**LifeSmarts Coordinator Conference Call** **Minutes – March 4, 2020**

State Coordinators Present: Kim (VA); Kyla (SC); Mary (MN); Theresa (HI);    
Staff Present: Lisa Hertzberg, Cheryl Varnadoe

Agenda Items:

1. Tell us about your state competitions!  We are excited to hear about your event!
2. VA competition was Feb. 14; a number of teams competing, and 50 volunteer officials, the first half of the day was cumulative scoring, and then after lunch teams moved to semifinals and finals. Finals consisted of the same two teams as last year. Econoponax won again this year and will represent Virginia.
3. Y’all team that placed second and received a wild card bid
4. Cheryl says thank you to Kim and Cherry for providing swag for Nationals
5. MN moved online in early February. One long-standing team won the online competition.
6. SC held competition online. A 4-H team got very excited about LifeSmarts and moved through all levels quickly; thrilled to have representation for SC this year and planning to get back to a live competition next year
7. HI was held in early Feb. And they are helping prepare their team. Concern is there around Coronavirus for her team and travel issues.
8. Second team made a successful wild card bid as well. Theresa has been in touch with the coach. Funding will be the biggest hurdle for this team.
9. DC was held Feb. 21 and we had a great day -- Bill was a pleasure to work with .. Excellent officials who have been invited to come to Nationals. McKinley Tech is the state champion. (Lisa reported)
10. Georgia held on President’s Day. Invited top four teams to compete in-person for both JV and Varsity. The winning JV team was sharp (look out, world!).  The Varsity winner this year was at Nationals last year as a wild card bid. (Cheryl reported)
11. Nationals

* 41 teams have been / will be invited.  (we know we may have 2 – 3 to decline)
* Wild Cards will be announced publicly next week once all have had a chance to accept.  Two varsity will receive travel stipends but three additional Wild Card teams were invited to compete as well.
* Lower number of applicants this year with easier process. However, quality was very high. Why do you think we had lower numbers? Share any input you have with us
* We are thinking of having them develop a game next year. If you have any ideas, let us know.
* Please share media coverage from your state if you have not already. Help us feature your state champs – keep sending your pictures, captions and articles.  Many articles and media links have already been shared on the LifeSmarts Facebook page. We plan to use each team photo this year on Facebook and Instagram as we lead up to Nationals. Photos due from coaches by March 18 but if you prefer to share a photo, please do.
* Nationals information is available here: <https://lifesmarts.org/nationals-2020-team-information/>  April 25-28
* We would love to have all of you there with us (Sign- up here: <https://lifesmarts.org/nlsc2020volunteer/>)
* We asked this last month but know more of you know your plans now. Who all is already registered to attend? Thank you for registering! If you have not, please do so as we have a tight deadline for meals also for rooms. Kyla, Kim, Theresa, Mary
* We are getting questions about the coronavirus.  (LISA) - We are monitoring the situation, but at this time have no plans to cancel Nationals. It is an unfortunate situation, and one that concerns us. We will monitor and make any adjustments as needed, but we are not close to making any calls on cancellation at this point.  We know this may be a difficult situation for teams and adult sponsors this year.  Keep us posted, too, as teams make their plans.  We are monitoring the situation daily. We have had people ask about a virtual competition and we will work on that if there is a need. We will err on the side of safety and take any necessary precautions.
* We would love to have individual hand sanitizers donated.  Any ideas?
* Coordinators meeting is during dinner at 6:30 pm on Saturday night. Grab your plate and join us. Room TBA. Go to front of line.
* We hope to have the VIP Reception from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. on Sunday evening. More TBA
* We will send details about the National event app soon; this will include the event schedule, roster, sister teams, etc.
* We need at least two volunteers to run the internet teams’ orientation at 7:45 p.m. Saturday, April 25th:  VOLUNTEERS? Kim volunteered
* Please stay in touch with your coach. Several deadlines are SOON so please remind them! You and your coach should be receiving our special Monumental Memorandum championship newsletter every Tuesday. One went out yesterday and included a detailed list of deadlines.
* Our registration deadline is March 18. This is VERY important. When coaches register they should be prepared with all the information so that they can complete the registration at one time; the information they need to gather is listed in the coach memo.  We know that some may not have their rooms by then so they can email me the reservations numbers when those are completed. Form directs them to do that.  If you are making reservations for your coach, please give them this information); this is so we can assist them with any hotel issues more easily/quickly
* Remind coaches to submit their Forms packet (Participation Release forms) to me via e-mail as soon as possible OR if you have them from your state in-person competition, please forward to me. They don’t have to do a duplicate. Thanks so much to all of you who have already sent these. Please do not mail or fax forms. EMAIL them, please, to Cheryl at [cherylv@nclnet.org](mailto:cherylv@nclnet.org)
* If they need to restart the registration process, contact us so we can delete their original registration – we cannot amend it once they leave the site
* The hotel cut-off deadline is also April 1.  Earlier reservations are encouraged.

If you or teams are arriving in D.C. outside of the peak nights (Thursday), or trying to stay over on Tuesday night, the rates/rooms cannot be guaranteed. If teams plan to book there for these nights, please do so very soon. They can also choose to stay elsewhere for those nights.

