

December 1, 2021

LifeSmarts State Coordinator Call Minutes

Staff: Lisa Hertzberg, Cheryl Varnadoe, Elena Robertson, Adrienne Archer

State Coordinators: Tammie (WI), Mary (MN), Kay (WI), Geralyn (FL), Gayle (NM), Michelle (NC), Charlene (KS), Shelley (MO), Crystal (ND), Kim (VA), Melissa (TX), Linda (MO), George (DE), Alva (MD); Gloryana (HI); Brittani (GA)

Agenda:

- Welcome Everyone! Happy Holidays!
- Program Updates:
 - November TeamSmarts winners:
 - Varsity: FZS Dawgz - Ft. Zumwalt South High School, MO
 - JV: Iola Mustangs JV 1, Iola Middle School, KS
 - 4-H: Bell County, Bell County 4-H, TX
 - FCCLA: Millard West FCCLA, NE
 - FBLA: Miao & Feng - Montgomery High School, NJ
 - TeamSmarts for December on Technology and Workforce Preparation is open until December 31. For more information, revisit: <http://lifesmarts.org/teamsmarts/> (there is a flier there you can download and share with coaches)
 - Wild Card Bids - As a reminder the Wild card Bid application is now open!
 - Teams must complete the Wild Card TeamSmarts Quiz which is now posted in the team captains quizzes
 - Prepare a PowerPoint or Prezi on a suggested LifeSmarts topic (requirements on handout and web page)
 - Coach can submit a recommendation of their team that shares info about the team and the team members and why they should be chosen.
 - The application also asks for some demographics to be supplied by the coach.
 - Deadlines: FCCLA, FBLA, and 4-H teams must submit all application materials by January 31, 2022.
 - Varsity teams can apply on a rolling basis until March 1, 2022.
 - Second place teams have one week after their state competition is held to submit an application, but they must submit by March 1, 2022, if that is first.
 - Please see the page for additional details. <https://lifesmarts.org/wild-cards/>
 - There is a Wild Card flyer on that page; feel free to share this.
 - If coaches have questions, they can contact [Cheryl](#) for assistance.
 - Also: travel stipends are available to Wild Card teams
- Scholarship Updates:
 - Toyota Making Life Easier Scholarship
 - We had several LifeSmarts alumni /students to apply for the Toyota Financial Making Life Easier scholarship.

- Good luck to all the applicants! Please keep us posted if you hear anything from your coaches about applicants
 - Sarah Weinberg LifeSmarts Memorial Scholarship
 - Coaches can nominate one graduating senior
 - <https://lifesmarts.org/sarah/>
 - Due March 14, 2022
 - Please share with your coaches
- Funding Update - Elena
 - #GivingTuesday and year-end appeals
 - This GivingTuesday and End of Year – LifeSmarts is raising money specifically to bring underserved students and teams to the LifeSmarts National Event. These funds will allow us to provide travel stipends for teams who cannot otherwise afford to travel to Nationals
 - A number of Alumni and a few corporate partners have donated to our year-end appeals. We still have a lot to raise to reach our goal to support teams on their way to Nationals. Please feel free to share our donation page with your network:
 - <https://lifesmarts.org/donate>
- Alumni Update - Elena
 - New members added to Alumni Board. Volunteer opportunities; leadership roles
 - New Members: Christian Casteel, Palmer Casteel, ShuNa Xiao, Natural Taylor
 - Continuing Members: Kelsey Becker, Evan Wilson, Brady Tappel, Ryan Jerue, Hayley Johnson, Ricardo Soto
 - Please share opportunities in your state with Elena so that she can send interested alumni your way
 - Alumni Directory: <https://lifesmarts.org/lifesmarts-alumni-directory/>
 - Remind your alumni to stay connected via LinkedIn and Facebook groups and by contacting Elena. (elenar@nclnet.org)
- Other competition updates:
 - FBLA - Fall Winners have not been announced yet but will be included in our December SmartStart e-news which arrives Tuesday.
 - Eleven top scoring teams from 11 different states qualified for the LifeSmarts FBLA Challenge live, virtual finals which will be held in May.
 - 118 teams registered and 45 completed the requirements to advance
 - The FBLA / LifeSmarts Spring Challenge will take place January 31-February 25, 2022. 13 lucky teams will qualify to advance.
 - Please encourage FBLA teams to read and abide by the rules as to the number of students on a team and to not wait until the last minute.
 - FCCLA - 16 teams qualified for FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl at the National Leadership Conference to be held this coming summer.
 - FCCLA has announced the teams and they have been shared via social media. They will also be in our December SmartStart next week.
 - New partnership! We are excited to announce that we will be partnering with BPA – Business Professionals of America.
 - We will keep you informed as this develops but we are excited to work with them and they with us.

