Flying High with FCCLA

Are you ready to fly high with FCCLA? Well, this year, that is what you can do. Michigan FCCLA members are preparing to show off their super leader skills by stepping up in their chapter, region, state, and nation. What exactly does it take to be a Superleader? In order to become a Superleader, you must be able to work hard, think creatively, and be willing to make a difference in your home and community. Most importantly, you must have leadership skills. Wow! It sounds like you! A busy FCCLA member!

We all know what hard work is, being a Superleader. I know that we all have it within us. All you have to do is put your mind to work, and I am sure that you will come up with an amazing idea. You can go the extra mile with your hard work in so many ways: through your project, your chapter, and even your state. As Roger Staubach once said, “There are no traffic jams along the extra mile.” So, let’s put that hard work to use and discover what the extra mile has to offer.

Use of your imagination is a big part of being a Superleader. Why not think outside of the box? What would it hurt? In reality, all it will do is help you stand out that much more. You will be seen as a leader, and that is never a bad thing. With your creative thinking leading the way, others may be more inclined to ask for advice in order to make their projects just as successful.

Making a difference in your home and community is a great way to engage your Superleader skills. FCCLA can help you help others. The various projects that you and your chapter participate in create a world of difference in your home and community. STAR Events and National Programs are great tools to use to showcase your skills. This year, why not work with your local elementary students for Focus on Children or better yet, with students from your school and community? The various projects that you and your chapter participate in create a world of difference.

Everywhere is capable of becoming a leader, and you are capable of becoming a Superleader. Why not unleash your power of impact? FCCLA is the ultimate leadership experience, so try to get others involved. If you feel that you are not ready to take on the role of being an officer, why not start towards becoming a leader by encouraging others to join FCCLA? It takes leadership skills and initiative to help others understand the full meaning of FCCLA. You will be in full flight as a Superleader here.

With your Superleader skills ready, it’s time to step up, pick a project, and work hard. Tie on your cape, adjust your emblem, and get ready to take flight as a Superleader! This will be a successful and exciting year for all of us. Let this super theme help guide you. You all have what it takes to be a Superleader. All you have to do is utilize it! I am excited to see what this year will bring. This year, instead of asking yourself why, ask why not? Why not step up? Why not do more? Why not become a Superleader!
Your basketball team is in the big game; it’s tied up and your team has the ball. That one point will change the game and the season. FCCLA works the same way – not in scoring points or making slam dunks, but in how everything you do counts. Recruiting new members is just such an important play for FCCLA.

One of the awards chapters can earn is the Gimme Five Award. By gaining merely five more members than last year, you can get an award! New chapters can receive this award too! They only have to recruit five more than the minimum number for a chapter for a total of 14 members. Chapters who achieve the Gimme Five Award are recognized with a plaque at the State Leadership Conference, and on the website.

There are so many great ways to recruit new members. You could have a “bring your own banana day” and use the bananas to make banana splits. Everyone loves ice-cream! Or you could have a dance sleepover for all members. These are both great ways to gain new members.

Throughout the years, we have had great success in chapters receiving this award; still we could stand for some improvement. When you are recruiting new members, you must always remember to show them what a great leader you are for FCCLA. You should always be energetic, focused, compassionate, sincere, and of course, never too pushy. To recruit people into a leadership program, you must yourself be a Superleader! By gaining new members, you give friends the chance to become the best they can be.

You will be helping your chapter and state grow as well. So let’s make a slam dunk and get those five new members.

With so many easy and fun ways to gain members, why not go and do it! Let’s hustle to talk to people and score some new members so that Michigan FCCLA can give more Gimme Five Awards. By gaining new members, we can have even more Superleaders on our winning team!

Success with the Planning Process
Leigha Dilday, V.P. of Programs

Goal setting and project planning are essential in carrying out a successful project. There are many ways to set your goals for the year. The most important factor, for FCCLA projects and awards… but also in life, is the FCCLA Planning Process.

The five steps are so helpful to kick starting your project. The first step is to Identify Concerns. This step helps you brainstorm to generate ideas or state any concerns you want to achieve. The second step is Set a Goal. This step gets you to visualize how your project is going to flow. The third step is to Form a Plan. Form a Plan will help you figure out the who, what, where, when, and why of your project this year. This will definitely make things way easier. The fourth step is Act. This step in the whole process of goal planning is the most important. This is because here, in this step, is where you act upon everything that you have already planned. This is where the project really starts to unfold and become something amazing! The fifth and very last step of the Planning Process is the Follow Up. In this step you see if your goal was met and think of ways to make your projects better in the future. Another very important part of this last step is thanking and recognizing the people involved in your project.

