



LifeSmarts

Learn it. Live it.

January 5, 2016

Dear LifeSmarts Coach:

Congratulations on your team's victory in the state LifeSmarts competition! You and your team are invited to participate in the National LifeSmarts Championship April 9-12, 2016, in Denver, Colorado. We expect to have strong competition and a lot of fun.

LifeSmarts is a fun educational event in which everyone learns, expands their experiences and opportunities, meets new friends, and explores a new area of the country. As a coach you play an important role to ensure that your team members enjoy and benefit from the experience. This packet of information will help you prepare for the national event. Please read everything carefully. If you have questions, please let us know.

Conference Calls for Coaches:

Prior to the national competition we will host two conference calls to answer questions for coaches. The same information will be covered, so plan to join us for one of the calls. For both calls dial 1-888-346-3659, and the pass code is 40175#. Dates for the calls are:

- Wednesday, March 16, at 5:00 p.m. EST
- Tuesday, March 22, at 3:00 p.m. EST

Items included in this packet:

Action Items	Page	Deadline
Review National Information and Draft Agenda	3 – 9	Now
Complete online Team Registration for Nationals	2	March 11
Make Hotel Reservation	3	March 18
Join Coach Conference Call	1	March 16 or 22
Review Safety Smart project; apply for travel stipend and scholarships	10	March 31
Create and post the team's LifeSmarts video	11-13	March 2; March 14

Good luck as you prepare for the 2016 National LifeSmarts Championship. We look forward to welcoming you to Colorado!

Lisa Hertzberg
Program Director, LifeSmarts
651-699-3650
lisah@nclnet.org



LifeSmarts

Learn it. Live it.

Team Registration:

You must complete the online registration form for the 2016 National LifeSmarts Championship to insure your team's place at the competition. The deadline is March 11, 2016.

Please visit <http://lifesmarts.org/national-lifesmarts-championship-2016/nlsc-team/> to register yourself and your team.

You will be unable to return to the online registration form, so please have the following information ready to complete your registration:

- Your complete contact information, including cell phone number and email address
- Complete contact information for the team's assistant coach, including cell phone number and email address
- Complete contact information for the school or organization your team represents
- Correctly spelled names of all players
- Contact name and phone number of a guardian for all players
- Which topic assessment each player will take at Nationals
- Hotel reservation numbers
- Special accommodations and dietary needs request
- Tuesday awards luncheon preference for quests traveling with your team

Please collect all of this information and have it ready prior to registration.

Registration must be completed by March 11, 2016.



LifeSmarts

Learn it. Live it.

Denver, Colorado **April 9-12, 2016**

Information about the National LifeSmarts Championship

Dates of the National LifeSmarts Competition:

Saturday, April 9 – Tuesday, April 12, 2016

When to Arrive:

A mandatory coaches and captains meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. Plan to arrive with ample time to register and get to this meeting.

When to Depart:

Players must attend the awards luncheon on Tuesday to receive their prizes and awards. The awards banquet will be over by 1:00 p.m. Plan your travel accordingly.

Hotel Reservations:

All teams should stay at **the Embassy Suites Denver – Downtown Convention Center**. All competitions and LifeSmarts activities will take place at the Hotel.

Embassy Suites Denver – Downtown Convention Center

1420 Stout Street
Denver, CO 80202

Reservations:

Visit: http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/D/DENESES-NCL-20160407/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG to make reservations online.

Or you may call **1-800-HILTONS** toll-free or **303-592-1000** hotel direct to book and reference **NCL**

Room Rates:

The room rates are: \$169 plus applicable taxes (currently 14.75%) for Single/Double rooms and \$184 for Triple rooms and \$199 for Quad rooms. All rooms are suites this year! They also include a hot buffet breakfast every morning and evening reception with lite snacks.

The hotel cut-off date for our group rate is 5 pm MTN on March 18, 2016 – please make your reservation before that date. We suggest that coaches ask for rooms in close proximity to their team members.

Travel Arrangements:

Each team is responsible for making its own travel arrangements. Your state coordinator may be able to assist you with this.

Transportation:

Denver International Airport (DEN) offers direct flights to most major cities around North America.

Delta has offered our group a discount code. Enter code: NMMT8. Book online at www.delta.com to receive 2-10% off (depending on the type of fare).

