

**2025 National LifeSmarts Championship**

**Wild Card Application Requirements**

**DEADLINE: 2/14/2025**

The LifeSmarts Wild Card application process provides an opportunity for teams to apply for an invitation to attend and compete in the 2025 Varsity National LifeSmarts Championship to contend for scholarships and prizes.

**Funds:**

**$**250 for Team Coach

$1250,00 for Team for travel to the Varsity National LifeSmarts Championship

**Community Service Project**: All selected Wild Card teams will be required to participate in Meta’s Online Safety mentorship program, sponsored by Meta in collaboration with ChildHelp. Coaches will be required to complete a 3-hour online facilitator training prior to project implementation and will be compensated with a $250 stipend for their time. The team will learn the dangers of online / digital extortion through the “Staying Safe from Online Harm” curriculum and will teach middle school students using a 30-minute lesson plan provided by LifeSmarts. Opt-in forms will be provided. Upon completion of this project, students will write about their experience, share photos from the presentation, and take part in a 45-minute sharing session at the National LifeSmarts Championship. The team will receive a $1,250 stipend for project completion.

**Application Procedures:**

**Wild Card TeamSmarts Quiz**

* Teams will work together on the Wild Card TeamSmarts quiz, available in the team captain’s quizzes portal. (The team captain logs on and clicks on the quizzes tab, then the Wild Card Team Quiz folder.
* The quiz is available January 1, 2025 – February 28, 2025. If the quiz is not available to your team captain, contact Ryan at [Ryanb@nclnet.org](mailto:Ryanb@nclnet.org), so that it can be set up for your team.
* Teams are 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 as part of their application: Teens as consumers; Food waste; Food additives; Food labeling; Disaster preparedness; Junk fees; Scams and/or fraud; Wearable technology; Online Safety; Cybersecurity; Smart or green homes, products or businesses; Workforce preparation / career planning; Interview and meal etiquette; Buying a home /condo; Teens & the law; Second hand shopping; Environmental justice; Teen health / health coverage; Teen budgeting or credit tips; Stress management; AI; Travel safety; or Teen driving safety. ([Contact us](mailto:%20Cherylv@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 was 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 are located 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.

**Team Captain Statement**

* This is the team captain’s chance to tell the judges why their team should be selected. Limited to 250 words

**Eligibility**

**Teams that are eligible to apply this year:**

* New teams that have never competed at Nationals.
* Teams that have never advanced to Nationals.
* 4-H, BPA, FCCLA, FBLA, SkillsUSA and other youth leadership organizations or CTSO   
   teams, other youth clubs or school / academic quiz bowl teams.
* Teams that competed in their state LifeSmarts Championship competition and did not advance to the National LifeSmarts Championship.

**Teams that are ineligible to apply this year:**

* Teams that already have another team from their local/county school, club, or organization that will be competing in the National LifeSmarts Championship this year.
* Contact the LifeSmarts staff with any questions or for clarification on eligibility.

**Deadlines**

* **Deadline:** All application materials are due by **midnight EST February 14, 2025.**
* **Important:** Teams with State LifeSmarts Championships held between February 15 - 28, 2025, that are interested in applying for a Wild Card invitation to compete in the 2025 Varsity National LifeSmarts Championship, should apply prior to the February 14th deadline.

**Other information**

* A team cannot be the state winning team AND a wild card team. If a team is selected as a Wild Card and then 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 LifeSmarts championship may not apply for Wild Card.
* Teams may submit a Wild Card application while competing for their state title. ​
* Wild Card teams are also eligible to apply for any available travel stipends.
* Selected Wild Card champion teams are required to complete their community service project to receive their full travel stipend.

**Scoring – 100 Points**

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| **Presentation (80 points)** | **LifeSmarts Participation (20 points)** |
| * Student presentation (40 points)   + Checked for spelling & punctuation   + Does not use copyrighted characters. music or photographs   + Topic and originality of presentation | * Quiz score(s) (5 points) |
| * Coach endorsement (30 points) | * Current and previous participation in LifeSmarts (10 points) |
| * Team Captain statement (10 points) | * School / community demographics (5 points) |

Submit your Wild Card application by the deadline of February 14, 2025, at Midnight Eastern <https://lifesmarts.org/wild-cards/>

Questions? Contact Cheryl Varnadoe at [Cherylv@nclnet.org](mailto:Cherylv@nclnet.org)