



NEBRASKA
STATE ASSOCIATION

2026 State Leadership Conference

March 29-31, 2026

Conference Guide



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Welcome to the 2026 State Leadership Conference!

On behalf of the State Officer Team, we are proud to release information about the upcoming State Leadership Conference! We hope this is useful to you as you begin planning for the State Leadership Conference. We invite you and your chapter to participate in the Nebraska FCCLA premier leadership event!

The 2026 Nebraska FCCLA State Leadership Conference (SLC) will be held in Lincoln March 29-31, 2026. This year's event will feature many exciting opportunities for students and advisers to participate in!

The 2026 State Leadership Conference theme is "Flourish with Purpose." Throughout SLC, we hope members are inspired to grow their leadership skills, make intentional choices, and elevate their impact within FCCLA, their schools, and their communities.

Besides competing in STAR Events, consider attending breakout sessions, participating in impactful community service projects, competing in the FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl, presenting a RED Talk, networking in the Opportunity Fair, or showcasing a project in the Spotlight on Projects.

We know that everything members experience at SLC will empower them to flourish as leaders and act with purpose as they create meaningful change within their families, schools, and communities. We can't wait to see how attendees will thrive and make this conference unforgettable!



Participants

Advisers are encouraged to invite a wide variety of students to attend the State Leadership Conference. We have an outstanding program planned, which would benefit a student with any interest in the organization. All members are encouraged to attend. Examples of those who absolutely should attend include the following:

- Chapter officers
- Committee members
- Competitive Event participants
- Scholarship winners
- Power of One completers
- Top fundraisers
- Highly involved members
- New members who have expressed interest in being more involved in the organization
- Foreign exchange students who are members
- District, SPOT, State, and National Officers and Candidates

There are many different ways for members to be engaged and involved throughout the State Leadership Conference including these events, sessions, and volunteer opportunities:

- STAR Events
- Skill Demonstration Events
- FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl
- Voting Delegate
- FCCLA Serves
- Tours
- Honorary Conference Assistants
- Content Creators
- Competitive Event Youth Volunteer
- FCCLA Fashion Show
- Say Yes to FCS Signing Event
- Future FCS Teacher Social

Check out the [SLC - What You Need to Know slide deck](#) for more specific information about each of these opportunities. More details can also be found in the [Conference Events section](#) of this document.

Voting Delegates

Each chapter should choose one individual to serve as a Voting Delegate. It is recommended that this person not be involved in STAR Events, Knowledge Bowl, a tour, or FCCLA Serves as their schedule is very specific on Monday.

The following details the schedule for Voting Delegates on Monday, March 30:

12:45-1:15	Voting Delegate Sign-In
1:15-3:30	State Officer Candidate Speeches
3:30-4:30	Business Session
6:00-6:45	Cast ballot prior to Recognition Session at PBA

Voting Delegates will receive their nametag ribbon and official ballot upon check-in at the State Officer Candidate Speeches; upon check-in for the Business Session, Voting Delegates will receive their official business ballot. The nametag ribbon will serve as their clearance to cast their ballots on Monday, March 30 between 6:00-6:45pm at Pinnacle Bank Arena. If Voting Delegates do not sign in for either session, they will not receive nametag ribbons or official ballots and will not be eligible to cast votes.

There are multiple Bylaws amendments to be considered by voting delegates. These proposals are meant to clarify language and remove specific details, which should only be detailed in the Operational Procedures. Review the [2026 SLC Voting Delegate Guide](#) for more information about how the proposed Bylaws amendments will be handled during the Business session.

Honorary Conference Assistants

Honorary Conference Assistants (HCAs) play a vital role in the operation and success of our annual State Leadership Conference. HCAs must be juniors or seniors in high school, have strong FCCLA experience and knowledge, previously attended an in-person SLC, and not be competing in STAR Events, Knowledge Bowl, or Skill Demonstration Events.

These youth personnel have the following responsibilities throughout the conference:

- Ensure correct A/V and room set-up for breakout sessions
- Assist with running STAR Event results
- Assist attendees in finding rooms
- Assist at the FCCLA Store
- Assist at the Opportunity Fair
- Assist at the SOC Speeches and Business Session
- Assist at the Knowledge Bowl
- Ensure individuals with assigned seating find their seats prior to sessions
- Ensure proper dress and tickets at dance (must attend the dance)
- Assist with line-up during the Competitive Event Recognition session

In exchange for their time, they receive a discounted registration rate, a free conference t-shirt, and three complimentary meals (lunch on Monday and Tuesday, supper on Monday).

Conference Assistants will receive their specific assignments at their mandatory Orientation Session hosted virtually on Wednesday, March 25 or Thursday, March 26 from 7-8pm CDT (date will be selected once assistants have been selected). Conference Assistants will need to arrive at the arena floor at PBA by 4:00pm on Sunday, March 29.

Honorary Conference Assistant applications are due **Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 5pm CST**.

Members will be notified of their acceptance by February 16, 2026. Chapter advisers will be required to complete a Personal Profile Form, which will be sent automatically via Jotform once the student submits their application. Applications will not be considered complete until the Personal Profile Form has been completed and submitted.

