to FCCLA?

FCCLA provides for members:

- An opportunity to be a member of a secondary career-technical student organization
- Leadership and personal growth experiences at the chapter, regional, state, and national levels of the organization
- Recognition for projects, skills, and achievement through STAR Events, leadership and career development activities, and community service
- Scholarships for graduating seniors who plan to major in a Family and Consumer Sciences related program during their post-secondary training
- An opportunity to participate in business and industry job-shadow internships
- A unique way to work cooperatively with other students to plan, direct, and conduct activities for students
- Development of citizenship skills as Region and State Officers and have personal contact with state legislators
- Awards and scholarships for Students Taking Action with Recognition (STAR) Events
- Activities that offer a wide range of opportunities for community service, career exploration and development, leadership development, and personal growth
- Publications such as *Member Minutes*, *State Newsletter*, and the *FCCLA Member Handbook*, to gain information and knowledge about other members and what participation in FCCLA can offer
- An opportunity to meet new people, to travel, and to combine fun with learning and responsibility

Are You an Active Member?

Are you an active member?
The kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the flock?
Or do you stay home
And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
To help the work along?
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind that just belongs?

There's quite a program schedule
That means success if done,
And it can be accomplished with
The help of everyone.

So attend the meetings, pronto!
And help with hand and heart.
Don't be just a member
But take an active part.

— *Source Unknown*

Dates to Remember

Chapter and membership affiliation:

November 1 – first deadline
(ongoing affiliated chapters)

January 10 – first deadline
(new & reinstated chapters)

May 31 – final deadline (all chapters)

Fall Region Meetings – September/October*

STAR entry forms for affiliated chapters –
due January 10

Region Officer Candidate Online Application – due
January 15

State Officer Candidate Online Application – due January 15

Qualifying STAR & Spring Region Meetings – January/February*

FCCLA Week – 2nd full week of February

Chapter, Region, and State Degree Applications – due March 1

Honor Membership Nominations – due March 1

Scholarship Applications – due March 1

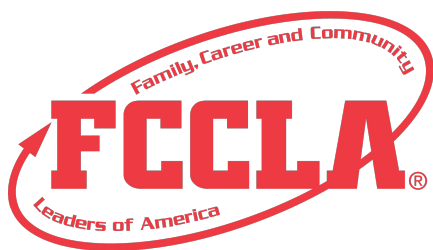
Outstanding Advisor Recognition – due March 1

State Leadership Conference – April*

National Leadership Conference – June/July

**Refer to the California affiliation packet and FCCLA State website for specific dates*

Notes



CALIFORNIA

STATE ASSOCIATION