**February 5, 2020**

**Coordinator Call Minutes**

Staff: Lisa Hertzberg, Cheryl Varnadoe

Coordinators: Kyla- SC, Tammie- WI, Courtney- GA, Lance – ID, Mary - MI, Brittani – GA, Gloryana – HI, Theresa – HI

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Program Updates

* TeamSmarts – January was the final month for regular [TeamSmarts](http://www.lifesmarts.org/teamsmarts).  Congratulations to the January winners!
* Varsity: West Chicago 1, Chicago, IL
* Junior Varsity: Habersham County 4-H, Clarkesville, GA
* FBLA: Silex Owls, Silex, MO
* FCCLA: Clark FCCLA, Clark, SD
* 4-H: Oconee County 4-H Team A, Watkinsville, GA
* TeamSmarts – February Capstone Team Challenge - The February Capstone TeamSmarts Challenge quiz focuses on all five LifeSmarts topic categories and is open now through **February 29, 2020**. The quiz features topics that students have focused on this year in LifeSmarts, and offers a preview of hot topics we will cover at the National LifeSmarts Championship.
* Teams coming to Nationals will find this to be a great practice quiz!
* Promote this to all teams – those not attending nationals are invited to play along and we have prizes reserved just for those teams! Our final TeamSmarts awards for the year will go to teams playing from home and will be announced during the live stream of the National semifinals and finals on April 28. This is an **extra** chance for teams to win $100 for their school or organization's LifeSmarts team. Prizes will be awarded to the top-scoring Varsity, JV, 4-H, FBLA, and FCCLA teams who join us by competing during the month of February.
* Web updates
* 41,000 users on the web site this program year
* They have engaged in nearly 100,000 unique sessions
* They have viewed 700,000 pages on the web site
* The average user goes to about 8 pages per visit
* We have an ongoing list of things to get updated for next year

1. Update on Nationals
2. Volunteer – we need your help!
3. **Link to register:**<https://lifesmarts.org/nlsc2020volunteer/>
4. Who is able to join us this year?  Tammie McCarthy and Kay Johnson
5. Do you have any SWAG from your state or from businesses in your state to share with participants?
6. Updated information online: <https://lifesmarts.org/nationals-2020-team-information/>
7. State Champion memo was emailed to state coordinators yesterday and to all internet teams named state champions thus far.

* Team pre-competition(s) and requirements information included
* XPLORLABS mentoring and PSA creation
* Five $1,000 XPLORLABS scholarships to student mentors who write a blog post about their experience
* This opportunity is excusive to those students attending Nationals
* ITRC scholarship ($2,000 scholarship to one student; procedures outlined and online)
* Privacy scholarship (one student will win a $2,000 scholarship)
* This is open to everyone – a student does not need to attend Nationals to win
* See: <https://lifesmarts.org/hands-on-privacy/>
* Tour Washington, D.C.; teams are on their own and can explore all the great sights and museums that DC offers
* Team Trivia – we are shaking things up for teams not in the Sweet 16. This is an optional activity – they are invited to play a round of trivia and we have prizes to award. Share any ideas and resources you have.
* Other Nationals Details:
* On our call last month, we covered details on booking hotel rooms and the room rate. These are available in the coaches memo and also in the minutes from last months’ conference call if you need that information.
* The Monumental Memorandum will premiere March 2 as we countdown to the National LifeSmarts Championship. Coaches of all competing teams as well as State Coordinators will receive this via email.
* LifeSmarts Mastery Rule
* LifeSmarts has implemented a Mastery Rule which goes into effect with Nationals 2020. This rule states that: Student competitors who are members of a team that wins the National LifeSmarts Championship are ineligible to compete again in Varsity LifeSmarts on the state or national level. These outstanding students will be encouraged to stay involved in LifeSmarts as mentors, student coaches for their school or organization, members of the LifeSmarts Team Advisory Board, student assistants at the National LifeSmarts Championship, and active LifeSmarts alumni. LifeSmarts made this change, effective this program year, to encourage more teams and students to compete.
* Travel stipends – teams may earn $500 travel stipends by participating in LifeSmarts community service activities. There are additional details in the coach memo.
* What questions can we answer from the memo?

1. State Competitions – Everything seems to be going well, and we appreciate all you are doing as we qualify state champions to advance to Nationals!
2. Reminders: Many competitions occurring within next couple of weeks and ongoing through the first week in March.