Reach out to Courtney Hagestad, Leadership Coordinator, chagestad@nebraskafccla.org, with any questions or concerns.

Content Creators

As a Content Creator at the State Leadership Conference, you will be responsible for producing engaging and high-quality social media content tailored to members. This role offers a unique opportunity to develop your skills in content creation, social media management, and digital marketing while contributing to a dynamic and creative team. Ideal candidates are members with a passion for storytelling, creativity, and an understanding of various content formats.

The following requirements must be met for members to apply to be Content Creators:

- Strong FCCLA Experience and Knowledge
- Social Media/Content Creation Experience and Knowledge
- Previously attended an in-person SLC

In exchange for their time, they will receive a discounted registration rate, a free conference t-shirt, and three complimentary meals (lunch on Monday and Tuesday, supper on Monday).

Content Creators will need to arrive at the arena floor at PBA on Sunday, March 29 by 4:00pm.

Content Creator applications are due **Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 5pm CST**. Members will be notified of their acceptance by February 16, 2026. Chapter advisers will be required to complete a Personal Profile Form, which will be sent automatically via Jotform once the student submits this application. Applications will not be considered complete until the Personal Profile Form has been completed and submitted.

Reach out to Courtney Hagestad, Leadership Coordinator, chagestad@nebraskafccla.org, with any questions or concerns.

Adult Volunteers

Advisers and chaperones play a vital role in ensuring the annual State Leadership Conference is a success.

Lead Tours & FCCLA Serves: Adults are needed to chaperone groups of about 10-15 students on tours or service projects, which will all be within walking distance of the Haymarket. Lunch on Monday will be provided to adults who assist in this capacity.

If you would be interested in helping with any of the events, **please fill out the [Adult Volunteer Form](#) by Friday, March 13**. Assignments will be shared by Friday, March 20.

Registration

All conference participants must wear a name badge in order to gain admittance into FCCLA SLC events. Everyone must register for the conference in order to receive a name badge, with the exception of competitive event volunteers who are assisting on Monday, March 30 and Tuesday, March 31.

Registration rates are set annually by the Nebraska FCCLA Board of Directors.

Registration Rates

Conference Rate - \$75 | Sunday, Monday, Tuesday

Members, Advisers, Administrators, Parents, Chaperones, Guests

This rate includes entrance to all conference sessions as well as lunch on Tuesday. This is the required registration for STAR Event participants.

Single Day Rate - \$35 | Sunday OR Monday

Members, Advisers, Administrators, Parents, Chaperones, Guests

This rate includes entrance to all conference sessions on the day of attendance.

Tuesday Only Rate - \$50 | Tuesday

Members, Advisers, Administrators, Parents, Chaperones, Guests

This rate includes entrance to all conference sessions as well as lunch on Tuesday.

SLC Youth Personnel Rate - \$35 | Sunday, Monday, Tuesday

Honorary Conference Assistants, Content Creators

This is a reduced registration rate, which includes a conference t-shirt, for the work of these members at the event.

Competitive Event Volunteer Rate - \$35 | Sunday, Monday, Tuesday (for attendance beyond volunteer role)

Adult Competitive Event Volunteers, Chaperones, Guests

This discounted rate includes entrance to all conference sessions and events on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday as well as lunch on Tuesday. Competitive Event volunteers do not have to register for the conference if they are just volunteering on Monday (STAR Events) or Tuesday (Skill Demonstration Events). If they wish to attend any other events outside their volunteer role, then they need to register with this rate.

Adviser Assistant Rate - \$35 | Sunday, Monday, Tuesday

Second Adult for: SPOT Advisers, District Advisers, District STAR Event Coordinators, STAR Event or Skill Demonstration Event Lead Consultants

This discounted rate includes entrance to all conference sessions and events on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday as well as lunch on Tuesday. This rate is extended to an additional adult registered with a chapter whose adviser serves as a SPOT Adviser, District Adviser, District STAR Event Coordinator, STAR Event or Skill Demonstration Event Lead Consultant.

Complimentary Registration | Sunday, Monday, Tuesday

2025-26 State Officers, Board of Directors Members, VIP Guests, Student Teachers

Additional Registration Fees

FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl Fee - \$20 / per team

FCS Challenge Test Fee - \$5 / per test

Students may compete in as many challenge tests as they like.

Skill Demonstration Event Fee - \$10 / per competitor

Students may only compete in one (1) Skill Demonstration Event.

STAR Event Fee - \$15-\$20 / per competitor

\$20 for Culinary Arts and Baking & Pastry, \$15 for all other STAR Events

Conference T-Shirt - \$12 / \$12 for all sizes

limited conference t-shirts will be available for purchase on-site for \$15/shirt (all sizes)

Monday Boxed Lunch - \$23 / per person

Optional lunch available at the Hilton Garden Inn. STAR Event volunteers will receive lunch at no charge on Monday; please do not select this for STAR Event volunteers.

Monday Night Activities - \$10 / per person

Optional Monday special events of Dance + Yard Games at the Graduate or a Movie at Marcus Grand.

