



NEWS AND TIPS FOR THE 2026 ORLANDO VARSITY NATIONAL LIFESMARTS CHAMPIONSHIP

National LifeSmarts Championship 2026: Editions 2 and 3 ***Information for Coaches & Teams***

Focus: Deadlines extended, competition pools, and sister teams!

Dear Coaches and Team members,

We are so excited to see you in Orlando, April 15-18, 2026, for the the 33rd Varsity National LifeSmarts Championship! We will share updates and reminders with you through this *Orlando Outlook* newsletter.



UPDATES:

- Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure will close at 6 PM on Friday, April 17th for Grad Night. We recommend visiting another park. This does not apply for Epic Universe.
- Discounted tickets for other parks can be found [here](#). Page down once you reach that page and select the “**Buy Now**” button under the **Discounted Tickets** heading.
- Discounted tickets for any of the Disney Parks can be purchased at the hotel. More information is [here](#).
- IMPORTANT: If you plan to use the JW Marriott free transportation on Friday, April 17th, reservations are **required**.
- **DEADLINES EXTENDED FOR:**
 - [Student of the Year Nominations](#) – Now due April 7, 2026
 - [LifeSmarts Coach of the Year](#) - Now due April 7, 2026
 - [Pin Design Contest](#) - Now due April 7, 2026
 - [OTC Medicine Safety Mentor Individual Scholarships](#) – Now due, April 7, 2026
 - [LifeSmarts Impact Scholarship](#) – Now due April 8, 2026
 - [Lisa Hertzberg LifeSmarts Legacy of Leadership Scholarship](#) – Now due April 8, 2026
 - [ConsumerMan LifeSmarts Scholarship](#) – Now due April 8, 2026
- Your room key is your admission to the waterpark at the JW Marriott. For teams lodging at the Courtyard Marriott, we will make sure you have a key to admit you to the park.



Photo Schedule for Teams: We will share this with you later today!



Order Merch!

Merch is shipping within one day! You can even have it shipped directly to you at the JW Marriott. Visit <https://lifsmarts.store> to place your order.

Shipping instructions: Visit the link below for the instructions and address to ship things for yourself or your team:

<https://view.highspot.com/viewer/d6988bc39844a919a7e4110e70801e8d?iid=66563a737a852bad04075cf0#1>



Other Fun:

- [The Pointe Orlando](#) is a great place to visit! Great food and lots of fun!
 - [Main Event Entertainment](#) – Bowling, ropes course, and more!
 - [Activate Games](#)



Competition Pools – Teal will compete in the first session and Silver in second session.

TEAL 2026	SILVER 2026
Arkansas	Arizona
Colorado	DC
Delaware	Florida
Georgia	Hawaii
Illinois	Idaho
Iowa	Kansas
Louisiana	Kentucky
Minnesota	Michigan
Nebraska	Missouri
New Jersey	New Mexico
Oklahoma	North Carolina
South Carolina	North Dakota
SS 1 - CO	Pennsylvania
Tennessee	Rhode Island
Texas	SS 2 - TX
Utah	SS 5 - DE
WC 10 - NC	Virginia
WC 2 - KS	WC 7 - CO
SS 4 - GA	WC 1 - TX
WC 4 - VA	WC 8 - LA
WC 9 - MO	WC 6 - IL
West Virginia	Wisconsin
SS 3 - GA	WC 3 - GA



And the news you have all been waiting for! Sister teams!

Sister Teams 2026

TEAM 1	TEAM 2
Arizona	WC 1 – TX, Hill Country Wagon Wheels
Arkansas	West Virginia
Colorado	SS 3 – GA, Cobb County 4-H Bananas
Delaware	Kansas
Florida	Nebraska
Utah	WC 7 – CO, Calhan FCCLA
Idaho	Texas
Illinois	Kentucky
WC 2 - KS - Sunrise Christian	WC 4 – VA, Robinson Secondary
Louisiana	WC 6 – IL, Depaul College Prep
New Mexico	Hawaii
Minnesota	WC 10 – NC, Southern Alamance FCCLA
Georgia	Rhode Island
WC 3 - GA, Columbia Co. 4-H	DC
Tennessee	SS 1 – CO, Adams Co. 4-H
Pennsylvania	North Carolina
Wisconsin	WC 9 – MO, Mack’s Creek FBLA
South Carolina	WC 8 –LA, Acadiana
Michigan	SS 5 – DE, Country Clovers 4-H
Oklahoma	Iowa
New Jersey	SS 4 – GA, Gwinnett Co. 4-H
Missouri	Virginia
North Dakota	SS 2 – TX, Lamb Co. 4-H

