

FCCLA: Facts and National Programs

FAMILY, CAREER AND COMMUNITY LEADERS OF AMERICA (FCCLA) is the only student organization in the United States that has family as its main focus. Students in middle school through grade 12 who have been or are enrolled in Family & Consumer Sciences courses at public or private schools compose the membership. Local chapters, state organizations, and a national board provide programs that offer students opportunities for development and leadership. The national headquarters is in Reston, Virginia.



Objectives:



1. Identify various facts about the FCCLA organization.
2. Describe the different national FCCLA programs.

Key Terms:



FACTS
FCCLA
leadership
STAR Events
STOP

The FCCLA Organization

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. FCCLA is a youth organization that focuses on issues that affect families, schools, careers, and communities.

The organization emphasizes **leadership**, the position or function of a leader. It does so by providing students the opportunity to plan and carry out projects and activities.

The organization was founded in 1945 in Chicago and was called Future Homemakers of America (FHA). FHA merged in 1965 with Home Economics Related Occupations (HERO) to become FHA/HERO. In 1999, to reflect the organization's changing mission toward a more career-oriented program, the name was changed to Family, Career and Community Leaders of America.

Since the organization's beginning, members have been making a difference in their families, careers, and communities by addressing important personal, work, and societal issues



FIGURE 1. FCCLA members learn skills of working together within the organization and train for future careers and lifestyles.



DIGGING DEEPER...

UNCOVERING ADDITIONAL FACTS: FCCLA Programs

The Career Connection program guides students to link personal interests, skills, and goals to career choices and to understand the need for education and leadership in the work world. Segments of the program concentrate on learning to find jobs and integrate the roles of family, career, and community.

The Community Service program helps students develop, plan, carry out, and evaluate projects that improve the quality of life in the community. Projects can be one-time or on-going events.

The Families First program offers five units to help students focus projects on family welfare. Projects help students understand and celebrate families, strengthen family relationships, overcome family obstacles together, manage family and career responsibilities, and learn to nurture children.



FCCLA's Community Service program helps students develop, plan, carry out, and evaluate projects that improve the quality of life in the community.

through Family & Consumer Sciences education. Three of the best-known national FCCLA programs are FACTS, STOP, and STAR Events.

FACTS is an acronym for Families Acting for Community Traffic Safety. This program allows students to plan and carry out projects that advocate sober driving, seatbelt use, and safe driving habits. Through this program, students learn the necessity of traffic safety.

STOP is an acronym for Students Taking On Prevention. This program empowers students to recognize, report, and reduce the potential for youth violence. Students are encouraged to reach their peers through violence prevention education.

STAR Events are competitive events in which members are recognized for proficiency and achievement in chapter and individual projects, leadership skills, and occupational preparation. STAR is an acronym for Students Taking Action with Recognition. STAR Events offer individual skill development and help students apply what they are learning to real-life projects.

National FCCLA Programs

FCCLA offers a variety of programs that allow students to make a difference in their families, careers, and communities. These programs give members the satisfaction of knowing they have made a positive impact on society and can provide them with recognition for their accomplishments.

◆ Career Connection



DIGGING DEEPER...

UNCOVERING ADDITIONAL FACTS: More FCCLA Programs

The Financial Fitness program inspires teens to hone their knowledge about money management, consumerism, and financial planning. Teens who learn to manage money well, as adults, manage money wisely to build better lives for themselves and their families. This, in turn, will help strengthen the economy.

The Japanese Exchange is a scholarship program that awards members four- to six-week trips to Japan. The premise of the Japanese Exchange is to promote international understanding by experiencing the lives of another country's people and enhancing awareness of international issues.

Leaders at Work is a program that recognizes FCCLA members' leadership skills in on-the-job projects and motivates students to work for career success. Skills are taught in six career units: Early Childhood Education and Services; Food Production and Services; Hospitality, Tourism, and Recreation; Housing, Interiors, and Furnishings; Textiles and Apparel; and Family & Consumer Sciences Education.

Power of One units help students find and utilize their personal power. Members set goals, work to achieve them, and enjoy their success. Appreciating the Power of One helps members in school, with family and friends, in college experiences, and on the job.

- ◆ Community Service
- ◆ Dynamic Leadership
- ◆ FACTS—Families Acting for Community Traffic Safety
- ◆ Families First
- ◆ Financial Fitness
- ◆ Japanese Exchange
- ◆ Leaders at Work
- ◆ Power of One
- ◆ STAR Events—Students Taking Action with Recognition
- ◆ STOP the Violence—Student Taking On Prevention
- ◆ Student Body

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. The organization emphasizes leadership by providing students the opportunity to plan and carry out projects and activities that focus on families, schools, careers, and community issues.

Three of the best-known national FCCLA programs are FACTS, a program that promotes traffic safety; STOP, a program that empowers students to recognize, report, and reduce the potential for youth violence; and STAR Events, competitive events in which individual skill development helps students apply what they are learning to real-life projects. FCCLA offers a variety of programs that give members the satisfaction of knowing they have made a positive impact on society and recognition for their accomplishments.

Checking Your Knowledge:



1. Who makes up the membership of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America?
2. Name the four areas in which FCCLA focuses on issues.
3. How is leadership encouraged by FCCLA?
4. Explain the FCCLA programs called FACTS, STOP, and STAR Events.
5. How does FCCLA help students achieve satisfaction from making a positive impact on society?

Expanding Your Knowledge:



FCCLA is a great source of financial aid for college. Scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study programs are offered to FCCLA members. For more information, visit http://www.classesandcareers.com/schooldegrees/formcms/one-up-scholarships-2.php?42=carat&CACP=ov.edu_c.se_s.gg2_m.opmclgsch_seg.sn_a.Scholarship%3A_College_Scholarship_ai.20945694030_1.l-f-1usch2_k.%2Bcollege+%2Bscholarship_mt.b_apst.1t1_mng.opm&init=1&step=1

Web Links:



FCCLA: The Ultimate Leadership Experience

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

FCCLA National Leadership Conference

<http://www.fcclainc.org/content/2014-national-leadership-conference/>

Students Win Awards at National Conference

<http://www.fairfield-sun.com/14709/students-win-awards-at-national-conference/>