Join the Michigan FCCLA Facebook Group & Friend Michigan FCCLA on Myspace!
Focus on FCCLA

When I began my FCCLA journey back in 7th grade, I frankly had no idea what I was getting myself into. I joined the organization so I would have something productive to do with my time after school on Wednesdays, and a bunch of my friends were getting involved too, so it looked like a fun thing to be a part of. Little did I know, a little more than four years after that, I would be representing the over 220,000 members of the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America as the National First Vice President of the organization. I can honestly say that when I joined FCCLA, I had no intentions of running for a State Office, let alone a National Office, but as I continued my involvement in the organization, I realized just how much I could get out of FCCLA - so long as I was willing to put the necessary effort in. Through my five years of service through FCCLA I have truly learned what it means to be a better family member, wage earner, and community leader - lessons I will no doubt take with me through life after high school and beyond.

Like I said before, running for National Office was by no means my ultimate goal when joining FCCLA five years ago. I was simply an involved chapter member, giving a great time giving back to my community with my friends. However, in 8th grade when I was given the opportunity to run for a chapter office, I took the opportunity by the horns and was elected as chapter president. From that moment on, I knew that there would be more responsibility that accompanied my title as chapter president, wage earner, and community leader - but footprints. Kill nothing but time.”

This year Michigan’s state community service project is just that, making Michigan communities more eco-friendly.

To some of us this might seem a little boring and as though it is an insurmountable task, but did you know that you can buy a cute purse or and awesome wallet made of recycled soda pop bottles? Even though this type of change might seem hugely unlikely- being surprised by the possibilities is what it is all about. Changing your mindset is. If you want to get super creative you can change all of your cleaning supplies to eco-friendly solutions by using a lovely ingredient base: vinegar. This is not as difficult as it seems. Believe me… five minutes is worth saving the world you call home!

Do you have a little extra time and want to make a bigger impact? Go to school and create a day once or twice a week where you go around to the classrooms and collect unwanted materials to recycle. Get fellow classmates and school officials involved. You could even take them to the art class and create a showcase on what you can do with recyclable objects. Make sure to ask your principal and counselor for approval. (Most principals would be thrilled, especially if you can get your project published in your local newspaper!)

What kinds of projects are out there that an everyday Joe like you or me can accomplish? Something as simple as recycling home objects or even taking cans and pop bottles to the local grocery store can make a huge impact on our environment. This task of making the world a better place can be difficult or easy depending on where you think about it and what your mindset is. If you want to get super creative you can have a cute purse or and awesome wallet made of recycled soda pop bottles! Even though this type of change might seem hugely unlikely- being surprised by the possibilities is what it is all about. Changing your mindset is. If you want to get super creative you can change all of your cleaning supplies to eco-friendly solutions by using a lovely ingredient base: vinegar. This is not as difficult as it seems. Believe me… five minutes is worth saving the world you call home!

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If you need more sweet and exciting tips on how to change the earth one step at a time, there are some awesome websites full of resources. Some of my favorites are: www.ecocycle.org, www.care2.com/greenliving, and www.ecosmart-promos.com. You will be directed to places where you get directions on how to make new items out of recyclable objects and trade in old house hold cleaners for cheaper and healthier products. As you complete these projects, you could possibly score some eco-friendly freebies! (Look for more exciting information on this area in the next issue of Focus on FCCLA!) Get out there now and start using your imagination! Start changing light bulbs to more eco-friendly designs or make purses and wallets out of Capri Suns! Your imagination will work wonders on the earth, and it will surprise you what you and a few of your friends can do! Speaking from the Earth’s viewpoint, I am sure it is spinning in circles saying “thank you” to all of the lovely people who are helping to keep it healthy and safer for decades to come. Go green… or go back home (at least what’s left of it)! 

“Environmental friendly” or “ecologically friendly”- these phrases are not new to any of us. This year Michigan’s state community service project is just that, making Michigan communities more eco-friendly. To some of us this might seem a little boring and as though it is an insurmountable task, but did you know that you can buy a cute purse or and awesome wallet made of recycled soda pop bottles? Even though this type of change might seem hugely unlikely- being surprised by the possibilities is what it is all about. Changing your mindset is. If you want to get super creative you can change all of your cleaning supplies to eco-friendly solutions by using a lovely ingredient base: vinegar. This is not as difficult as it seems. Believe me… five minutes is worth saving the world you call home!

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Have you been looking for a new project to tackle for the upcoming year? Are you looking for an event that hasn’t been done, where you can truly make it your own? Or are you simply trying to decide which STAR Event is right for you? Well, if you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then competing in one of the FCCLA STAR Events could be the right thing for you.

STAR Events (Students Taking Action with Recognition) are ways for FCCLA members to compete either solo or in a group. With twenty-two events, including two brand new events, there’s something for everyone. All STAR events will test your leadership skills and career preparation, as well as give you the freedom to work on a project solely of your choice.

