



LifeSmarts

Learn it. Live it.

Notes from the Director

LifeSmarts Alumni Update, November 13, 2023

Dear LifeSmarts Alum,

Fall is humming along for the LifeSmarts program. In Birmingham, AL, we just met 40 FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl teams that competed over the weekend. Nationals prep is gearing up, and our alumni features continue; we just profiled Tara Roberts, an alum from the winning team in the year 2001, who is now working as an independent filmmaker. In November our thoughts turn to gratitude, and we are grateful for each of you and your continued support. I want to wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Program Updates

In the past month we:

1. Taught a class with the South Carolina State Coordinator at a personal finance conference for educators.
2. Extended the Norton Wild Card deadline to allow students more time to complete their quizzing.
3. Announced the 2024 LifeSmarts Wild Card opportunity for all other teams.
4. Created the new 'LifeSparks' award to provide recognition to all teams that demonstrate avid participation and gains in knowledge.
5. Publicized the 30th anniversary video contest.
6. Relunched the LifeSmarts Adventure online app, a free study tool available to everyone.
7. Gained student input for the 2024 National LifeSmarts Championship on our monthly Zoom meeting with the LEAP team.
8. Celebrated consumer champions at the 50th National Consumers League's Trumpeter dinner.

Alumni Spotlight
2001

30
30th ANNIVERSARY
1994-2024

What did you learn in LifeSmarts that you still use today?
I use LifeSmarts lessons every day. Every purchase I make from grocery shopping to car buying. When I compare terms on a credit card or find the best interest rates on loans. I learned how to spot small scams, fake websites, and probably a hundred other things I didn't even realize I learned in LifeSmarts.

Where are you now?
I'm a freelance camera operator and documentary filmmaker. My most recent documentary, *Defending the Dark*, is about light pollution and protecting dark skies. It is available to view at PBS.org and was broadcast on PBS stations across the country in the Spring of 2023. I'm currently working on two more documentaries with a focus on nature and science.

Team: Frederick County 4-H / Appalachian Regional Cooperative, Maryland

Have a great month!

Best regards,

Lisa Hertzberg
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