Ground Transportation Options:

1. **Taxi Cabs:** Approximately \$40.00 one way
 - a. Available on the third floor of the Airport Parking Garage. Sedans and large vans are available.
 - b. Call [\(206\) 622-6500](tel:2066226500), or use the curbside phones on Baggage Claim Level.
2. **Airport Shuttles:**
 - a. **Super Shuttle**
<http://www.supershuttle.com/Locations/DenverDEN>
Shuttle- \$40 round trip per person (fits 10 people)
SUV- \$80 one way per car (fits 6)
Sedans- \$70 one way per car (fits 4)
They also run a yellow cab that is a flat \$51 from the airport to downtown
 - b. **ABC Shuttle**
www.ABCshuttle.com
Under the “Convention Groups” enter code LS to reserve a shuttle with the discounts:
1 Passenger \$19 one-way/\$38 round-trip
2 Passengers \$38 one-way/\$76 round-trip
3-4 Passengers \$52 one-way/ \$104 round-trip
5-6 Passengers \$65 one-way/ \$130 round-trip
7-10 Passengers \$89 one-way/ \$178 round-trip
 - c. **CFC Ride**
<http://www.cfcride.com/>
Luxury SUVs \$18.00 per person one way or \$36.00 per person round trip

Parking:

For those driving to the hotel, parking is \$15.00 for 0-4 hours; \$22.00 for 4-8 hours; and \$37.00 for 8+ Hours or Overnight

Coach’s Responsibilities:

Each team member must be under the supervision of an adult coach at all times. The coach is considered the official chaperone of the team and any guests under the age of 18, and is also responsible for overseeing the behavior and activities of the team members. Coaches are role models for the team.

Teams:

The teams are comprised of the registered players and coaches that participated in their state competitions. Substitutions of new players are not permitted. Four team members must be available to play at all times.

Captains:

The captain of each team will be considered the team leader and spokesperson. The captain will be assigned special leadership duties and is responsible for getting the team to all events on time. The captain's role will be discussed at the coaches and captains meeting on Saturday.

Competition Format:

Each team has an equal opportunity to advance to the semi-finals and finals on Tuesday morning. All teams will compete seven times (three head-to-head matches and four written assessments or team activities) and team scores will be cumulative through competition mid-morning Monday. The top 16 teams will advance to the round of 16 and once teams reach the round of 16 they must win to advance. The competition format will also be explained in further detail during the coach calls (see details on Page 1), and during the coach and captain meeting at orientation. See Page 9 for more information.

Remember – your team represents the entire state, not just your school or organization. Come prepared to participate at this level.

Review of Rules:

During the coach and captain meeting you will have the opportunity to ask for clarification about rules or procedures. The League reserves the right to change the rules at the national event.

Rulings of Officials:

Students will have a limited opportunity to challenge open-ended questions using challenge procedures at nationals. Our officials are experts in consumer-related fields, and volunteer their time to serve as officials at the national event.

Attendance:

All competitors and coaches are expected to attend all competitions and scheduled events. Each team member and coach will sign a commitment form to do so upon arrival. Failure to attend any competition or event will result in disqualification of the entire team and forfeiture of all prizes, awards and recognition.

Timing:

Please see the draft agenda attached to this memo. A final agenda will be distributed at registration. All events and competitions will begin as scheduled. Failure to be on time may be grounds for disqualification.

Meals:

All meals listed on the agenda are included and free of charge for you and your team. These include: dinner Saturday evening, lunch on Sunday, and lunch on Tuesday. In addition, a free full hot breakfast buffet is included in the cost of your hotel room each day.

Monday Activities:

On Monday afternoon LifeSmarts participants are invited to attend a fun activity in Denver. Further information will be distributed to coaches in March.

Team Photos:

Team photos will be taken. Teams are asked to follow the schedule that will be provided. You may bring props that represent your state or school to use for the team photos.

Sister Teams:

Each team will be assigned a “sister” team to enhance mingling and cooperation among the teams. Please bring simple gift items for the members of your sister team. The gifts should be a reminder of your team and your state and should be very inexpensive (or free) items. Spend time on creativity rather than spending money. The gifts will be presented to your sister team at dinner on Saturday night.

Team T-shirt Contest:

This competition is optional. Teams that wish to enter the contest should prepare T-shirts that include the LifeSmarts name and logo and whatever else they wish that is related to the competition. Please, no corporate logos on the T-shirts. Teams are asked to bring one shirt that may be given to the judges. Judging will be done during the event.

Team Shirt Competition Criteria:

- The team shirts should:
 - Show artistic talent
 - Say “LifeSmarts” and demonstrates LifeSmarts in some way
 - Use original artwork
 - Be a prototype for future national LifeSmarts t-shirt designs (some alterations may be necessary for those shirts including a state name)
- When you register, your team members will be asked to complete a form answering the following questions:
 - How was the design developed?
 - How does the design demonstrate “LifeSmarts”?
 - What do they feel is most important about their design?

- In addition all participants will be asked to vote for their favorite T-shirt and there will be a “People’s Choice” award.