On-Site Admission Fees

Recognition Session Admission - \$5 / Monday, March 30 at PBA from 6:00-9:00pm

Administrators, Parents, Guests

This rate will be charged to attendees for the Recognition Session on Monday evening.

Tuesday General Session Admission - \$10 / Tuesday, March 31 at PBA from 11:00am-2:00pm

Administrators, Parents, Guests

This rate will be charged to attendees for the Competitive Events Recognition Session and Closing General Session on Tuesday morning; this rate does not include lunch. Parents of 2025-26 State Peer Officers and State Officers and the newly elected 2026-27 State Peer Officers and State Officers will receive complimentary admission to these sessions.

Conference Schedule & Opportunities

The complete, accurate [Schedule at a Glance](#) can be found on the [State Leadership Conference page](#) of the Nebraska FCCLA website. Additionally, be sure to review the [SLC - What You Need to Know slide deck](#) for more bite-sized information about all of the opportunities available for SLC.

Nebraska FCCLA will be using SCHED for the official conference program. The event schedule can be accessed through any browser or through the free mobile app. It allows conference attendees to view the current schedule, view maps of the facility, engage in conference and session evaluations, and set personalized notifications for their very own schedule. Links for the detailed schedule as well as instructions for viewing the schedule with SCHED will be released by March 13.

Sunday, March 29

2:30-4:00	STAR Event & Skill Demonstration Event Lead Consultant Check-In	<p><u>This orientation is required for all Lead Consultants (new and returning).</u> This session will include last-minute information, a time for Q&A, and will be when Lead Consultants receive their materials.</p> <p>New STAR Event Lead Consultant Virtual Orientation – Monday, March 24 4:30-5:30pm CDT</p> <p>Skill Demonstration Event Lead Consultant Virtual Orientation – Wednesday, March 26 4:30-5:30pm CDT</p>
5:00-7:00 <i>doors open at 4:30pm!</i>	Opening General Session	<p>Join us as we kick off a great State Leadership Conference at Pinnacle Bank Arena. Attendees will be introduced to the outstanding leaders in Nebraska FCCLA as well as recognizing each of our amazing chapters during the Parade of Chapters. Awards to be given during this session include:</p> <p>Adult Awards: Honorary Membership, Distinguished Service, Administrator of the Year</p> <p>Adviser Awards: Spirit of Advising, Adviser Mentor, ACE, Years of Service, First Year Advisers, Retiring Advisers;</p> <p>Individual Awards: Scholarships, A Day in Your Future, CommYOUtunity Service, Feed Nebraska, Power of One, FCS Challenge Tests - Top 3</p>
7:00-8:00	STAR Event Room Preview - optional	Chapter advisers and members have the opportunity to identify their STAR Event competition room location.
7:00-8:30	State Officer Celebration	This celebration will recognize the State Officer Team for their work and dedication throughout the year with those that have supported them through it all: chapter advisers, school administrators, family, and special guests.

Monday, March 30

8:00-8:30	STAR Event Participant Orientation	Participant orientation will take place in the respective competition rooms (unless otherwise noted). This meeting is required for participants in order to receive full points on the point summary form.
8:00-8:30	STAR Event Youth Volunteers Orientation	This orientation is required for all STAR Event Youth Volunteers. They receive the information they need to be successful in their role as well as their assignments for the day.
8:30-9:00	STAR Event Evaluator Orientation	Evaluator orientation will take place in the respective competition rooms (unless otherwise noted). This meeting will be led by the Lead Consultants and will prepare evaluators for the day of competition.
9:00-4:30	STAR Event Competition	The top two entries in each STAR Event level from the District competitions will qualify to compete at SLC. All STAR Event competitions will take place on Monday, March 30 at multiple locations throughout the Haymarket. Competition schedules & locations will be shared with advisers by March 10.
9:00-4:00	FCCLA Serves & Tours	Students are invited to help FCCLA give back to some of the great organizations as well as participate in tours of local businesses and organizations in our host city of Lincoln. Registration will be a first come, first served opportunity; limited space available. Sign-Up for these opportunities will run from Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 20.
9:00-3:45	Youth Breakout Sessions	Engaging 45-minute breakout sessions are being planned for the entire day. This is a great way for all attendees to grow their individual leadership skills, learn more about FCCLA, and explore opportunities to get more involved!
9:00-3:30	Opportunity Fair	Learn more about various organizations available to support the work of your chapter as well as connect with many colleges, both in and out of Nebraska. Participants who complete the event's passport will receive a ribbon for their nametag.
1:00-5:00	FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl	Come watch 12 teams compete head-to-head for a chance to face-off on Tuesday to become the Nebraska FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl Champion.
1:15-3:30 <i>voting delegate sign-in begins at 12:45pm</i>	State Officer Candidate Speeches	This session is available to all SLC attendees and will give members the opportunity to hear from the candidates running for a position on the 2026-27 State Officer Team. Voting Delegates are required to attend this session to receive their ribbon and their chapter's official ballot.