* Coach conference calls are set for, March 18 (5 p.m. Eastern) and March 24 (3 p.m.). Coaches only need to join one call – this is their best opportunity to hear updates, ask questions, find roommates if they need them, etc.
* They can also post roommate needs on the LifeSmarts Coaches Facebook page.
* Stipends are available for teams. See the details and deadlines in the Coaches memo (on our website at <https://lifesmarts.org/nationals-2020-team-information/>)
* Any of our community service projects are open to the teams:  UL, AARP Western Union and others.
* We have UL XPLORLABS scholarships to present – please encourage coaches to publicize this. Five $1,000 post-secondary scholarships will be won by students attending the National LifeSmarts Championship. To apply, interested students will write a blog post about their experience. (<https://lifesmarts.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/LifeSmarts-Competition-1-2020_FINAL.pdf>
* Other event highlights are a special themed dance, a STEM panel, Monday afternoon and early evening to explore our nation’s Capital, and of course, our  fantastic teams!
* New pin swap**:**Immediately following dinner on Saturday evening, the Pin Swap will provide time for exchanging pins, buttons, stickers, or anything representative of the teams’ state, school or organization. We have encouraged teams to look for free items that represent your state, their city or town, or their school or club. Local clubs, banks, businesses, state commodity commissions, Chambers of Commerce and state welcome centers may be able to help with swap items. It is also ok to  MAKE items to exchange. Please help your teams if you can!
* Do you have SWAG you would like to send for the contestant SWAG bags? We are looking for any amount and would welcome this. If you have something, please email Cheryl so that she can provide shipping information.
* Sister teams will be announced after the March 18 registration deadline.  Coaches always ask for ideas for sister team gifts? t-shirts, cups, state products
* Meals covered include: Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast and lunch, Monday breakfast and snack, Tuesday breakfast and awards luncheon.
* Remind teams to make nominations for Coach of the Year (comes from students) and Student of the Year (nominated by the Coach).  This is optional, but we really encourage nominations!   
  [Coach of the Year Nomination](http://lifesmarts.org/national-coach-of-the-year/)

[Student of the Year Nomination](http://lifesmarts.org/national-lifesmarts-student-of-the-year/)

* ITRC Hands on Privacy Workshop and Scholarship opportunity **-**<https://lifesmarts.org/hands-on-privacy/>; Students who have received the presentation are eligible to apply for a $2,000 privacy scholarship thanks to ITRC and its sponsor Synchrony. In addition, five runners-up will receive $100 gift cards. If  winner is present at nationals, the student will read part of their winning essay.    
  [https://lifesmarts.org/hands-on-privacy/](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flifesmarts.org%2Fhands-on-privacy%2F&data=02%7C01%7Ccherylv%40nclnet.org%7Cc5ab7427f0db4c18b26208d7c07f74de%7C4e1d2f3fec00459892401b9071ab6582%7C1%7C0%7C637189525955529634&sdata=bSK8RFYg1jjVK9BlG3EWoXR0FIn0Xv3Db4r7K5g%2FIkI%3D&reserved=0)
* Reminders about Competition 1 – Details are available at <https://lifesmarts.org/competition-1-2/>.  Competition one does not have to be taught in a formalized classroom.  It can be at a club meeting, in an after-school setting, at a Boys and Girls Club, the Y, a religious center, etc.
* TAB – Team Advisory Board – We have the group working on some assignments and providing input. They are a great group of students and coaches. They will help us at the dance – including theme and leading dances; presenting awards; leading trivia if they are not competing; with the pin swap; and help us at the TAB meeting.  Encourage students and coaches to attend the TAB meeting at National at 8:15 PM on Saturday evening. Not a huge time commitment during the year. We value their input and insight.

1. Ask coaches to 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**.  We currently have five applications but need more. Sarah’s family personally judges these applications.
2. End-of-Season LifeSmarts Surveys    
   Please share this with any LifeSmarts students, coaches and volunteers. Thanks so much!    
   End-of Season Survey: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R5MZCTQ   Due April 30.](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R5MZCTQ)

 5.   FBLA update

* Spring Challenge closed at the end of February
* 12 states had teams qualify, 70 teams qualified overall (more than 100 competed)
* 24 teams attend the National Leadership Conference to compete in LifeSmarts Challenge
* Add teams here if FBLA has approved announcement

6.   FCCLA First competition for National Leadership Conference LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl going on now. We have 17 teams attending their National Leadership Conference in DC this summer to compete in the LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl.

7.   Follow Us! Follow LifeSmarts on Social Media:

[Twitter](https://www.nclnet.org/r?u=YqgukYA3Mrlri-dqG7I8TvPHl0R78qReDU7EtzDkMaErmjsuj5FkrF0Y_7b1PXg1&e=5c293ccf92ba54b3bf398958ece621d0&utm_source=ncl&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=teachsmarts_mar5&n=11), [Instagram,](https://www.nclnet.org/r?u=6hyvAYXBs1PELL28GD73y6BxaGohSC94KAT93fXOuZYFm8hrq9qhBX8VMVAUIPxx&e=5c293ccf92ba54b3bf398958ece621d0&utm_source=ncl&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=teachsmarts_mar5&n=12) [Facebook](https://www.nclnet.org/r?u=27Ax0UmWOX2J8J_QwK9Z6sPbQXIjoxUaqI6y2H_dDa9PD_Vjz1x5iQv7MsT4e3-i&e=5c293ccf92ba54b3bf398958ece621d0&utm_source=ncl&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=teachsmarts_mar5&n=13), [Snapchat](https://www.nclnet.org/r?u=G8Lz5xzset53mB-1XL3knqQpeHqYvUG6sYGBy4gXSyh67BncuOZX75DyAyejbkqE&e=5c293ccf92ba54b3bf398958ece621d0&utm_source=ncl&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=teachsmarts_mar5&n=14) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXfyCJGEBaMOTcf5l7W_GTg)!

      Question leaks on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram coming next week.  

8.   Questions?  Comments?

9.     Our next conference call is set for Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 3 PM.  The call in

information is: **Dial-in number (US): 1-712-770-5505; Access code: 526017#**