



2024 National LifeSmarts Championship Varsity Wild Card Application Process

The Wild Card application process provides an opportunity for teams to apply for an invitation to compete in the 2024 National LifeSmarts Championship and contend for scholarships and prizes.

Application Procedures:

Quiz

- Teams will work together on the Wild Card TeamSmarts quiz, available in the team captain's quizzes portal.
- The quiz will be available September 1, 2023 – February 29, 2024. If the quiz is not available, contact Cheryl at Cheryl@nclnet.org, so that it can be set up for your team.
- Teams are also highly encouraged to complete individual Varsity topic quizzes and monthly TeamSmart quizzes.

Presentation

- Teams will design an educational PowerPoint, Prezi, Google Slides or Canva presentation on one of the following LifeSmarts topics: Teens as consumers; Cold water laundry & the environment; Food waste; Food additives; Food labeling, Wearable technology; Cybersecurity; Smart vehicles, homes, or businesses; Workforce preparation & career planning; Opioid education / overdose prevention; Preparing for / financing college; Understanding credit scores; Teens & the law; Recycling/ upcycling clothing or furnishings; Air quality; Teen health / health coverage; Teen budgeting or credit tips; Green homes and products; Moving expenses, Time management, or Teen driving safety. (Contact [Cheryl](mailto:Cheryl@nclnet.org) if your team has another topic in mind)
- The presentation will include no more than 8 educational slides plus a reference slide for a total of 9 slides. It *may* include a short, embedded video. Audio voiceover is also allowed. Due to size, the presentation can be saved as an mp4 video file if necessary. Allowed file extensions are: pptx, pptm, ppt, pdf, and mp4.
- Cite reasons describing why the topic chosen is significant to your team. It can be related to your local community or have nationwide importance.
- Before uploading, please be sure the file name includes your team or school name and your state. (E.g., WonderHSVarsity_MD).
- Examples of past winners can be found here, but creativity is encouraged. Be certain to double check that your team follows the application and presentation requirements for this year: <https://lifesmarts.org/lifesmarts-curriculum-and-lesson-sharing-forum/>.

Coach Endorsement

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

Demographics

- Coaches will provide demographics about the school or for the entire chapter, club or program, (not just the four to five member team) as part of the online application.

Eligibility

Teams that are eligible to apply this year:

- New teams that have never competed at Nationals.
- 4-H, BPA, FCCLA, FBLA, SkillsUSA and other youth leadership organizations or CTSO teams.
- Teams that placed 2nd or 3rd in their state competition or any other team that competing in their state LifeSmarts Championship / competition and did not advance to the National LifeSmarts Championship.

Teams that are ineligible to apply this year:

- Two teams from the same local/county school, club, or organization.
- Contact the LifeSmarts staff with any questions or for clarification on eligibility.

Deadlines

- **First Deadline:** All application materials are due by **midnight EST February 23, 2024.**
- **Important:** Teams with State LifeSmarts Championships held between February 22 -March 9, 2024, that are still interested in applying for a Wild Card invitation to compete in the 2024 National LifeSmarts Championship, should contact the LifeSmarts staff at once following their state competition to inquire about available Wild Card spots.

Other information

- A team cannot be the state winning team AND a wild card team. If a team is selected as a Wild Card winner and subsequently wins their state title, they must decline the Wild Card invitation so that another team can be invited to attend Nationals. Likewise, a team who has won their state championship may not apply for a Wild Card bid.
- Teams may submit a Wild Card application while competing for their state title.
- Wild Card teams are eligible for travel stipends.
- Successful Wild Card champion teams will be required to complete community service projects to receive their full travel stipends.
- We expect to select five Wild Card teams this year.

Scoring – 100 Points

Presentation (80 points)	LifeSmarts Participation (20 points)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student presentation (45 points)<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Checked for spelling & punctuation◦ Does not use copyrighted characters or photographs◦ Topic and originality of presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quiz score(s) (5 points)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coach endorsement (35 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current and previous participation in LifeSmarts (10 points)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School / community demographics (5 points)

Submit your Wild Card application here by the deadline: lifesmarts.org/wild-cards

Questions? Contact Cheryl Varnadoe at cheryl@nlcnet.org.