State Leadership Conference

3:30-4:30	Business Session	This session is available to all SLC attendees and will give members the opportunity to hear about the official business of the state association. This year's session will feature the consideration of various Bylaws amendments.
2:00-4:00	Adviser Break	Chapter Advisers are invited to step away from the chaos of the conference and enjoy light appetizers and caffeinated beverages.
4:30-6:00	Future FCS Teacher Social <i>pre-registration required sponsored by Family & Consumer Sciences Teachers of Nebraska (FCSTN) & Postsecondary FCS Education Programs</i>	This dinner, open to any junior or senior, is meant to provide more information and develop connections for students interested in pursuing a degree in Family & Consumer Sciences education. Participants will learn more about the FCS Education programs available in Nebraska, hear from outstanding FCS teachers in Nebraska, and network with other students interested in becoming FCS educators.
6:30-8:30 <i>doors open at 6:00pm!</i>	Recognition Session	Join us as we celebrate the outstanding achievements of the chapters and members of Nebraska FCCLA as well as hear from the inspiring keynote speaker! The Say Yes to FCS Signing Event & FCCLA Fashion Show will also take place during this session. Awards to be given during this session include: Membership Awards: Region Membership Increase, Red & White Affiliation, Five Star Recruiter Award, Emerging Leader Award Chapter Awards: New Chapters, Chapter Award, Chapter Developer Award, Community ServUS, National Program Awards, Public Relations
9:00-11:00	Dance + Yard Games or Movie Showing at Marcus Theatres	Participants can choose to participate in either of these optional activities or create their own fun! Movie tickets will be available on a first come, first served basis. Tickets for each event are \$10/participant and require an adult chaperone.

Tuesday, March 31

8:00-8:30	Skill Demonstration Event Participant Orientation	Participant orientation will take place in the respective competition rooms (unless otherwise noted).
8:30-9:00	Skill Demonstration Event Evaluator Orientation	Evaluator orientation will take place in the respective competition rooms (unless otherwise noted). This meeting will be led by the Lead Consultants and will prepare evaluators for the day of competition.
8:30-11:00	RED Talks Youth Workshops	Participate in these TED Talk-style workshops hosted by current FCCLA members! RED Talks applications are open until February 10; applicants will be notified by February 20.

State Leadership Conference

8:30-11:00	Youth Breakout Sessions	Engaging breakout sessions are being planned for the morning. This is a great way for all attendees to grow their individual leadership skills, learn more about FCCLA, and explore opportunities to get more involved!
9:00-11:00	Innovate the Plate: Power Up with My Plate <i>pre-registration required offered as part of the Team Nutrition & Farm to School initiatives through the Nebraska Department of Education</i>	Members will have the opportunity to compete in this special event which challenges students and families to make a variety of healthy choices with their plate! Browse the unique creations developed by FCCLA members! Participants who complete the event's passport will receive a ribbon for their nametag.
9:00-11:00	Skill Demonstration Event Competition	Specific Skill Demonstration Events will be offered for the first time at SLC this year. Space will be limited in each event level; registration will be on a first come, first served basis during SLC registration. All Skill Demonstration Event competitions will take place on Tuesday, March 31 at PBA. Competition schedules & locations will be shared with advisers by March 16.
9:00-11:00	Spotlight on Projects	Check out the amazing projects that members and chapters have completed in the last year! This is a great way to showcase Power of One projects, unique STAR Events, or chapter service projects! Registration will take place as part of SLC registration. Browse the projects and gain new ideas for your own chapter! Participants who complete the event's passport will receive a ribbon for their nametag.
10:00-11:00	FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl Finals	Come watch the remaining four teams face-off in the third/fourth place and championship match!
11:00-12:00	Boxed Lunch Pick-Up	Boxed lunches are available for all registered attendees. Lunches can be picked-up as attendees enter the PBA arena floor.
12:00-1:30 <i>doors open at 11:00am!</i>	Competitive Events Awards Session	All STAR Event & Skill Demonstration Event competitors will be recognized at this session and the State Champion and Runner-Up will be announced! All competitors should be in their seats by 11:50am.
1:45-2:30	Closing General Session <i>will begin 15 minutes after the Competitive Events Recognition Session</i>	Join us as we look back on the conference and look ahead with the newly elected leaders for Nebraska FCCLA.

Dress Code - [Nebraska FCCLA Dress Code - 2022 Supplement](#)

The following dress code shall apply to all state sponsored activities/sessions unless otherwise indicated by the Nebraska State FCCLA Adviser or Board of Directors.

Students attending sessions will be expected to wear the following attire:

- FCCLA official dress
- red, black, or white collared shirts with sleeves
**please note that the FCCLA logo is not a required component*
- neutral colored pants, capris, or skirts
**capris must fall completely below the knee; skirts should be no more than 2 inches above the knee at its shortest point*
- shoes, black preferred

The following are items that will not be allowed to any session:

- blue jeans, leggings, jeggings
- shorts or other athletic attire
- slippers, flip flops, slip-on sandals
- revealing attire, including but not limited to items that are low cut, tight, or see-through

Members will also be asked to remove outerwear (coats, sweatshirts, etc.) before entering. Members who are found in violation of the dress code at any point before or during a session will be asked to leave to change immediately. They will be more than welcome to return to the session when their attire meets the dress code requirements. Advisers and guests are asked to dress in business casual or business professional attire.

