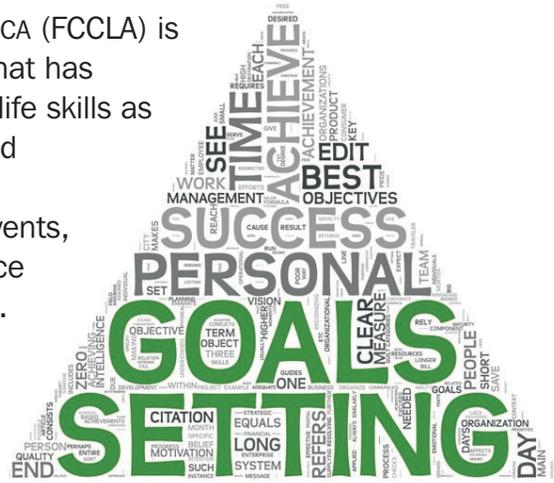


# Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)

**F**AMILY, CAREER AND COMMUNITY LEADERS OF AMERICA (FCCLA) is the only student organization in this country that has family as its focus. FCCLA teaches students such life skills as goal setting, problem solving, decision making, and interpersonal communication. Members develop leadership qualities by competing in proficiency events, electing officers, participating in Community Service projects, and attending career education sessions. The organization was originally known as Future Homemakers of America.



## Objectives:



1. Explain who can be a member of FCCLA.
2. Identify the membership dues structure, and describe benefits of being an FCCLA member.
3. Define leadership, and identify opportunities for leadership within the FCCLA organization.

## Key Terms:



benefits  
dues  
FCCLA  
leadership  
member

## FCCLA Membership

**FCCLA** is an initialism for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. It is a national career and technical education organization for middle-school through twelfth-grade students in Family & Consumer Sciences at either public or private schools.

To become a member, a student must have already taken or be currently enrolled in a Family & Consumer Sciences class. A **member** is a person who belongs to an organization or group. FCCLA has a national membership of more than 225,000 young men and women in nearly 7,000 chapters. State associations comprise the 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.



**FIGURE 1.** Members network from local, state, and national levels of FCCLA to meet people, develop leadership skills, and experience travel opportunities.

## FCCLA Dues and Membership Benefits

**Dues** are a fee or charge for membership in an organization or club. A student pays dues each year to be a member of an FCCLA chapter. Currently dues are \$9 for national membership and \$5 for state membership, for a total of \$14.

Dues are collected by the school or chapter organization. Each dues-paying member receives a membership card; a subscription to the national FCCLA magazine, *Teen Times*; and the opportunity to participate in all national and state competitions and meetings.

A **benefit** is an advantage. FCCLA offers members many benefits:

- ◆ *The opportunity to make new friends*—With chapters all over the country, members are part of a national network of young people.
- ◆ *Career preparation*—Through competitive events and national programs that focus on careers, members can expand their career knowledge and aspirations.
- ◆ *Travel opportunities*—Students have the opportunity to travel within their states and across the country to various workshops and meetings.
- ◆ *Help in learning to set goals and carry out projects*—Setting goals and carrying out projects are part of what FCCLA is all about. From Community Service projects to competitive events, members set goals and then work hard to achieve them.
- ◆ *Personal growth and enhanced self-esteem*—Individuals experience personal growth and have better self-esteem by helping others. FCCLA Community Service projects not only help the community, but they also help the individuals who carry them out.
- ◆ *Positive contact between youth and adults*—Although FCCLA is a youth-led organization, students have the privilege of working with adult advisors in their schools and communities.
- ◆ *Increased public speaking skills*—Whether it is through an FCCLA public speaking competitive event or through communication with people in a community to carry out a service project, students improve their communication skills.



## BROADENING AWARENESS...

### AMAZING ASPECTS: History and Organization of FCCLA

The name Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) was adopted in 1999. The original organization began in Chicago in 1945 as Future Homemakers of America (FHA). In 1965 FHA merged with Home Economics Related Occupations (HERO) to become FHA/HERO.

For many years the organization debated another name change to reflect its changing mission toward a more career-oriented program. The name became Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) in 1999 at the National Leadership Meeting in Boston. Before the name change, several state chapters broke ranks with the national organization, wanting to reflect the new mission and focus of the organization.

An executive director heads a national staff that directs financial management, membership services, communication, and program direction. Student membership dues are the primary source of income for FCCLA. Individuals, corporations, and foundations also contribute funding. The U.S. Department of Education and the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences endorse FCCLA.

- ◆ *Scholarship awards*—There are many FCCLA scholarship awards available. State and national FCCLA websites should be consulted for details.
- ◆ *Leadership experience*—Each member determines which benefits he or she wants to take advantage of.

## Leadership Opportunities Available Through FCCLA

**Leadership** is the position or function of a leader. It is the ability to guide or direct others. FCCLA members learn leadership by participating in projects their chapters conduct. Committee chairpersons or team leaders often carry out Community Service projects or fund-raising activities. Committee or team members are encouraged to offer personal ideas and contribute to group projects.

Students hold leadership positions. Each school elects the officers of the chapter. During an annual meeting of the state association, state officers are elected from local chapters. From the state FCCLA association, national representatives are elected.

At the annual National Leadership Meeting, 10 students are elected by delegates to make up the National Executive Council.

FCCLA leaders should have a positive attitude and must work closely with everyone in the chapter to achieve their goals. Leaders must respect the opinions of others and stay informed about what is going on within the organization.

## Summary:



FCCLA is a national career and technical education organization for middle-school through twelfth-grade students in Family & Consumer Sciences at either public or private schools. Each dues-paying member receives a membership card; a subscription to the national FCCLA magazine, *Teen Times*; and the opportunity to participate in all national and state competitions and meetings.

FCCLA members learn leadership by participating in Community Service projects and fund-raising activities their chapters conduct. Committee or team members are encouraged to offer personal ideas and contribute to group projects. There are FCCLA college scholarship awards available.

Students learn leadership. Each school elects chapter officers. Chapter officers attend an annual meeting of the state association, where state officers are elected to represent their state at the national level.

Ten students are elected by delegates at the annual National Leadership Meeting to make up the National Executive Council.

## Checking Your Knowledge:



1. What is FCCLA, and who composes its membership?
2. Where is FCCLA located; and, nationally, how many people participate?
3. Name five potential benefits a member of FCCLA can receive.
4. Through what activities can FCCLA help develop leadership?
5. Who composes the National Executive Council of FCCLA?

## Expanding Your Knowledge:



Does your school have an FCCLA chapter? Are you enrolled in any qualifying courses? Find a copy of *Teen Times* to learn how FCCLA can advance your career aspirations.

To grasp what a major organization FCCLA is, visit <http://www.fccla-store.com/default.aspx?p=viewcat&showpage=10>.

## Web Links:



### FCCLA State Awards

<http://www.niles-hs.k12.il.us/announcements/fccla-state-awards>

### Join FCCLA: The Ultimate Leadership Experience!

<http://www.fcclainc.org/content/join-fccla/>

### Illinois Association of FCCLA

<http://www.ilfccla.org/>