**February 4, 2021**

**Coordinator Call Minutes**

Staff: Lisa Hertzberg, Cheryl Varnadoe, Nailah John, Elena Robertson

Coordinators:  Tammie (WI); Mary (MN); Lance (ID); Kay (WI); Linda (MO); Jim (KS); Gayle (NM); Kyla (SC); Donna (MO); Courtney (GA); George (DE); Crystal (ND); Chuck (KY); Geralyn (FL); Brittani (GA); Bill (DC); Gloryana (HI); Michelle (NC); Amanda (LA);

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Program Updates

* TeamSmarts – January was the final month for regular TeamSmarts  Congratulations to the January winners!
* Varsity: Bottineau High, ND
* Junior Varsity: Linn 8th Grade – Team#1 – Linn Junior High School, KS
* FBLA: PGA FBLA 1 – Pine Grove Area High School, PA
* FCCLA: Bartlett FCCLA – Bartlett High School, TX
* 4-H: Clarke 4-H, 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 28, 2021**. 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 tape delayed stream of the National semifinals and finals on April 19. 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, FCCLA, HOSA and SkillsUSA teams who join us by competing during the month of February.
* Web updates
* 44,000 users on the web site this program year
* They have engaged in nearly 100,000 unique sessions
* They have viewed 550,000 pages on the web site
* The average user goes to about 7 pages per visit
* Just considering the web site, users have answered nearly 2 million questions this year

1. Update on Nationals
2. Volunteer – we need your help!    <https://lifesmarts.org/nlsc2021volunteer/>

and <https://lifesmarts.org/save-the-date/>

1. **Link to register will be shared within next two weeks**

iii. We hope you all can join in the fun this year with the online format.                     Who can we count on helping?

         iv. We are working on the coaches memo and updates for 2020 teams as                      well. Updated information will be shared online.  Lisa will share some                   highlights

* Pathable
* GoTeam - gamification of SpeedSmarts and
* Competitions - pods with 2 – 3 other teams to get to know and work with.  They will compete together in SpeedSmarts and against each other in matches.
* Pre-competitions (OTC Infographic, Individual Topic assessments)
* Other Nationals Details:
* The “On the Double” newsletter for teams and coaches headed to Nationals will premiere in March as we countdown to the Double National LifeSmarts Championship. Coaches of all competing teams as well as State Coordinators will receive this via email.
* Remember the USA Today grant to share with teams as a study tool. 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, <https://usatoday-va.newsmemory.com/charitablefoundation.php>

Publication: USA Today   
Username: 66560   
Password: usatoday

* Questions:
* Geralyn:  do we send winning coaches registration information? Or does she need to do this?
* Gayle: List of former competitors willing to help – make sure Elena has this, and she will reach out to them and invite them to Nationals

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 in this topsy-

turvey year!

1. Reminders: Many competitions occurring within next couple of weeks and ongoing through the first two weeks in March.
2. Update from Crystal Kraft who held the ND competition in-person yesterday
3. 8 teams; new winning team; all teams were excited to be in person
4. Social distancing was not an issue – she did limit matches to two teams to help with this (usually there are three on stage at once). She uses a large auditorium which allowed teams to have their own spaces when they were in the audience. Competition went very well!

* All participants at in-person and virtual competitions are required to complete a Participation Release Form.  This “Form Packet” is available at the Dropbox 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.  cherylv@nclnet.org
* 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 (once you receive it) to the Varsity champion team or if you prefer we sent it, let us know.

**iii.** Remember to email your coaches ahead of your qualification closing date and/or your state closing date to ensure teams finish (on time).

**iv. State competition materials available in Dropbox.** Contact Cheryl **(**[cherylv@nclnet.org](mailto:cherylv@nclnet.org" \t "_blank)) for assistance if you have trouble opening or accessing files. If you would like to make changes to anything, feel free to download the file**. Please keep materials private and don’t share with coaches, teams, etc.**    
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/r5kb9ph7o0gn9io/AAD3QBu9R1VKKZnYHNFaZrNNa?dl=0>iv. If weather or COVID-19 interferes with an in-person or virtual state competition, the TeamSmarts quiz can be used to determine state champion. Cheryl can assist you with setting that up if needed.

v. Questions?

1. Other LifeSmarts Opportunities
   * SarahWeinbergLifeSmartsMemorialScholarshipnominationsdueMarch

12 - 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** **12**. One $500 scholarship will be awarded. Nominate a student here: [https://lifesmarts.org/sarah/sarah-weinberg-lifesmarts-memorial-scholarship-application/](https://lifesmarts.org/sarah/sarah-weinberg-lifesmarts-memorial-scholarship-application/" \t "_blank)

* + Johnson & Johnson infographic second deadline is February 28. Complete details available at <https://lifesmarts.org/lifesmarts-otc-medicine-safety-infographic-contest>.  Please promote!  Up to 10 winners will earn $100 cash awards

1. Other competition updates/ deadlines:

* **FBLA – Open until February 26** (Spring Challenge for opportunity to compete in 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 several great entries. Muleshoe FCCLA in Texas is the FCCLA winner and Gordon County 4-H and Madison County 4-H in Georgia are the 4-H Wild Card winners.

7.  Next call info: **Next call is NOW Thursday, March 4 at 3:00 PM ET**due to Kansas State Competition on our normal meeting day. **Dial-in number (US): 1-712-770-5505; Access code: 526017#**

*Thank you for all that each of you do!*