Fashion Show

Do you want the chance to feature your outstanding work on stage at the Nebraska FCCLA State Leadership Conference? All members are eligible to apply for the SLC Fashion Show. Omaha Fashion Week participants are automatically eligible, but not required, to participate.

[Fashion Show applications](#) are due Thursday, March 5 at 6pm CST, and participants will be notified of their selection by Friday, March 13.

Reach out to Courtney Hagestad, Leadership Coordinator, chagestad@nebraskafccla.org, with any questions or concerns.

Say Yes to FCS Signing Event

The Say Yes to FCS Signing Event continues to be a special part of the State Leadership Conference! In partnership with the Nebraska Association for Family & Consumer Sciences (NAFCS) we are excited to continue to provide recognition to members choosing to pursue FCS-related careers at any post-secondary institution. This is open to all Seniors interested in careers in culinary arts, teaching, interior and fashion design, FCS education, nutrition and dietetics, counseling and mental health, early childhood education, etc.

Say Yes to FCS Signing Event registration will take place as part of SLC registration. Reach out to Courtney Hagestad, Leadership Coordinator, chagestad@nebraskafccla.org, with any questions or concerns.

RED Talks Youth Workshops

Nebraska FCCLA is offering members the opportunity to host a RED Talk presentation during the State Leadership Conference. This is the perfect opportunity to showcase your FCCLA experience, work on your personal leadership development, connect with like-minded individuals, and assist others as they Rise Above.

A RED Talk is a 20 minute TED Talk-style presentation where youth presenters can share experiences and expertise with members. These presentations typically include a brief and informative inspirational message to their audience.

Presentation proposals can be based on a variety of different ideas, including but not limited to:

- Personal Growth: Leadership Development, Career Exploration, College Preparation
- Chapter Growth: Fundraising, Partnerships, Membership
- FCCLA Growth: Awards & Recognition, National Programs, Competitive Events

RED Talks will be offered on Tuesday morning (April 8) from 8:30-11:00am at the Hilton Garden Inn. There will be a projector (HDMI connection) and AUX cord (audio) available for the presentation.

Please note that RED Talks are offered at the same time as Skill Demonstration Events. RED Talks presenters will not be able to participate in Skill Demonstration Events.

RED Talks applications are due by **Tuesday, February 10 at 5:00pm CST** and those who are chosen will be notified by Friday, February 20.

Chapter advisers of applicants will complete a Personal Profile Form once the application has been submitted. The form will be automatically sent to the adviser via Jotform. Applications will not be considered complete until the Personal Profile Form has been completed and submitted.

Reach out to Courtney Hagestad, Leadership Coordinator, chagestad@nebraskafccla.org, with any questions or concerns.

Spotlight on Projects

Spotlight on Projects will highlight completed projects from the past year, whether completed by the chapter or individuals. Examples could include Power of One projects, National Program projects, STAR Events, Feed Nebraska projects, fundraisers, etc. This event at SLC will not only provide a showcase opportunity for those participating, but it will also serve as a learning opportunity for those who stroll the projects.

Projects will be on display on Tuesday, March 31 from 9:00-11:00am in the second floor lobby at Pinnacle Bank Arena. Each project will have half of an 8' table and one chair; electricity will not be available. Participants will have time to set up displays between 8:15-9:00am.

Please note that Spotlight on Projects is offered at the same time as Skill Demonstration Events, RED Talks, and the Innovate the Plate experience. Chapters should ensure that projects are not left alone and have a representative available for the duration of the event.

Spotlight on Projects sign up can be completed by advisers or members on this [Spotlight on Projects Sign-Up Sheet](#) and will remain open until Wednesday, March 25 at 5:00pm CDT.

Reach out to Courtney Hagestad, Leadership Coordinator, chagestad@nebraskafccla.org, with any questions or concerns.

Innovate the Plate: Power Up with My Plate

As a part of the USDA Team Nutrition grant at the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), we are encouraging students and families to make a variety of healthy choices by following the dietary guidelines:

- Eat a variety of foods
- Eat more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains
- Eat lower-fat foods more often
- Get your calcium-rich foods
- Be physically active

This year, the Innovate the Plate culinary competition will allow students to select from two recipe categories to create and test healthy, My Plate-friendly recipes for the 2026 competition. [Access all information and guidelines for the Innovate the Plate competitions here.](#)

1. **Beanstock**: The recipe prototype formula(s) must use at least $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of beans (canned or dried) and fit within one of the following menu categories: breakfast/main dish, savory snack/appetizer/side dish, or sweet snack/dessert.

Need ideas? Visit the [Harvest of the Month website](#) or the [Beanstock website](#) to view last year's winning recipe (scroll to the bottom of the page).

2. **Team Nutrition Sports Nutrition**: The recipe prototype formula(s) must be designed to support active students and athletes by providing balanced nutrition that fuels performance and/or recovery. Recipes should include nutrient-rich ingredients and ideally, include both a carbohydrate and a protein source. Recipes should fit within one of the following menu categories: breakfast/main dish, savory snack/appetizer/side dish, or sweet snack/dessert, and be easy for students to transport and eat to accommodate their busy schedules.