Please see below for coach contact information for your sister team:

Arizona	carlacasciola@sbcglobal.net
Arkansas	jshofner@uada.edu
Colorado	kara.rudnick@gmail.com
DC	ana.martinez-lopez@k12.dc.gov
Delaware	peachblossom4h@gmail.com
Florida	admin@abcranch.us
Georgia	alleephyllis0721@gmail.com

Hawaii	kwong@iolani.org
Idaho	pwrap@uidaho.edu
Illinois	dzabelin@d94.org
Iowa	aimee.marasco@southeastpolk.org
Kansas	joannaerichsen@usd475.org
Kentucky	shannon.farrell@uky.edu
Louisiana	ewingl@wfpsb.org
Michigan	Ldaly@fentonschools.org
Minnesota	mmissling@isd2071.k12.mn.us
Missouri	rkoehr@vpschools.org
Nebraska	lhynes@emknights.org
New Jersey	ntalia.wilson@wwprsd.org
New Mexico	kcturner@nmsu.edu
North Carolina	lacey.grogan@bcsemail.org
North Dakota	david.handt@litchvillemarion.com
Oklahoma	robersonb@Pryorschools.org
Pennsylvania	kevin.west@dshs.com
Rhode Island	beant@barringtonschools.org
South Carolina	twatson@lexrich5.org
Tennessee	kreeves@tnstate.edu
Texas	lhuebner@bartlett.txed.net
Utah	dianna.torgersen@usu.edu
Virginia	gwalters@spotsylvania.k12.va.us
West Virginia	mpintus@k12.wv.us
Wisconsin	alana.eder@oconto.k12.wi.us
WILD CARDS - META	
WC 1 - TX (Hill Country Wagon Wheels Varsity 4-H)	hancoci_s@msn.com
WC 2 - KS (Sunrise Christian)	podonnell@sunrisechristian.org
WC 3 - GA (Columbia County 4-H)	skuhbänder@columbiacountyga.gov

WC 4 - VA (Robinson Secondary School FBLA)	rlglasbrenne@fcps.edu
WC 6 - IL (DePaul College Prep)	mflynn@depaulprep.org
WC 7 - CO (Calhan FCCLA)	sahvanna.mease@calhanschool.org
WC 8 - LA (Acadiana)	sbbennett@lpsonline.com
WC 9 - MO (Mack's Creek RV High School FBLA)	keidson@mackscreekpirates.org
WC 10 - NC (Southern Alamance FCCLA)	adria_ward@abss.k12.nc.us
Sweepstakes Teams	
SS 1 - CO (Adams County 4-H)	JHurdelbrink@adamscountyco.gov
SS 2 - TX (Lamb County 4-H)	kathy.lostroh@ag.tamu.edu
SS 3 - GA (Cobb County 4-H)	colleen.bakhsh@cobbcounty.org
SS 4 - GA Gwinnett (Gwinnett County 4-H)	brittany.james@uga.edu
SS 5 - DE (Country Clovers 4-H)	krjohnson37073@gmail.com



Dates and Deadlines:

- **April 7, 2026** – [Student of the Year Nominations](#) Due
- **April 7, 2026** – [LifeSmarts Coach of the Year](#) Nominations Due
- **April 7, 2026** – [Pin Design Contest](#) Deadline
- **April 7, 2026** – [OTC Medicine Safety Mentor Individual Scholarships](#) Due
- **April 8, 2026** – [ConsumerMan LifeSmarts Scholarship Application](#) Due
- **April 8, 2026** – [LifeSmarts Impact Scholarship](#) Due
- **April 8, 2026** – [Lisa Hertzberg LifeSmarts Legacy of Leadership Scholarship](#) Due
- **April 8, 2026** – [LifeSmarts LifeSparks Team Achievement Award](#) Due



Resources

- More information is available in the [National LifeSmarts Championship 2026 Team Information Center](#)
- Be sure to review the [State Champion Coach Memo](#)
- If you have any questions, please email us: [LifeSmarts](#)



Next edition: Final schedule with matches and more!

The LifeSmarts Team

P.S. Be sure to follow us on Instagram and FB for competition topic / question clues!