Leadership, one of the foundational concepts of FCCLA, is going to get a turbo boost this year with Michigan FCCLA! The theme for this year is, “Race into Leadership with FCCLA.” We’ll put the pedal to the metal when we develop leadership skills. Eventually we will see the checkered flag and know that ultimate leadership is within reach! Let's explore this road to ultimate leadership.

The first pit stop is families! Family is the whole concept of this organization and it must be our foremost concern. This year's State Community Service Project is, “Families: Drive to Help.” The goal of this project is to help families, in almost any way you can think of! You can also help families by completing the Families First National Outreach Program,” “or the Power of One module, “Family Ties.” There are so many ways to help families. Just think of all the possibilities!

The next pit stop is careers. The skills we will develop as we “Race into Leadership” will help us on the road to our careers, as well as in our careers when we reach that point. Leadership helps in every aspect of life, and developing it is essential.

Our third pit stop in the race to ultimate leadership is communities. FCCLA is the perfect opportunity to help make communities a better place. Community service is a great way to do this. Community service helps communities, and publicizes and promotes FCCLA and the good things it does.

The final pit stop is leadership. To further personal leadership, get involved in your own chapter. Work on increasing membership so your chapter can receive the “Gimme Five” award. Another way to increase personal leadership is to complete “Power of One.” All FCCLA members who complete in this will earn recognition at the State Leadership Conference next year. So, fasten your seat belts and put this leadership development in gear!

We've completed all the necessary pit stops. We are a well-oiled machine, ready to race down the road to ultimate leadership, until we see that checkered flag! Let's all work together, like a pit crew, and make this year in Michigan FCCLA the best it can be!
Who is always there for you? Who spoils you? Who is always willing to help you with anything? I am talking about your families. That is what we based our state community service project on this year: Families. We chose this idea because there are so many families in need right now since the economy is weak.

Families are what FCCLA is all about, since we started in 1945. There are a lot of families in need right now, and you, as members can help them. You can do anything. You can hold a clothing drive, or raise money and donate it to your local food bank. You could also hold a toy or a gift drive during the holidays. Those are just a few project ideas.

FCCLA is all about families and it will help them if they are in need. National FCCLA has a Families First program, which you can compete in at the state level. You can also do Power of One, which has a Families Ties module. Members can also do projects in the areas of Chapter Service, Community Service, and many others.

Michigan FCCLA is once again joining in the fun and community service with their participation in the National Outreach Program benefiting the Children’s Miracle Network. Children’s Miracle Network has been working with families that have children who are fighting diseases such as cancer. They provide support, both mentally and monetarily, for the family when they are in need. This past year alone, FCCLA raised $241,590.05 to benefit children in need and we are pumped to see what we will accomplish in the upcoming year.

The mission of Children’s Miracle Network is to save the lives of children by raising funds and awareness for children’s hospitals and foundations throughout North America. For the past year National FCCLA has been helping Children’s Miracle Network. Michigan FCCLA supported the project by holding a miracle minute during the State Leadership Conference last year. This year, Michigan FCCLA would like to know: How are you going to get involved?

Last year many chapters got involved with various activities, such as bake sales, chump change fundraisers, and so much more. As members of the only student-led organization that has family as its central focus, Michigan FCCLA encourages all of you to do your part to make sure that families in need have adequate equipment and support to help them through these hard times. Your chapter may receive recognition for the work that they do at the National Leadership Conference in July. If your chapter raises between $500 and $1,000, then you will win Children’s Miracle Network wristbands.

As we race into another great year of Leadership, we are planning to help National FCCLA surpass the donations that were made last year, and we need your help. So get out there and raise funds and awareness for Children’s Miracle Network as they are saving a child’s life every day.

Some project ideas could include a hat and mitten drive, a winter clothes drive, or a shoe drive. Members of your chapter could even volunteer at a local homeless shelter to help make and serve the food given to the homeless people. One could also raise funds and purchase more items for a project. A member could write a speech to compete in the Public Speaking category and present it at your state conference. These are just a few ways to help families in need.

Your family is always there for you and you could help others in your community who may not have a family to help them. There are several projects you can do. After you help a family in need you will feel better about yourself. Something so small, like giving Christmas presents to needy families could mean so much to their kids and also give you a better feeling about yourself and your FCCLA family.

Families: Drive to Help!

James DeGreif, Vice President of Community Service

These are different ways a member can put his or her projects into the right category.
I would like to congratulate all of the winners from Michigan FCCLA’s State Leadership Conference.

This year, the National Leadership Conference was in the Windy City of Chicago, Illinois. When our members weren’t competing or sitting in the wonderful workshops, they were exploring all of the great things that Chicago had to offer. We started things off by watching fireworks on the Navy Pier. They were spectacular! On Monday and Tuesday, there were intense competitions and there were great workshops. Then we went and tried some Chicago-style pizza and saw the Blue Man Group perform. At other times during the Conference, members could go to the Chicago Zoo, the Shedd Aquarium, have dinner at the Cheesecake Factory, or the Sears Tower for some great views of Chicago. At the closing ceremony, we learned that next year’s National Leadership Conference will be in sunny Anaheim, California!