Other Teams:

After all state competitions are complete, a list of other teams and their members will be provided to you. This may help if you wish to contact another coach regarding sharing rooms.

Tell Us About Your Team:

NCL is inviting captains to submit a team photo and brief 1-2 paragraph article about their team for the LifeSmarts Web site and Facebook page. We enjoy getting to know teams better before meeting at Nationals!

Be creative! Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Describe the competition – how difficult were the questions? Were there any nail-biting moments? How did you prepare?
- Have you been to state (or nationals) before? Any returning teammates?
- Tell us about your coach or how your team was formed. Are you affiliated with a school?
- Any fun stories about preparing for competition, or fundraising for nationals?
- Why did you get involved with LifeSmarts?
- What are you most looking forward to doing in Denver?
- What’s the best thing you’ve learned so far by competing in LifeSmarts?
- Can you tell us something interesting about your home state?

Captains should email photos and articles to Seth Woods at sethw@nclnet.org. Please include your state, the date and location of your state competition, and tell us a little about your state coordinator.

Behavior:

LifeSmarts is a great program because each person does his or her part to make it fun, safe and educational. Each participant is expected to be on his or her best behavior at all times. The League reserves the right to remove a player or participant at any point in the program for inappropriate behavior. The participant will be responsible for making their immediate arrangements to travel home at the participant’s expense and will forfeit prizes and awards.

Any damage to the hotel and/or surrounding environment by any participant or guest will be the responsibility of that individual. Coaches are responsible for checking the status of players’ sleeping rooms.

Safety and Travel Ideas:

Please review with your team proper behavior and safety when traveling. You may wish to cover such things as guarding your luggage, hotel safety, emergency exits, personal safety in a new environment, and curfews (if you plan to impose one), and other important consumer tips.



LifeSmarts

Learn it. Live it.

DRAFT AGENDA FOR NATIONALS 2016; As of January 4, 2016

March 2	Competition 1: LifeSmarts Video Challenge: Topics announced
March 14	Competition 1: LifeSmarts Video Challenge: Videos may be uploaded
Saturday, April 9	
Noon – 5:00 p.m.	Registration
Noon – 4:00 p.m.	Team Photos
4:00 p.m.	Coach and Captain Orientation
5:00 p.m.	Welcome Orientation
5:30 p.m.	Competition 2: Sister Team Activity
6:30 p.m.	Dinner with Sister Teams
7:30 p.m.	Internet Teams Orientation
8:15 p.m.	Student Advisory Board
9:00 p.m.	State Coordinator meeting
Sunday, April 10	
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Registration Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Coaches Meeting
9:00 a.m.	Competition 3: Individual Assessments
10:30 a.m.	Competition 4: Team Activity Speed Dating the Experts
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Competitions 5 and 6: Team Buzzer Rounds
Monday, April 11	
7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Registration Breakfast
8:15 a.m.	Competition 7: Team Buzzer Rounds
9:45 a.m.	Group Session, refreshment, view team videos
10:30 a.m.	Competition 8: Round of 16 or Last Smartie Standing
11:30	Quarterfinal Matches
12:15 p.m.	Orientation for Semi-Finalists
Afternoon	Fun activity
Tuesday, April 12	
7:15 a.m. – Noon	Registration Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Semi-final Competitions
10:30 a.m.	National LifeSmarts Championship
11:45	Awards Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Adjourn



LifeSmarts

Learn it. Live it.

The National LifeSmarts Championship Format

Goals:

- All teams compete at least eight times
- NCL conducts an engaging competition that is academically rigorous
- Individual students are recognized for high achievement

National Championship Format:

- *LifeSmarts Video Challenge*
 - Before nationals teams will create an educational video on a LifeSmarts topic
- *Sister Team Competition*
 - Sister teams collaborate on a consumer activity
- *Individual Assessments*
 - Team members work independently, with each team member taking a different LifeSmarts topic assessment
 - Students answer 100 questions in one hour plus a tie-breaker
 - Students may not repeat topics taken previously at nationals
 - Recognition will be given to the top-scoring student in each topic area
- *Team Activity Speed Dating the Experts*
 - Teams meet 10 experts, completing 10 short activities in 75 minutes
- *Live buzzer competitions*
 - All teams compete twice Sunday and at least once Monday
 - All matches are head-to-head
 - Sunday matches consist of team-plus and challenge questions
 - Monday matches consist of lightning and challenge questions
 - Round of 16 and quarterfinals consist of team-plus, lightning and challenge questions

- Team activities are added for the semifinal and final matches

- Last Smartie Standing
 - Teams not advancing to the Round of 16 compete in a fast-paced, spelling bee format for top honors and recognition

Other Enhancements:

