

**What: FCCLA National Leadership Conference**

**Where: Orange County Convention Center West Concourse (9800 International Drive Orlando, FL 32819)**

**When: Saturday, July 5 – Wednesday, July 9, 2025**

The Clarinda FCCLA (Family, Community, Career Leaders of America) chapter has five students that have earned their way to the National FCCLA conference to compete. Nicole Thummel the Clarinda FCCLA advisor will be taking the five girls to the national conference this summer. This year Taylor Rasmussen, Allie Harris, Tobi Sunderman, Maggie Carlson, and Jillian Dammann have earned the privilege to compete in STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) Events, a national competition held by FCCLA. They competed at the state of Iowa FCCLA conference and won first place in their respective categories (Nutrition & Wellness, Professional Presentation, and Early Childhood Education, also Tobi & Allie competed in an online STAR event which went through preliminary rounds at Nationals, and they are in the Top 20 in the nation), which earned them the right to compete at the National FCCLA conference. The girls want to attend nationals to showcase their hard-work and to represent the state of Iowa, the Clarinda community, and their fellow FCCLA members. This year the national competition will be held in Orlando, Florida, from July 5<sup>th</sup> through July 9<sup>th</sup>. The ladies will have the opportunity to meet over 8,000 students from across the United States, compete against other FCCLA members, attend workshops, listen to speakers, tour Orlando, and develop leadership skills.

### **Itinerary rough draft:**

#### **Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup> – Travel Day (flight) and conference check-in & General Session.**

The national conference will be held July 5-9, however, due to the girls competing we MUST arrive by July 5<sup>th</sup>. The Star Event guidelines state that we must be checked into the conference registration table NO LATER than 6PM on July 5<sup>th</sup>. – This will allow us time to make it to Orlando without being rushed or if there are flight delays.

- General Session – 6PM- 8PM (doors open at 5:15PM), this session will include Welcome, Award presentations, and Keynote Speaker.
- State Meetings – 8:30PM –9:30PM

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER - Alton Fitzgerald White**

The unparalleled star who captivated audiences with a staggering 4,308 performances as the majestic King Mufasa in Disney's iconic production, The Lion King on Broadway, has now embraced the roles of author and sought-after keynote speaker, adding even more prestige to his already impressive repertoire. His book, "My Pride: Mastering Life's Challenge Daily Performance," an awe inspiring biography published by Disney Editions, has taken the literary world by storm, earning nominations for numerous prestigious national book awards. This remarkable tale offers profound insights and invaluable secrets to finding fulfillment and joy in both work and life.

### **Sunday, July 6th – STAR Event Competitions: Site Seeing, State Meetings, RED Talks**

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, FCCLA Chapter Website (Allie and Tobi) and Professional Presentation (Maggie) will be competing at some point during the day. The Expo will be taking place from 8AM -4PM, and RED talks and Youth Workshops will run from 9:15AM to 4PM. The conference center will be holding an EXPO (free stuff!) that students will be able to walk through and collect free items as well as talk to colleges. Workshops and RED talks will also be happening throughout the day. RED Talks are 15-minute sessions led by FCCLA members, advisers, exhibitors and partners – topics will vary. State Meetings will also be from 4PM – 4:45PM. The evening is open for Dinner, Sightseeing, and Parks!

### **Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup> – Star Event Competition, Advisor Professional Development, RED Talks, EXPO, Youth Workshops, Site-seeing/tours**

Monday things will start to pick up. The business meeting starts at 10AM, Star Event competition will start around 9AM. Early Childhood Education (Jillian) and Nutrition & Wellness (Taylor) will compete in Star Events sometime during the day. The Expo, Red Talks, Youth Workshops, FCCLA Store happening. Member recognition session will start around 5:30pm-7:00PM and will be celebrating skill demonstrations, knowledge bowl finals, and recognize members going into FCS education to become an FCS teacher! Finally, the day is over around 7 PM with the ability to site-see and tour local attractions.

