



2024 National LifeSmarts Championship LifeSmarts and Norton Wild Card Team Application

The LifeSmarts and Norton Wild Card application process provides an opportunity for 10 new Varsity teams (grades 9 – 12) to earn travel stipends to allow them to attend and compete in the 2024 National LifeSmarts Championship and contend for scholarships and prizes.

The Norton and LifeSmarts Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative

To increase LifeSmarts' reach in under-resourced communities, Norton and LifeSmarts have partnered to create targeted opportunities with direct support to first-time attendees at the 2024 National LifeSmarts Championship, April 18-21, in San Diego, CA.

2024 National LifeSmarts Championship first-time team support

The signature component of the LifeSmarts and Norton Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative is funding to ensure that new teams can attend the 2024 National LifeSmarts Championship without financial burden. Ten teams will receive a full travel stipend (\$4,000) that may be used to cover the cost of travel and hotel rooms. State Coordinators will receive a \$500 stipend to assist with recruitment costs, team assistance, and travel expenses.

Application Procedures

The application will be submitted online here: <https://lifesmarts.org/nortonlifelockwild-card-teams/LifeSmarts>. Norton Wild Card team applicants are required to submit all application materials by **November 30, 2023**. Materials include:

1. **Coach Endorsement**

This is the coach's opportunity to tell us how LifeSmarts impacts their classroom, club, or community. Tell us about your team and how they would benefit from participating in the National LifeSmarts Championship. Limited to 750 words.

2. **Team Video**

The team of 4 or 5 students will work together to create a 1-minute video that introduces the team members and school or organization to LifeSmarts and Norton.

3. **Demographics**

The coach will provide demographics about the school, chapter or club, as well as the community, as part of the online application.

4. Wild Card TeamSmarts Quiz

The team will work together on the Wild Card TeamSmarts quiz, available in the team captain's portal after September 1. (Teams are also encouraged to complete the monthly TeamSmarts quizzes, weekly quizzes and practice quizzes.)

5. Topic Quizzing

Each student on the team will work independently to complete their online quizzing, taking the pre-quiz, the five category quizzes, and the capstone quiz for a final score.

State Coordinator Endorsement Form

Once a team has applied, the LifeSmarts State Coordinator in the appropriate state will be asked to complete an endorsement in support of the team. However, due to the focus on new teams, we realize that the LifeSmarts State Coordinator may not know these coaches or teams. This endorsement will serve as verification that the team is eligible to be selected as a Norton Wild Card and will signify agreement of the State Coordinator to assist the team in preparing for the National LifeSmarts Championship *or* to provide a mentor to assist the team in doing so.

The State Coordinator may also share any additional information they might know about the school, club, or the larger community, and answer questions similar to the following: How might this team's participation in the National LifeSmarts Championship benefit the students involved, the school, or community? How would this outreach help you, as state coordinator, attract new teams in the future?

Eligibility

Teams that are eligible to apply for the LifeSmarts Norton Wild Card opportunity:

- New teams that have never competed at the National LifeSmarts Championship.
 - Preference will be given to teams and coaches who have never competed in LifeSmarts before.
 - An exception *may* be made for a team that meets all other criteria and has two or fewer returning members from a team that competed at Nationals in Washington, DC, in 2022.
- From a school in an under-resourced area, community, or state.
- From a school that, using the National Center for Education Statistics website (<https://nces.ed.gov/>), fits into one or both of the following criteria:
 - Designated as Title 1 School
 - The student population is ethnically diverse
- A Varsity team (students grades 9-12), including those representing a partner organization, (4-H, BPA, FBLA, FCCLA, SkillsUSA) that meets the criteria.
- LifeSmarts reserves the right to invite teams to take part in the LifeSmarts and Norton Wild Card application process.

For additional details, please visit <https://lifesmarts.org/nortonwild-card-teams/>.

Deadline and Submission Portal

Interested teams are required to submit all application materials by **November 30, 2023**, at midnight EST. Selections will be announced in early December 2023.

Submit your Wild Card bid here by the deadline: <https://lifesmarts.org/nortonwild-card-teams/>.

Other requirements and information – Please read carefully

- A team cannot be a state winning team *and* a wild card winning team. If a team is selected as a LifeSmarts Norton Wild Card winner, they are ineligible to compete for their state title.
- LifeSmarts Norton Wild Card teams will receive travel stipends that will cover the cost of three hotel rooms for three nights, and most of the cost of the flights for up to five students and one coach.
- By December 15, 2023, each team will sign a team agreement to attend the 2024 National LifeSmarts Championship in San Diego, CA, April 18-21, 2024.
 - This will include written approval from a school principal or organization administrator that the team has approval to travel and attend the National LifeSmarts Championship.
 - Students and coaches agree to attend **all** required activities, including the semifinal and final matches and the awards presentations on the final day of the event.
- By December 15, 2023, each individual student and coach must return a permission and release form.
- Teams selected as a LifeSmarts Norton Wild Card team may be excluded from receiving other travel stipends which may be available through LifeSmarts for the same event.
- If additional funding is needed, the team coach may work with NCL staff to identify local funding sources to contact.

Questions?

Contact Cheryl Varnadoe, LifeSmarts Outreach Coordinator, at cherylv@nclnet.org.

Team Checklist to Prepare for the National LifeSmarts Championship

The teams selected as LifeSmarts Norton Wild Card teams commit to fulfilling this schedule.

December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● By December 15, 2023, each team will sign a team agreement, including administrator approval, for the students and adult coach to attend the 2024 National LifeSmarts Championship in San Diego● By December 15, 2023, the coach returns all permission and release forms to LifeSmarts, one from each student and coach, signed by a parent or guardian if a student is younger than 18● Team completes December TeamSmarts quiz
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January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach/team confirm travel working with LifeSmarts • Coach has monthly check-in with State Coordinator to gain support and resources to prepare team for competition • Team competes in first online scrimmage • Team completes January TeamSmarts quiz
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach has monthly check-in with State Coordinator to gain support and resources to prepare team for competition • Team competes in second online scrimmage • Team completes February TeamSmarts quiz
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team completes Competition 1 (for example, last year's Competition 1 was a team-created 1-minute TikTok video about OTC medicine safety) • Team competes in third online scrimmage • Coach has monthly check-in with State Coordinator to gain support and resources to prepare team for competition
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach has monthly check-in with State Coordinator to gain support and resources to prepare team for competition • Travel to the National LifeSmarts Championship • Compete throughout the 4-day event, attending all required activities
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach and Captain attend a feedback session on Zoom • After attending the feedback session, the coach submits reimbursable travel expenses to LifeSmarts • After attending the feedback session, the coach submits personal stipend request form • Coordinator submits personal stipend request form