



**2026 National LifeSmarts Championship
Meta Wild Card Team Application
DUE: December 5th, 2025, Midnight EST**

Meta is partnering with LifeSmarts to provide Varsity LifeSmarts teams the chance to apply for a Wild Card invitation to compete in the 2026 National LifeSmarts Championship. **Ten** Wild Card Champion teams will be selected, and each will receive a \$1,250 travel stipend upon completing an assigned community service project.

Community Service Project: All selected Wild Card teams will take part in the new LifeSmarts Mentoring Up: Teens Teaching Adults - [Staying Safe from Online Harm](#) mentorship project, sponsored by Meta in partnership with Childhelp. Team Coaches must first complete an online facilitator training, for which they will receive a \$250 stipend. Using a 30-minute lesson plan provided by LifeSmarts, teams will educate parents and other adults about the dangers of sharing images online, the risks of youth exploitation, resources for support, and assistance for getting images taken down. After delivering the presentation, the team will submit written reflections, share photos from their event, and join a 45-minute discussion session held before or during the National LifeSmarts Championship. Each team will receive a \$1,250 travel stipend upon completion of the project.

Application Procedures:

1. Quiz

- Teams will work together on the Wild Card TeamSmarts quiz, available in the team captain's quizzes portal.
- The quiz will be available November 1, 2025. If the quiz is not available to your team captain, contact Ryan at Ryanb@nclnet.org, so that it can be set up for your team.
- Teams are *highly encouraged* to complete individual Varsity topic quizzes and all monthly TeamSmart quizzes as well as the Staying Safe from Online Harm TeamSmarts Quiz.

2. Presentation

- Teams will design an educational PowerPoint, Prezi, Google Slides or Canva presentation on one of the following LifeSmarts topics: Teen consumers; Product marketing for teens; Hidden fees; Budgeting; Food waste; Disaster preparedness; Convenience costs; Scams; Cybersecurity; Green innovations /solutions; Time management; Interview etiquette; Civic responsibility; Second hand shopping; Teen health concerns; Copyrights and trademarks; Techno, toxic or competitive stress management; Travel safety; or Driving safety. ([Contact us](#) 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.
- A presentation script document must be included so that other teams may use the educational presentation.
- If possible, 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).
- Be certain that your presentation can be downloaded and viewed by LifeSmarts judges. If your file exceeds the size allowed by our website, you must include a link to the file that can be accessed by the judges. (OneDrive files do not work)
- Examples of past winners can be found here, but creativity is encouraged. Double check that your team has followed the application and presentation requirements for this year:
<https://lifesmarts.org/lifesmarts-curriculum-and-lesson-sharing-forum/>.

3. 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 these students would benefit from participating in the National LifeSmarts Championship. Limited to 750 words.
- If your team was awarded a Wild Card last season, you must explain how this year's team is different, including:
 - How many current team members were on the previous team
 - Why your experienced team should be chosen over a totally new team
 - How a wild card invitation would help this team to achieve their LifeSmarts goals
 - Any other pertinent information you would like the committee to know regarding this team and the student members on the team

4. 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.

5. Team Captain Statement

- This is the team captain's chance to tell the judges about their team and 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 with new team members.
- Teams, school, clubs, etc. that have never won their state competition to advance to Nationals.
- 4-H, BPA, FCCLA, FBLA, SkillsUSA teams; other youth leadership organization or CTSO teams; and other youth clubs, groups, or school / academic quiz bowl teams.

Teams that are ineligible to apply this year:

- Only one team from a local/county school, club, or organization is eligible to compete in the Varsity National LifeSmarts Championship.
- *Contact the LifeSmarts staff with any questions or for clarification on eligibility.*

Deadline

- All application materials are due by **midnight EST December 5, 2025**.

Other information

- A team cannot be the state champion team *and* a wild card team. If a team is selected as a Wild Card 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 2026 state LifeSmarts champion team may not apply for a Wild Card invitation.
- Teams may submit a Wild Card application while competing for their state title.
- Wild Card teams are eligible to apply for certain additional travel stipends.
- Selected Wild Card champion teams are required to satisfactorily complete their community service project to receive their full travel stipend.

Scoring – 100 Points

Presentation (85 points)	LifeSmarts Participation (15 points)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student presentation (40 points)<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Checked for spelling & punctuation◦ Does not use copyrighted characters, music or photographs◦ Engaging and interesting presentation◦ Topic and originality of presentation◦ Includes presentation script◦ Follows requirements	<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 (5 points)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Team Captain statement (10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School / community demographics (5 points)

Submit your Wild Card application [here](#) by the December 5th deadline:

Questions? Contact Cheryl Varnadoe at CherylV@nclnet.org