TeachSmarts May 12th

SPECIAL WINNERS’ EDITION

(use photo of winning team holding trophy up)

Congratulations to the Pewaukee Pirates from Pewaukee High School in Wisconsin! The student team from Wisconsin coached by Shawn Prell, was crowned the 2025 Varsity National LifeSmarts Champion in Chicago, IL.

Team members include: Logan Nguyen, Max Smith, Ben Varner, Texas Maki, and Landon Pungarcher. The Money Hounds from Litchville-Marion High School in North Dakota finished in second place, and teams from Floyd County 4-H - Georgia and Altitude 10.0 from Flagstaff Home Educators in Arizona tied for third. Fourth place team honors went to champion teams from Wild Card 4 - Cobb County
4-H, Georgia; Sweepstakes 1 - Gordon County 4-H, Georgia; Pennsylvania – Cumberland Valley High School; and Wild Card 7 – Wisconsin, Oconto High School.

Each of the students on the first-place team received a $1,500.00 scholarship, second place team members receive $1,000.00 scholarships and third place team members receive $750 scholarships in addition to Amazon gift cards.

Fourth place team members received gift cards.

Missed the excitement? You can still watch the exciting final day of competition [here](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flifesmarts.org%2F2025-nationals-livestream%2F&data=05%7C02%7Ccherylv%40nclnet.org%7Ce19308f8f84d4445115b08dd8d779a90%7C4e1d2f3fec00459892401b9071ab6582%7C0%7C0%7C638822267027447122%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=0T%2B82YQ11DILNKx6RJpiOhWE9oczHjYbMhPQTci5leI%3D&reserved=0). 4e

2025 Honors

Many states and teams were recognized with special awards and scholarships.

The 2025 winners in the Optional Individual Category Assessments received a $100 Amazon gift card. Winners were:

Environment: Joe Rutledge, Floyd County 4-H, Georgia

Personal Finance:  Shubham Badve, Wild Card 4, Cobb County 4-H, Georgia

Health & Safety: Samyuktha Vinodh, New Jersey

Consumer Rights & Responsibilities: Joey Helton, Altitude 10.0, Arizona

Technology & Workforce Preparation: Benjamin Zhang, from Rhode Island

Chloe Doiron from Louisiana’s West Feliciana High School, and Laine Davis from Arizona’s Altitude 10.0 were honored as the 2025 LifeSmarts Students of the Year.

LifeSmarts Coaches of the Year Awards went to Phyllis Allee from Floyd County 4-H – Georgia; Bruce Burwitz from Fenton High School – Michigan, and Dave Handt from Litchville-Marion High School in North Dakota.

Charlene Nichols from Kansas was named LifeSmarts State Coordinator of the Year.

The Sarah Weinberg Memorial Scholarship, given each year to a student who demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to community service, was awarded this year to Bella Aljets from Calhan High School in Colorado.

The first Lisa Hertzberg LifeSmarts Legacy of Leadership Scholarship was awarded to Dylan Brown from Bartlett High School FCCLA in Texas.

The inaugural LifeSmarts Impact Scholarship was awarded to Ryleigh Hill from Pryor High School in Oklahoma.

Kenvue Over the Counter Medication Mentor $1000 scholarships were awarded to students who participated in the health and safety-related youth mentoring program sponsored by LifeSmarts and Kenvue. Honorees were: Shubham Badve from Wild Card 4, Cobb County 4-H, Georgia; Matthew Blocker, team Irmo Stingers, Irmo High School, South Carolina; Wyatt Fielder, Garrett County 4-H, Kentucky; Hannah Peterson, Elmwood – Murdock High School, Nebraska and William Parish, Sweepstakes 1, Gordon County 4-H, Georgia.

The top ten videos in the Kenvue OTC Medicine Safety Video Competition were:

* Sweepstakes 1 – Gordon County 4-H, Georgia
* Oklahoma - Pryor High School
* WC 1 - The Hill Country Wagon Wheels - 4-H Homeschool, Texas
* West Virginia - John Marshall High School, LifeSmarts for Life
* Colorado - Larimer County 4-H LifeSmarts, Colorado
* WC 2 – North East High School, Pennsylvania
* Georgia – Floyd County 4-H, Georgia
* Hawaii – Iolani High School Raiders
* Arkansas – Benton County 4-H, Arkansas, and
* WC – 9 - Calhan High School- Calhan FCCLA LifeSmarts, Colorado

The Amazon Anti-Counterfeiting Digital Poster contest winners were:
Colorado – Calhan High School Varsity FCCLA, Wild Card 9

Illinois – West Chicago High School

Louisiana – Wild Card 6 – Acadiana High School

Minnesota – Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial

New Jersey – S&P 5 Knights FBLA

North Carolina – Southern Alamance FCCLA

North Dakota – Sweepstakes 2 - Litchville-Marion High School, The Money Hounds

Ohio – Riverside High School/Ohio Hi-Point Career Center BPA, Pirate’s Booty

Rhode Island – Barrington High School, and

Texas – Wild Card 3 – 4-H Hill Country Wagon Wheels

The Spirit of LifeSmarts Team Award voted by peer teams was awarded to Minnesota – Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial Blue.

Eighty graduating seniors were presented with LifeSmarts Honor Cords to wear at their upcoming high school graduations and were welcomed as new LifeSmarts alumni. Additionally, several alumni assisted in various roles throughout the event.

The LifeSmarts LifeSparks Award recognizes exemplary LifeSmarts Teams for their participation in LifeSmarts. The award honors teams each year for active participation, demonstrating and sharing exceptional knowledge in all LifeSmarts topics, and going above and beyond in their schools, clubs, organizations, and communities. Teams honored were: Francis Marion School, Alabama; Benton County 4-H, Arkansas; Cobb County 4-H – Georgia; Floyd County 4-H , Georgia; Garrard County 4-H Varsity, Kentucky; West Feliciana High School, Louisiana; Columbia County 4-H JV and V, Georgia; Econoponax, Massaponax High School, Virginia; Puckett High School FCCLA, Mississippi; Gordon County 4-H JV and V, Georgia; Tift County 4-H, Georgia; Southern Alamance FCCLA, North Carolina; The Money Hounds Varsity, The Destroyers Varsity, Lightning JV and Thunder JV, Litchville-Marion High School, North Dakota; Cumberland Valley High School Varsity, Pennsylvania; Riverside High School/Ohio Hi-Point Career Center BPA, Ohio; and North East High School, Pennsylvania.

Teams from many states submitted designs for this year’s t-shirt contest. This year’s judge’s awards went to Texas – Bartlett High School FCCLA, and the People’s Choice t-shirt award went to Wild Card 2, North East High School from Pennsylvania.

The Instagram Contest was won by Wild Card 4, Cobb County 4-H, Georgia, while the pin design contest winner was Wild Card 2, North East High School from Pennsylvania. The LifeSmarts Meme contest was won by Elan McClain from Floyd County 4-H, team Georgia.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the 32nd National LifeSmarts Championship which will be held April 15 – 18, 2026, in Orlando, FL.

Have a great week, everyone!
--The LifeSmarts Team