

Coach talking points



LifeSmarts
Learn it. Live it.

LifeSmarts uses an engaging format to teach teenagers the skills they need.

- LifeSmarts covers many subjects that teenagers need to learn: personal finance, consumer rights, health and safety, environmental issues, and technology.
- Teens are faced with issues that require a wide curriculum. For example, a teen is buying her first computer. There are so many things she should know before buying: comparison shopping, warranties, credit and financing, energy efficiency, understanding technical specifications, staying safe online, etc. LifeSmarts covers all of these subjects.
- LifeSmarts competitions present this content in a fun, engaging format that teens enjoy.
- LifeSmarts also allows students to develop leadership, communication, and teamwork skills.
- Community service projects award scholarships and help students meet school requirements, add to their resumes, and boost college applications.

LifeSmarts is an all-in-one package, it's a "program in a box".

- LifeSmarts is "plug and play": download the materials you want and you're ready to go.
- LifeSmarts is Common Core compliant. We've already provided lesson plans for many of our education activities, saving you time and effort.
- Most of the program is conducted online, meaning any number of students can participate in the program. You can track all of your students' progress from your coach's account.
- Support is at your fingertips! State coordinators and national staff are ready to answer any questions you may have about starting a team.

You can use LifeSmarts resources without competing, but it's a lot of fun!

- There is no limit to the number of online players a coach may have, making it ideal for entire classrooms. The minimum number of players needed to form a team is four.
- The top-scoring teams are invited to the in-person state competition. If your team qualifies, you decide which students will form the four- or five-player live competition team.
- The questions, rules, and format for the competition are already provided and available on our website. Local coordinators determine state-specific details, such as date & location.

LifeSmarts is free to play.

- Students and coaches can participate in the LifeSmarts program for free (though teams may have to cover travel expenses to in-person events).
- All of our educational resources can be accessed once you've signed up as a coach.
- There are no registration fees for in-person competitions.
- Expenses to attend state competitions are minimal (like a school bus, meals, etc.)
- Teams attending the National LifeSmarts Championship may have to fund-raise (for airfare or accommodations), but most teams receive some financial support. Many state coordinators provide travel assistance to their winning teams, and national travel stipends may be awarded as well.

Everybody loves LifeSmarts!

- LifeSmarts is a fun, fast-paced program that students enjoy.
- Coaches have found it to be an effective learning tool both in their classrooms and as an extracurricular activity.
- Volunteers routinely come back year after year to participate in the program.

LifeSmarts promotes creativity, collaboration, and confidence.

- Not only can you use LifeSmarts in your classroom, it's an easy way to collaborate with other educators. Our reality-based content covers many bases: business, technology, family and consumer sciences, finance, life skills, science, civics, etc.
- LifeSmarts teams come from a wide variety of backgrounds and organizations. Successful teams have come from public, private, and alternative schools, homeschool groups, 4-H clubs, FBLA and FCCLA chapters, and Boys & Girls Clubs.
- LifeSmarts is not just for the "A" students – educators often tell us that they use the program successfully with underperforming students who need extra motivation. They tell us success stories of students grabbing hold of LifeSmarts and shining – also reinforcing and boosting their overall school performance. The success stories are as constant and as varied as the participants themselves.
- LifeSmarts gives businesses, advocacy groups, and government agencies a chance to interact directly with students. It also provides an opportunity for these groups to network, build new connections, and showcase their company or organization for consumer savvy youth and educators.

LifeSmarts is flexible and all-inclusive.

- Every classroom has its own needs, resources, and educational climate. As an educator, you can run the program so that it best fits your situation.
- The more you and your students put into LifeSmarts, the more you'll get from it. Successful teams study frequently and regularly practice in the weeks and months before competition.
- The strategies you learn from us can go beyond LifeSmarts. You can use them with other lessons and content you're teaching.

How do we get started?

- Register online as a coach.
- Form a LifeSmarts team online.
- Have students register and join your team.
- Select one student to captain each team.
- Stay in touch with your state coordinator about upcoming events.
- Use online resources to prepare for competition.
- Take monthly TeamSmarts quizzes.
- With some hard work, your team might qualify for state or national competition!