- We will be updating our materials to include them ASAP.
 - Likely developing a new event with them

- Project Updates – Lisa
 - Meta (formerly Facebook) Get Digital – more news on this coming in January (focus on privacy and security; piloting with Wild Card teams)
 - Discover – additional tools for students considering post-secondary options (focus on loans and scholarships)
 - New LifeSmarts U Resume Lesson going online this week
 - Be Safe, Buy Real Project with UL
 - Please share our other new lessons with your coaches (Intuit Mint and Turbo Tax, Toyota Buying a Used Car and First Generation College Students / Higher Education)

- State Programs:
 - Please continue to send in updated or new Coordinator bios as we would love to post these. <https://lifesmarts.org/the-lifesmarts-team/>
 - You should have received an email reminder, but anyone can update their bio.
 - Let Cheryl know if you need assistance or have updates
 - State Competitions:
 - Just lacking state competition dates from three states
 - Almost every state page has been updated with 2022 competition dates and details
 - Materials are being developed daily for your state championships
 - We will share these in Dropbox as soon as they are ready. If you need something in advance, let Cheryl know
 - We plan to have these posted in late December (December 22)
 - Communicating with your coaches is key! See example emails you can send out.
 - If you need anything else, please reach out!
 - Any comments or questions you would like to share from your state?
 - Alva asked about students who had no coach and how they would participate. Parents can serve as the coach and several have done so for various teams in several states.

- Nationals Planning
 - We have been planning for an in-person National LifeSmarts Championship!
 - Dates are Thursday, April 21 – Sunday, April 24 in Washington, DC
 - We have developed preliminary COVID protocols but they are still very much a work in progress. We currently plan to send these out and post a version soon once they are approved, and update those as needed as the time nears for Nationals.
 - You will receive a copy as soon as we have them finalized/ sharable.
 - Coaches overwhelmingly want in-person this year.
 - We will be unable to host a hybrid competition – meaning that we will not have teams competing from home as well as teams competing in-person. We plan to host the event only in-person. While we would like to accommodate those who cannot attend, we simply do not have the manpower, capacity or the budget to run both an in-person and an on-line competition simultaneously.

- We have hotel booking information and Delta discount code to share in January as well as other information
- Questions? Concerns?
- Reminders
 - LifeSmarts Be Safe, Buy Real Anti-Counterfeiting Digital Poster Contest – Individual Submissions Due January 31
 - Homepage: <https://lifsmarts.org/lifsmarts-be-safe-buy-real-poster-contest/>
 - Rules: <https://lifsmarts.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Poster-Contest-Rules-4.pdf>
 - Sponsored by UL
 - OTC medicine safety
 - We will have updates and an updated website soon!
 - Sponsored by Johnson & Johnson
- Communications
 - Are all your coaches receiving the weekly TeachSmarts and the monthly SmartStart e-news?
 - Please let us know of any who need to be added to our distribution list.
 - These are the best reminders for coaches.
 - They may need to let us know to add them back if they opted out for some reason.
- Next meeting info: Via Zoom
 - **Next Coordinator meeting is Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 3 p.m. ET**
 - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82162542135?pwd=c2dmczBmK1VyRzFWbjJNTG5FWjZmZz09>
 - Meeting ID: 821 6254 2135
 - Passcode: 706272
- We will be away from the office between December 22 and January 3. Happy Holidays – **to you and yours!** Please stay safe and sound.