Need ideas? [Visit the Team Nutrition Sports Nutrition website](#). Sport-specific resources are available and provide ideas for snacks and meals to get your creativity flowing.

Participants must prepare a display board and their dish in person at the FCCLA State Leadership Conference on Tuesday, March 31 from 9:00-11:00am at Pinnacle Bank Arena. The prepared dish will be used for display purposes only. The Nebraska Department of Education will provide all equipment necessary to prepare and cook the recipes.

Participating schools will receive a stipend of \$150 to cover recipe development, storyboard supplies, and travel to Lincoln (up to two (2) teams per building). All food, supplies, and equipment will be provided by event organizers on-site for the recipe demo and presentation. This will include but is not limited to a large capacity air fryer, electric skillets, blenders, and mixer may be made available. Students will share their storyboards with judges and will be interviewed about the process used to select, test, modify, and prepare the recipe.

Innovate the Plate Applications are due by **Friday, February 20** and only 20 applications will be accepted (just the original recipe before testing is due with the application).

Participants interested in participating in this event cannot be competing in Skill Demonstration Events, presenting RED Talks, or participating in Spotlight on Projects.

Competitive Events

Nebraska FCCLA offers four different competitive event opportunities as part of the annual State Leadership Conference. None of these state-level competitions are connected to the national competitive events described above, except STAR Events. We simply offer these opportunities at the state level to provide competition opportunities for members at SLC outside of STAR Events. Guidelines and more specific information about each event can be found in the [2025-26 Nebraska Competitive Events Handbook](#).

IEPs may be presented when students register if accommodations are necessary for their success in competitive events. This information will be shared with the event Evaluators and/or Lead Consultant. Advisers must complete the [FCCLA Participant with Accommodations Form](#) prior to the District STAR Event competition and by March 5 for all other competitive events.

Evaluators

Each chapter is required to submit evaluator names based on the number of STAR Event entries they have.

- 1-3 entries = 1 Evaluator
- 4-6 entries = 2 Evaluators
- 7-9 entries = 3 Evaluators
- 10+ entries = 4 Evaluators

These individuals can be FCCLA alumni, pre-service teachers in college, retired teachers, adults or college students familiar with FCCLA and/or other CTSO competitive events, etc. Chapter advisers and members who don't have experience competing in the event at the national level cannot serve as evaluators. We will provide the necessary training to willing volunteers who want to provide a high-quality experience for members.

The STAR Event Evaluator Orientation will take place on Monday, March 30 beginning at 8:30am in the assigned competition room. The competition schedule will be from 9:00am-4:00pm. The length of the assigned event will depend upon the number of participants; some events will not last the entire day.

Interested individuals should complete the [STAR Event Evaluator Interest Form](#) by February 28, 2026. Evaluators do not have to register for the conference, unless they wish to attend events outside of their volunteer role. STAR Event Evaluators will receive a complimentary lunch and a small gift of thanks for sharing their time and expertise as volunteers.

The Skill Demonstration Event Evaluator Orientation will take place on Tuesday, March 31 beginning at 8:30am in the assigned competition room in Pinnacle Bank Arena. The competition schedule will be from 9:00-11:30am. The length of the assigned event will depend upon the number of participants; some events may finish early.

If you have individuals with industry-specific knowledge and skills to assist as Skill Demonstration Event evaluators, please reach out to the Competitive Events team (competitiveevents@nebraskafccla.org) for a registration link.

Lead Consultants

Each district is responsible for submitting advisers to serve as STAR Event Lead Consultants.

- District 1 – 3 Lead Consultants
- District 2 – 4 Lead Consultants
- District 3 – 4 Lead Consultants
- District 4 – 2 Lead Consultants
- District 5 – 5 Lead Consultants
- District 6 – 3 Lead Consultants
- District 7 – 4 Lead Consultants
- District 8 – 4 Lead Consultants
- District 9 – 4 Lead Consultants
- District 10 – 4 Lead Consultants
- District 11 – 3 Lead Consultants
- District 12 – 3 Lead Consultants

These individuals will serve as the point person for an assigned room(s) or event(s); most Lead Consultants will have one room but could potentially have multiple events that take place in that room. They will assist the evaluators, keep the room on schedule, and finalize scores. Serving in this capacity will give chapter advisers an inside look at how specific events run and help them learn more; it's truly a unique way to learn more about a specific event!

All Lead Consultants & Room Consultants will attend the orientation on Sunday, March 29 from 2:30-4:00pm to review responsibilities, get familiar materials, and answer questions.

Chapter Advisers should complete the [STAR Event Lead Consultant Sign Up](#) by February 16, 2026. If you are interested in also serving as a Skill Demonstration Event Lead Consultant, please reach out to the Competitive Events team (competitiveevents@nebraskafccla.org) for a registration link.