## **Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> – Fun Day (Sea World, Trolley Rides, sightseeing, Disney? and UNIVERSAL NIGHT!!)**

This will be the day that we get to explore and prior to going we will discuss what the day will look like. The evening (5PM-11:30PM) will be at Universal Studios for the special FCCLA night.

## **Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> – Travel Day**

The last day of conference is July 9<sup>th</sup> and the last event ends at 10:30 PM, however, we will leave for the hotel by 11AM. In the past the Iowa delegates that stay the whole time have brought back our awards for us. It is disappointing but if we stayed, we would need another night of hotel and food expense. – The final meeting is just for awards. Also, the 2:30PM flight is the only nonstop flight back to Omaha!

## **Trip Costs & Fundraising**

This is a once in a lifetime trip... the only drawback is trips are EXPENSIVE! After conversations with the Clarinda Community School District administrators, it has been determined that National events is above and beyond the financial support of the school district. As a result, the Clarinda FCCLA chapter may use their own earned funds to help pay for the national trip. Clarinda FCCLA chapter does have funds to help support our FCCLA members in attending the national conference. The FCCLA account is not solely for national conference but also local activities and state conference, and as a result we will need to fundraise. Below are a couple of fundraisers that I feel will be easy for the girls to complete while giving us the biggest bang for our time/time constraints.

### **Generous Financial Donations:**

- A community member has generously donated the cost of the FCCLA members hotel rooms during their stay in Orlando - \$1,700!
- The Clarinda FCCLA chapter is donating money to cover the registration and STAR Event fees totaling \$1,125.
- There are Perkins funds available to help pay for airfare (\$1, 000). **Each girl**

**needs to fundraise at least \$1,200.**

- **Mrs. Thummel's conference registration, travel (flight), and hotel expenses are not included; however, RPP funds could be used to help cover the flights and registration costs. Total cost: \$1,608.55 (Flights/Registration total = \$794.96)**

**Fundraising Ideas (fast and efficient)**

1. Community business sponsorships (reach out to local banks and businesses asking for a donation) – **Wrote a sponsorship letter and the girls will deliver/talk to the businesses in person.**
2. Calendar Sponsorship – Students will ask for people to sponsor a day in May. The sponsor will pay the day (example May 5<sup>th</sup> = \$5) then we will post on social media as a thank you and highlight their sponsorship. – **Girls are currently completing.**
3. Can Redemption: Girls and Mrs. Thummel are currently collecting pop cans to redeem through the FCCLA Droppett account the school has set up for us.
4. The national qualifiers are working two track meets for the Booster Club which has agreed to pay each girl \$200 x 5 = \$1,000.
5. Cookie Drawing: The Clarinda FCCLA Chapter is excited to partner with Katie Branson, the owner and founder of Take-The-Cake and Cookies LLC, in a special fundraising event. Katie's business, originally based in Shenandoah, Iowa, has provided beautifully decorated cakes, cupcakes, and cookies to the Southwest Iowa area for many years. A few years ago, Katie expanded her business to Branson, Missouri, where she has continued to grow her customer base while maintaining strong relationships with her larger clients in Southwest Iowa. As part of this collaboration, Katie has graciously offered to host a drawing, where one lucky winner will have the opportunity to choose two dozen cookies with a design of their choice. This package retails for over \$60!! The winner will receive their prize delivered within their choice of one of the following months: June, September, or December. To enter participants must purchase entries to be entered to win. \$10 for 1 entry, and every \$5 extra donated equals another entry. After every \$500 dollars raised, we will draw another winner! All checks can be made payable to Clarinda FCCLA. Cash entries are accepted as well! Venmo Katie for entries also accepted! The drawing

will begin on April 10th and the winner will be drawn on May 12th. Don't miss out on this chance to enjoy a delicious and beautifully decorated treat while supporting a great cause!

- All money made through fundraising will then be applied to the girl's balance total - \$1,200 per girl x 5 = \$6,000. Whatever is left by June 14<sup>th</sup> will be divided among the girls to be paid in full.