- Point totals are cumulative through seven competitions
 - Top 16 teams advance to the Round of 16
 - Teams will be seeded
 - After reaching the Round of 16 teams must win to advance
- Teams may challenge answers
 - Once during each match a team may challenge a question and have it replaced with another question
 - New questions are open to the person(s) or team(s) that the original question was available to
- Multiple-choice questions are reserved for written assessments and will not be used in live competition
- Scholarships will be awarded to members of top teams
- Scholarships will be awarded to the student scoring the highest in each topic area
- Prizes will be awarded to the top students in the Last Smartie Standing activity
- Coaches may be nominated by their students for the LifeSmarts Coach of the Year award
- Coaches may nominate a student for the Student of the Year award
- Teams may nominate their State Coordinator for the Coordinator of the Year award

LifeSmarts Partners with UL's Safety Smart Ambassadors



LifeSmarts partners with Underwriters Laboratories (UL) to provide teens with a chance to focus on health and safety curriculum while giving back through community service.

We give you everything you need: the presentations, the lesson plans, the worksheets, and videos featuring Timon and Pumbaa from Disney's *The Lion King*. You take it from there – you get to present the fun, entertaining content to kids ages 4-10, and you can use it to fulfill community service requirements you may have.

Prizes, Scholarships and Travel Stipends

Special prizes, scholarships and travel stipends are available to teams that attend the 2016 National LifeSmarts Championship:

- Team members who conduct five or more Safety Smart presentations are eligible to earn a \$500 travel stipend for their team. *Twenty travel stipends available.*
- Students may earn \$1,000 scholarships for post-secondary education by submitting a PowerPoint documenting their experience presenting Safety Smart lessons. *Four scholarships awarded to students attending Nationals.*

Learn More

Attend a Webinar to learn more. Webinars will be offered in February and March. Emails will be sent to state champion coaches in advance to register.

All materials are available on the LifeSmarts Web site: <http://lifesmarts.org/safety-smart/> .

We will also answer your questions during coach calls.



LifeSmarts

Learn it. Live it.

Competition 1: LifeSmarts Video Challenge 2016

Teams attending the National LifeSmarts Championship will participate in their first competition before arriving on-site. Teams will produce a 1-minute educational video about a specific LifeSmarts topic, post it to YouTube, and then market the video to garner views. This activity is worth up to 100 points. This event challenges creativity, promotes teamwork, and requires use of the latest technologies. Teams will:

- Create a video about a specific LifeSmarts consumer topic
- Share the video with as many people as possible
- Promote their video online through social media using the #LifeSmarts hashtag

Scoring:

- 50% will be awarded by a panel of judges who evaluate the video for quality and content. The following rubric explains how judges will evaluate videos.
- 50% of your score will be based on your team's ability to promote and communicate. The more views the video receives, the higher your score.

Steps:

- Teams may not choose any topic they wish. The video must relate to one of the topics selected by the National LifeSmarts committee. We will announce the topics on March 2 through email and social media.
- Select your topic and create a 1-minute educational video by March 14.
- Create the video using whatever technology you have available; this includes cell phones, iPads, digital editing tools, and digital cameras. Purchasing equipment solely to complete this video should not be necessary.
- Use imagination and creativity to construct a memorable video with a valuable message for other teen consumers. As a team you are responsible for using content appropriate for all viewing ages.
- Release the video on YouTube for public viewing anytime after the "Release Date" of March 14.
- Promote the video to your friends, family, your community, and beyond. The team with the highest number of views will be awarded the most points.
- For scoring purposes, only the views from March 14 through March 31 will be recorded.

Additional Information:

- With the help of your coach, create a single YouTube account for your 2016 National Team. You should name the account in the following format: 2016LIFESMARTS-*YourStateName* . When uploading, teams should also tag the video “LifeSmarts.” LifeSmarts will link to your video on its YouTube channel, but you are responsible for posting your video.
- Promote the video using social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SMS, or WhatsApp to share the video with as many people as possible.
- We encourage you to use the following social media tags: #LifeSmarts and #LifeSmartsVideoChallenge.
- Inappropriate content such as profanity will result in disqualification. If in doubt, leave it out.
- Plagiarism is not allowed. Do not use music or other copyrighted materials without direct approval from the person or organization that holds the copyright. You will be asked to verify this approval.
- The LifeSmarts judging team purposely designed this activity to be open-ended. Use your imagination and creativity. The video can be anything from humorous to instructional or dramatic. Below are just a few examples that may be helpful:
 - <http://www.aba.com/Engagement/LCS/Pages/default.aspx/>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZLfZwY4L3s>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLjoWjCrDqg&feature=pyv&ad=3285746699&kw=fire%20safety>

Questions:

- If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Hertzberg at: lisah@nclnet.org