Competitive Event Youth Volunteers

Many volunteers are required to successfully host the state competitions. We are seeking youth volunteers who can assist with STAR Events or Skill Demonstration Events. These individuals will assist the event Lead Consultants throughout the competition, which will include serving as a timer or event runner. This is a great way for students to learn more about STAR Events or Skill Demonstration Events!

These individuals will need to be available for the entire day on Monday, March 30 or the morning of Tuesday, March 31. Lunch will not be provided for youth volunteers on Monday; light snacks will be provided.

You will be able to volunteer students for this role by completing the [Competitive Event Youth Volunteer Sign-Up Form](#) between Monday, March 16 - Wednesday, March 25 at 5:00pm CDT.

STAR Events

STAR Event competitions will be distributed between the Graduate and Pinnacle Bank Arena. A complete schedule will be shared with Chapter Advisers by March 10. Advisers should check these schedules for accuracy and conflicts as soon as possible and report any errors to the State Office.

STAR Event Registration

Names and events are submitted by District STAR Event Coordinators and are imported into the SLC Conference Registration system. Advisers will not have to register their students for STAR Events, but will need to review the registration to ensure that students are in the correct events. New this year,

Baking & Pastry and Culinary Arts competitors will also be registered for their respective event based on the results from the Qualifying Quiz.

The registration fees for STAR Events is outlined below:

- Baking & Pastry, Culinary Arts: \$20 per competitor (includes lunch)
- All Other Events: \$15 per competitor

Per the Nebraska FCCLA Operational Procedures, once registration is complete, competitive event fees are nonrefundable.

STAR Event Mandatory Sessions

STAR Event participants are required to attend three events. The first is the Participant Orientation on Monday, March 30 at 8:00am. The second is their actual presentation time. The third and final event is the Competitive Events Recognition Session on Tuesday, March 31, with participants finding their event seating by 11:50am; the session will begin promptly at 12:00pm.

In order for participants to receive their medal, they MUST attend this session. Medals and trophies will NOT be mailed to chapters after the event, unless there is a mistake. If a competitor is unable to attend this event, chapter advisers should pick-up the competitor's medal and/or trophy after the session has concluded.

Skill Demonstration Events

Skill Demonstration Event competitions will take place on Tuesday, March 31 at Pinnacle Bank Arena. A complete schedule will be shared with Chapter Advisers by March 16. Advisers should check these schedules for accuracy and conflicts as soon as possible and report any errors to the State Office.

Skill Demonstration Event Registration

There are limited spaces available for students to compete in Skill Demonstration Events, and all available spaces will be first come, first served as part of the SLC registration process. A waitlist for each event level will be established, and additional entries beyond the state capacities will be accepted, if there are Level(s) of an event that do not reach capacity. Chapters can have up to three (3) competitors in each event level. Students can only compete in one (1) event.

Skill Demonstration Event registration fee is \$10/competitor.

Per the Nebraska FCCLA Operational Procedures, once registration is complete, competitive event fees are nonrefundable.

Skill Demonstration Event Mandatory Sessions

Skill Demonstration Event participants are required to attend three events. The first is the Participant Orientation on Tuesday, March 31 at 8:00am. The second is their actual presentation time. The third and final event is the Competitive Events Recognition Session on Tuesday, March 31, with participants finding their event seating by 11:50am; the session will begin promptly at 12:00pm. If Skill Demonstration Event competitors are also STAR Event participants, they will sit in STAR Event seating and then remain backstage in Skill Demonstration Event seating after their STAR Event has been recognized. If a competitor is unable to attend this event, chapter advisers should pick-up the competitor's first, second, or third place certificate after the session has concluded.

FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl

FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl will take place on Monday, March 30 at the Graduate, and the third/fourth place and championship rounds will take place at Pinnacle Bank Arena on Tuesday, March 31. A complete bracket and match schedule will be shared with Chapter Advisers by March 28.

FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl Registration

Chapters will register their Knowledge Bowl teams as part of the SLC registration process. Chapters may register up to two (2) teams. Teams are made up of five (5) members; team members may not be STAR Event competitors. Teams will collaboratively take a 50-question quiz during the testing window, February 5-13, 2026. The 12 teams with the highest scores will be invited to compete in the head-to-head competition at SLC; announcement of the Top 12 teams will be made by Monday, February 16.

FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl registration fee is \$20/team.

Per the Nebraska FCCLA Operational Procedures, once registration is complete, competitive event fees are nonrefundable.

FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl Mandatory Sessions

FCCLA/LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl participants are required to attend a Participant Orientation on Monday, March 30 at 1:00pm. Following the orientation, team members must remain at the Graduate to compete in the head-to-head matches, which will take place on a rolling basis.

FCS Challenge Tests

The FCS Challenge Test online testing window will be Wednesday, March 19 at 7am CDT through Wednesday, March 26 at 6pm CDT.

FCS Challenge Tests Registration

FCS Challenge Test registration will occur as part of the SLC registration process. Students can take as many tests as they like.

FCS Challenge Test registration fee is \$5/test.

Per the Nebraska FCCLA Operational Procedures, once registration is complete, competitive event fees are nonrefundable.