* All participants at in-person competitions are required to complete a Participation Release Form.  This “Form Packet” is available at the one drive link for State Competitions. Please have coaches submit their forms directly to Cheryl via email or scan and forward signed forms to her when they are ready.
* The winner of your state competition does not need to submit a second permission slip unless there is a change (e.g. new team member sub, parent/guardian update, etc.).
* Please email us and share team names, coach name and email, any photos of your competition and of course the state champions!
* Please provide the Coaches Memo to the Varsity champion team

1. **Remember to email your coaches ahead of your qualification closing date to ensure teams finish on time.**
2. **In-person state competition materials still available in OneDrive.**Contact Cheryl **(**[cherylv@nclnet.org](mailto:cherylv@nclnet.org)) for assistance if you have trouble opening or accessing files. If you would like to make changes to anything, **rename the file after downloading it. Please keep materials private and don’t share with coaches, teams, etc.**
3. If weather interferes with an in-person state competition, the TeamSmarts quiz can be used to determine state champion.  Cheryl can assist you with setting that up if needed.
4. Questions?
5. Other LifeSmarts Opportunities

* UL XplorLabs Lithium Ion Button Battery Quest – We need your help in promoting to middle school teachers and audiences.
* Materials available at <https://lifesmarts.org/xplorlabs/>
* Two lessons – One consumer related and one STEM
* Competition questions from this material
* Competition 1 for Nationals
* Video PSA will be created by students with teams serving as mentors.
* Theme for us through the next year and beyond
* SWAG is available
* SarahWeinbergLifeSmartsMemorialScholarshipnominationsdueMarch13 - Nominate a stand-out graduating senior for the Sarah Weinberg LifeSmarts Memorial Scholarship. This $500 scholarship will be awarded to a LifeSmarts participant who demonstrates a commitment, like Sarah did, to volunteer service work. Scholarship applications are **due** **March** **13**. One $500 scholarship will be awarded. [Nominate a student here](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nclnet.org%2Fr%3Fu%3DKZcKWvJae7GB_0yOB0QncHEhTymEGElqyvdncwTke1i-8mROmaLOXB2wRo2QCjEhtooMz0psgkAcZeTozZ9vdyOTyfP3MuOZAiTOgpGsKAkBQ_fJTJN1PH_JATW6OqPU%26e%3D5c293ccf92ba54b3bf398958ece621d0%26utm_source%3Dncl%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Dfeb_2020_smartstart%26n%3D10&data=02%7C01%7Ccherylv%40nclnet.org%7C4e16c1d13d6746aa7c8b08d7a8d7245a%7C4e1d2f3fec00459892401b9071ab6582%7C1%7C0%7C637163514303329795&sdata=Bsv5Ixv24E3TaYtOTfJknp73cpXl76sDtqHDQIzQHhc%3D&reserved=0): <https://lifesmarts.org/sarah/sarah-weinberg-lifesmarts-memorial-scholarship-application/>

1. Other competition updates/ deadlines:

* **FBLA – Open until February 28** (Spring Challenge for opportunity to attend National FBLA/LifeSmarts competition this summer. 12 teams (2 members per team) will be chosen. Please email Lisa if you have any questions.  For details, visit:  <https://lifesmarts.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/FBLA-one-pager_19-20.pdf>
* **Wild Card Deadline for Varsity teams: March 1.** Visit [www.lifesmarts.org/wild-cards](http://www.lifesmarts.org/wild-cards) for additional details.
* **Wild Card update for 4-H, FCCLA, and FBLA teams:**We had 8 great entries. Judging is proceeding and winners will be announced soon.

1. State Programs:

* Coordinator share

1. Study resources that we should incorporate into LifeSmarts:

-Our teams currently like and use the Calendar, word of the day and practice tests, past years questions,

 -New Resources:  watch the news; study government websites like USAGOV, DCAA Handouts, etc.

### -If you think of new resources we should use, please share with us!

### - USA Today ****Grant**** LifeSmarts received a grant from *USA Today*, which provides digital access to the newspaper. This grant will provide you and your team access to current events that will show up as competition questions. To access visit:  <https://usatoday-va.newsmemory.com/charitablefoundation.php>**Publication: USA Today** **Username: 51404** **Password: usatoday**

1. Share updates from your state?  Website has been giving some teams a hard time. Thanks for helping our teams.  *If you have any problems, please let us know and we will get back to you asap.*

8. Next call info: **Next call is Wednesday, March 4 at 3:00 PM ET Dial-in number (US): 1-712-770-5505; Access code: 526017#**