Have you ever wondered if being able to design your own room from scratch? Does home decor spark an interest inside of you? If so, then the Interior Design STAR Event could be just what you’re looking for in the upcoming year. This individual or team event will focus on your design skills and allow you to create a room fit to suit a specific family’s needs.

If Interior Design isn’t exactly what you’re looking for, but you’re interested in some form of design, then maybe either Fashion Construction Event or Recycle and Redesign Event could be the right project for you. Although these events aren’t open to teams, just individuals, they will give you the freedom to apply those fashion design skills learned in your Family and Consumer Sciences courses.

However, if you’re still not sure these events are right for you, then your perfect match could be out there! Are you excited about promoting what your FCCLA chapter is doing? Try the new Promote & Publicize FCCLA event. Or are you interested in teaching? Try out the new Teach and Train event.

There are events for every interest – from the design ones talked about here, to technology-based events, service projects, public speaking, financial management and child development. Check out the new STAR Events Manual on the National FCCLA website at www.fcclaine.org.

Meet Your State Executive Council

Ashley Fraley
State President
Bethremen High School
afraley@mifccla.org

Three Random Facts:
“I love watching or reading about vampires. Being funny makes me happy. The reason I want to do what I like to do is because I want to make a difference in people’s lives.

Leigha's Hero:
“My whole family is my hero. They are the people who are most supportive of me, and they always know what’s best.”

Ashley's Favorite Childhood Cartoon:
“Rugrats!”

Leigha Dilday
State Vice President of Programs
Pickford High School
lilday@mifccla.org

Three Random Facts:
“I go to Florida every year for spring break.”

Leigha's Favorite Childhood Cartoon:
“Rugrats!”

Leigha’s Hero:
“My Mom is my hero because she takes all the trouble that I give her, and she loves me no matter what.”

Leigha's Favorite Childhood Cartoon:
“Rugrats!”

Lorraine Welch
State National First Vice President
Vice President of Community Service
Alma High School
Lwelch@mifccla.org

Three Random Facts:
“I have super curly hair. I love onions, but hate sweet and low. I love to hunt and fish.”

Lorraine’s Hero:
“My Dad is my hero because he had the biggest influence in my life, at least up until now. He was a loving, courageous and friendly man. Even though he is gone physically, he shines through me. He was my inspiration for making myself a better person and for joining FCCLA.”

Lorraine’s Favorite Childhood Cartoon:
“Lady Lovelocks, Rupert, Little Bear, Aaahh! Real Monsters, Ren and Stimpy, and Popeye.”

Amanda Griffka
State Secretary
Amanda Griffka
Saline High School
agrippka@mifccla.org

Three Random Facts:
“I would be Timmy Turner from Fairly OddParents because he has cool magic godparents that can grant his every wish.”

Amanda’s Hero:
“Honestly, I don’t have just one specific hero, but I do admire Barak Obama because of how he’s trying to overcome the racial barrier.”

Amanda’s Favorite Childhood Cartoon:
“I would be Adrian Monk (from the show Monk) because he’s the coolest detective around and he cares about the details.”

Andrew Schantz
National First Vice President
Saline High School
aschantzfccla@gmail.com

Three Random Facts:
“I want to be President of the United States. My middle name (Cameron) comes from Ferris Bueller’s Day Off. I have worked on gubernatorial and national level political campaigns.”

Andrew’s Hero:
“Ronald Reagan, because of his fantastic leadership and ability to lead our country through times of crisis.”

Andrew’s Favorite Childhood Cartoon:
“Fairly OddParents.”

Andrea’s Hero:
“Andrew Could be any TV Character...”

Andrea’s Favorite Childhood Cartoon:
“I would be Timmy Turner from Fairly OddParents because he has cool magic godparents that can grant his every wish.”

Jaelinn’s Hero:
“My Mom is my hero because she takes all the trouble that I give her, and she loves me no matter what.”

Jaelinn’s Favorite Magazine:
“Seusical the Musical and Cinderella (and I look like the girl in Hairspray).”

Leigha’s Favorite Childhood Cartoon:
“Rugrats!”

Leigha’s Hero:
“My whole family is my hero. They are the people who are most supportive of me, and they always know what’s best.”

Leigha’s Favorite Childhood Cartoon:
“Rugrats!”

Jaelinn Soeltner
State National Second Vice President
Pickford High School
jaeltner@mifccla.org

Three Random Facts:
“I’m a very talented singer. I’m only 4’11” tall. I’ve been in Seusical the Musical and Cinderella (and I look like the girl in Hairspray).”

Jaelinn’s Hero:
“My Mom is my hero because she takes all the trouble that I give her, and she loves me no matter what.”

Jaelinn’s Favorite Magazine:
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