I would like to congratulate all of the winners that competed at the National Leadership Conference. All of the Michigan FCCLA members did really well, whether they got a bronze, silver, or gold; it is really tough to get medals at the National Level.—Great Job!

As we race into leadership there are many exciting opportunities for members and advisors. Join in the Race into Leadership with Michigan FCCLA.

Are you a new advisor? Now is the time to decide how you want to incorporate FCCLA in your school year. Gather your leadership tools. New chapters can obtain a kit by calling the Michigan State Office. Michigan hosts a unique mentor program that teams experienced and newer advisors together. There are also opportunities to network with other chapter advisors and members through the internet. So many options are available to help advisors stay on the track and have a smooth ride!

Put the key in the ignition, turn the engine on, and start recruiting new members. Past members can help their advisor at this point in the track. Starting a new chapter? Recruit a few strong members to work along side the advisor. Build a chapter and promote FCCLA in your school and community by writing articles for the local newspaper, school newsletter, and monitors. Another option is to enlist past members to create a display of the events and fundraisers that you did in years past and display it in your school. Also, you can hold recruitment activities such as themed parties, an FCCLA informational week, and spotlight FCCLA during school events such as a school open house or sporting event.

How many crew members do you have on your FCCLA team? A lot of people just walk around the track of FCCLA and have no idea what they are missing out on. As members, it’s our job to show them what FCCLA is and the meaning of the “Ultimate Leader Experience”. To help you in this endeavor, the state executive council suggests many things you can do to gain and retain members. Some examples would be: offer incentives, put yourself out there by personally inviting other students to join, host themed parties, and hold exciting fundraiser events. Let’s proceed to the starting line and recruit, retain, and recognize members. It is full speed ahead to the checkered flag!

Gimmie5! is an award program that Michigan FCCLA gives out to chapters who gain five or more new affiliated members over the previous year’s record. The state officer team is also challenging Michigan FCCLA to gain five more chapters over last years total to receive the Gimmie5! award. Membership dues must be received by December 1, at the National office to qualify. Recognition takes place during the State Leadership Conference in March.

Gather your pit crew. Assemble your leadership tools. Get your chapter on the road to encounter the “Ultimate Leadership Experience” through Michigan FCCLA!

For many years, Michigan FCCLA members have been showing off their ability to be leaders of a team, and perhaps more importantly, individuals. Power of One is a program that allows you to better yourself as a person and a leader with five different modules: A Better You, Family Ties, Working on Working, Take the Lead, and Speaking Out for FCCLA.

As we begin to Race into Leadership this year, Power of One will be one of the best ways to kick off your Ultimate Leadership Experience. Through the power of one, FCCLA members are able to explore career options, strengthen organizational skills, and bring their own families closer together. If you want to get the most out of The Ultimate Leadership Experience, Michigan FCCLA encourages you to Race into Leadership by bettering your leadership skills through the five modules of Power of One.

For more information and the application forms, go to www.mifccla.org/students/power_of_one.html

- Carman Plank, Vice President of Programs

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Striving to become financially fit can be frightening for a chapter. Let’s take a look at how to break it down into a manageable format: Why does your chapter need money? Brainstorm potential expenses for the year, such as basic chapter supplies (emblem, pens, notebooks, etc.), affiliation dues, community service projects, fun activities and field trips, recognition of members and sponsors, and attendance at the Fall Leadership, State Leadership, Cluster, or National conferences.

Next, create a budget. FCCLA programs, such as Financial Fitness, may help you get this in motion. It is important to know both where the money is coming from and going to, in order to set financial goals for the chapter. The budget will be based on this process.

There are many things your chapter can do to bring in money. First, explore what type of fundraising is already done in your school and community. Find out why some projects are successful, while others are not. What are strong needs for goods and services? Who will be making the purchases and what would be an acceptable price? What are the costs to the chapter for providing these goods and/or services?

FCCLA chapters have sold submarine sandwiches, pizza, apple pies, and special seasoning blends. Some rake yards, shovel snow or provide childcare during special events. For more fundraising ideas and to share your experiences, network with other members at the state and national meetings, on facebook and by blogging. Teen Times, the FCCLA national magazine, is full of ideas from around the nation. Visit mifccla.org and fcclainc.org for more fresh ideas on fundraising in your chapter.

There are many opportunities at the local, state and national level to fund the type of activities that FCCLA members participate in through grants. Advisors receive notices about grants from the state and national offices, and you can visit the websites to view current ideas.

Lastly, many communities have service organizations that provide financial support to youth who are participating in leadership activities. Adults understand that it is the youth who will be our leaders of tomorrow. They want to encourage members in organizations such as FCCLA to reach their potential. They may require an application, presentation, or participation in one of their events to qualify. The outcome could have at least two positive outcomes: sharing information about FCCLA and financial support for years to come.

Whatever methods your chapter chooses, get as many members involved as possible. It will be a terrific opportunity to learn new skills and have fun along the way! Good luck to your chapter in becoming financially fit!