

Members Count

The number of members is important to any organization for power as well as pride. As a chapter's membership grows, so does its image and the network of resource persons available. The national organization and state association depend on affiliation payments for its existence.

By being affiliated FCCLA members, students belong to a national organization that commands national attention. Having visibility is important. Legislators and others who control Family and Consumer Sciences Education funding—which affects FCCLA programs at the state, district/region, and local levels—need to be aware of FCCLA activities if they are going to support career and technical education funding.

Paying FCCLA dues is the key that unlocks members' opportunities to—

- develop leadership skills while having fun;
- vote and hold office on the local, district/region, state, and national levels;
- participate in programs and events on the local, district/region, state, and national levels;
- be eligible for state and national FCCLA recognition, including participation in STAR Events and other national programs;
- develop new friendships;
- explore careers related to Family and Consumer Sciences and develop career skills;
- receive personal copies of *Teen Times*—the magazine that addresses youth concerns and shares chapter information;
- build a record of accomplishments useful when seeking employment or college acceptance;
- apply Family and Consumer Sciences skills in carrying out projects;
- connect to Career Pathways;
- be an active member in an organization that is making a difference;
- wear the FCCLA pin and emblem and call themselves FCCLA members.

Each paid member receives a membership card, sent to the chapter adviser for distribution

Paying Dues

Here are some ways co-curricular FCCLA chapters finance dues.

- Students carry out an entrepreneurship project or fundraiser. This not only raises money to pay dues for everyone in the class, but also enhances students' learning and enjoyment.
- Dues are included in a course, lab, or activity fee.
- Department budget may include the Middle Level Option.
- Each member pays individually, either all at once or on an installment plan. Each paid member receives a membership card and a personal copy of *Teen Times* magazine (both sent to the chapter adviser for distribution). Paid members may hold office and participate in FCCLA activities outside the classroom and beyond the school—enhancing their opportunities to have fun and travel.
- Adult supporters (teachers, parents, alumni, community members) sponsor individual members and pay their dues. This approach may be particularly appropriate as a source of funds to subsidize students who truly cannot afford the full dues payment.
- School budget includes some portion of dues as a course expense.
- Local Career and Technical Education plan allows for costs of “vocational and technical student organizations” and provides funds that might be used to cover a portion of dues in recognition of the activities and resources provided in return for dues payments.

What Are the Costs?

National Membership dues support Family, Career and Community Leaders of America which is a nonprofit organization incorporated in the District of Columbia. Each member pays \$9.00 annual dues to join the national organization. State association dues are \$6.00 per member and are voted on by the state membership. A total of \$15.00 is required to join both the National and the State Associations. Middle level chapters may affiliate for a flat fee of national, \$450 and state, \$300 for a total of \$750. Specific middle level affiliation forms are used. Chapter dues are set by each individual group and approved by the members. In addition, chapters have received money through donations, grants and fundraising activities. These funds support:

- A national headquarters and national staff in Reston, Virginia, who work full time for you and every other FCCLA member.
- State STAR Events staff and coordination
- An ongoing program of public relations designed to tell people about the activities and projects of Family and Consumer Sciences students.
- FCCLA National Program resources that are in alignment with PA Family and Consumer Sciences Academic Standards and connect to Career Pathways.
- A national supply service through volume sales which reduces costs and makes chapter items such as pins, stationery and certificates available to members at lower cost than individual states or chapters could provide.
- State Newsletter
- State and National Officer Expenses
- The PA FCCLA Website
- Insurance Policies