



2026 VARSITY NATIONAL LIFESMARTS CHAMPIONSHIP WRAP-UP

National LifeSmarts Championship 2026: Edition 5

Thank you to every coach, assistant coach, team captain, and team member who joined us for the 2026 Varsity National LifeSmarts Championship. Each student, coach, and assistant coach showcased the best of your teams, schools, and organizations. We are truly proud to have each of you as part of the LifeSmarts family. Your hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication continue to inspire us every day!

Here are some wrap-up reminders for you and your team:

- Certificates are available for your team members for the National LifeSmarts Championship. Visit the link to download the [word template](#) that you can personalize for your team.
- Certificates for scholarship and contest winners are being emailed to coaches. Please share these with your students.
- We very much appreciate the honest feedback and great input from the event survey!
- The LifeSmarts [year-end coach survey](#) is open and can be completed until June 10th. Complete yours for a chance to win gift cards!
- LEAP (LifeSmarts Engagement Advisory Panel) Nominations are now being accepted for Please nominate interested students by **June 5th** here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5lh65xn>
- Teams who completed the Intuit Hour of Personal Finance Challenge will be receiving checks from Elena and Ryan about their \$100 cash awards!
- Coaches and assistant coaches, don't forget to apply for PDU's for the presentation that you attended at the National LifeSmarts Championship by ConsumerMan, Herb Weisbaum. Coaches, you can also count the Coach meeting you attended online prior to Nationals, as well as any prep work and coaching time for LifeSmarts competitions! You can apply for PDU's for serving as a LifeSmarts coach and more! All the information you need is available [here](#). You will receive your certificate via email directly from the site. Get credit for the great work that you do with your LifeSmarts students and teams!

Other links

- [Wrap-Up Page](#)
- Press Releases - [NCL](#) and [LifeSmarts](#)
- Press Release - [Fill-in post event article for your use](#)
- [Photos](#)
- [Final team standings](#)
- [Video broadcast of the semi-finals and finals](#)

- **Matt's Buzzers:**
Need buzzers? If you would like to be considered for a [Matt's Buzzers Grant](#) for September 2026, please complete and submit the application found on their [Application page](#) before **September 4, 2026**. Ten teams will be randomly selected to receive grants on Saturday, September 5, 2026. [Matt's Buzzers](#) can put you in contact with resources for used/refurbished buzzers and shares a list of buzzer company partners who offer discounts on their webpage. Check their Facebook page for news and updates. [Matt's Buzzers on Facebook](#)
- **33rd Varsity National LifeSmarts Championship – 2027**
SEE THE ATTACHED 2027 CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW FOR COACHES – USE IT TO START YOUR PLANNING AND FUNDRAISING FOR NEXT YEAR!
Be sure to mark your calendar for our event next year! On April 15 - 18, 2027 (Thursday - Sunday), the 33rd Varsity National LifeSmarts Championship will take place in Buffalo / Niagara Falls NY. We already have lots of special things planned, so start your road to Buffalo/ Niagara Falls now. Stay in touch with your LifeSmarts State Coordinator for deadlines to qualify in your state.
- We will open our site for our 33rd year on September 1! State competitions will be scheduled to occur **before February 20, 2027**. Watch the website and your state page for additional information.
- Several coaches also serve as **LifeSmarts state coordinators**. We are currently looking for state coordinators in several states. If you might be interested and would like to know more about serving as a coordinator or a co-coordinator in your state or you know someone in these states who might be willing to help, let [us](#) know!
- Make sure you are subscribed to our [SmartStart / TeachSmarts email list](#) for LifeSmarts updates and news starting again in August. Important: Check your email filters to be sure this reaches your inbox.

That's a wrap, everyone!

Thank you once again for a wonderful 32nd National LifeSmarts Championship! We appreciate each of you. Hope to see you next April in New York!

Thankfully,
The LifeSmarts team

**See the 2027 Varsity National
LifeSmarts Championship Preview
on the next page!**

33rd Varsity National LifeSmarts Championship

- Dates – April 15 – 18, 2027 (we are back to our Thursday – Sunday traditional format)
- Location: Buffalo -Niagara, NY
 - Our event will be at the Buffalo Convention Center
 - We will have the entire convention center
 - Hotel information will be released after the first of the year
- For planning, rates are:

Daily Room Rates: Room	Single Rate	Double Rate	Triple Rate	Quad Rate
1 KING BED	\$219.00	\$219.00	\$244.00	\$269.00
2 DOUBLE BEDS	\$219.00	\$219.00	\$244.00	\$269.00

- Same policy as this year: Teams allowed to book first.
- Volunteers and coordinators will have their own link and be given a time to book
- Buffalo Niagara International Airport: <https://buffaloairport.com/>
 - Airlines with direct service:



- Team Registration will be due **March 5th, 2027.**
- We plan to have a coach and captain meeting on-site if at all possible
- Planned event at RiverWorks: <https://buffaloriverworks.com/>
 - Food provided as well as planned activities which can include: ice skating and/ or roller skating, curling, high ropes adventure course, virtual reality, axe throwing, silo climbing zip line, arcade games, carnival-style rides, ferris wheel and MORE!
- Teams can ride the bus to Niagara Falls for \$2.00 per person.
- Get a Buffalo travel guide: <https://visitbuffalo.com/guide-request/>
- Visit Buffalo website: <https://visitbuffalo.com/>