FCS Challenge Tests Mandatory Sessions

Students who place in the top three will be recognized on-stage at SLC during the Opening General Session on Sunday, March 29. Participants who are in the top three will be shared with other award notifications by March 25. Finalist certificates will be awarded to the first, second, and third place finishers on-stage.

Awards & Recognition

The State Leadership Conference is the premier recognition event for Nebraska members, advisers, chapters, and supporters. Recognition opportunities are spread throughout the conference. For a complete list of awards, including descriptions and applications, please see the [Awards page](#) of the Nebraska FCCLA website.

Below is an outline of the awards and recognition opportunities offered at the State Leadership Conference, organized by the session in which each recognition is presented.

Opening General Session | Sunday, March 29 from 5:00-7:00pm

- Adult Awards: Honorary Membership, Distinguished Service, Administrator of the Year
- Adviser Awards: Spirit of Advising, Nebraska Master Adviser, Adviser Mentor, ACE, Years of Service, First Year Advisers, Retiring Advisers
- Individual Awards: Scholarships, A Day in Your Future, CommYOUtunity Service, Feed Nebraska, Power of One, FCS Challenge Tests - Top 3

Recognition Session | Monday, March 30 from 6:30-8:30pm

- Membership Awards: Region Membership Increase, Red & White Affiliation, Five Star Recruiter Award, Emerging Leader Award
- Chapter Awards: New Chapters, Chapter Award, Chapter Developer Award, Community ServUS, National Program Awards, Public Relations

Competitive Events Recognition Session | Tuesday, March 31 from 12:00-1:30pm

- Online STAR Events
- STAR Events - alphabetical order, by level
- Skill Demonstration Events - alphabetical order, by level

Closing General Session | Tuesday, March 31 from 1:45-2:30pm

- SLC Chapter Spirit Award
- SLC Community Service Project Traveling Trophy
- 2026-27 State Peer Officer Teams
- 2026-27 State Officer Team

Hotels and Parking

Hotel Reservations

Room blocks have been set up at the following hotels. Chapters are not required to stay at any of these properties. While staying at the designated hotel properties with room blocks is not required, your support helps maintain strong partnerships between Nebraska FCCLA and these venues, ensuring we can meet our conference needs now and in the future. All housing reservations should be made directly with the property; contact and booking information is listed for each property below.

The Graduate	Hyatt Place	Courtyard/ Residence Inn	Holiday Inn Express	Hilton Garden Inn <i>still working on the details!</i>
1 King: \$141 2 Queens: \$151	1 King: \$139 2 Queens: \$149 <i>*only King rooms (with sofa sleeper) available*</i>	1 King: \$138 2 Queens: \$148 <i>*availability only at the Residence Inn*</i>	1 King: \$134 \$129 + \$5 Green Energy Fee 2 Queens: \$149 \$144 + \$5 Green Energy Fee	
rate includes breakfast, free parking for one vehicle per school	rate includes free WiFi, hot breakfast, free parking for one vehicle per room	rate includes hot breakfast	rate includes hot breakfast, discounted parking for cars/vans (\$10/night) & buses (\$20/night), based on availability	
Complete the FCCLA Booking Form & return to Corina Almanza . Please call Corina or Jenae directly at 402-475-1038 if you have any questions.	Phone: 402-475-5945 <i>ask for Kat Young</i> There is not an FCCLA block, but explain that you're booking for the FCCLA State Leadership Conference.	Phone: 402-480-6400 Explain that you're booking as part of the FCCLA State Leadership Conference	Online Booking Link Phone: 402-904-6701 Explain that you're booking as part of the Nebraska FCCLA SLC	
Reservations must be made by March 6, 2026	Reservations must be made by March 6, 2026	Reservations must be made by March 6, 2026	Reservations must be made by March 6, 2026	

Parking

Large vehicles, vans and buses may park at the Festival Lot at Pinnacle Bank, free of charge and then be shuttled by the Graduate shuttle. Please note that drivers should drop off their students at the hotel, rather than having a large group ride the shuttle back. The Festival Lot is located directly north of the Pinnacle Bank Arena.

Hotel Reminders & Safety

There are more people staying in these hotels than just FCCLA members. Please remind members that the other guests make first impressions about the student, school, and our organization based on what they see and hear in the hallway, on the elevators, and in the lobby. Encourage your members to represent FCCLA positively by dressing and acting professionally.

The following are guidelines and suggestions to keep in mind to keep you and your students safe at SLC.

- Make sure you have a list of who is staying in each hotel room and what their room number is.
- DO NOT post students' names on the outside of their hotel doors.
- Ensure students keep their doors completely shut and NEVER put the lock out to keep their door open.
- Hotel fixtures must stay in their original location and not be moved out of, or around a room.
- All students will observe quiet hours and the 12:00am midnight curfew.

Success at SLC

Chapter advisers are responsible for the behavior and discipline of their students throughout the conference. Students causing a disturbance or displaying inappropriate behavior will be asked to leave the conference and/or hotel. In addition, if any issues are witnessed, chapter advisers are encouraged to speak directly to the students' chapter advisers to address the issue. All conference attendees should be informed of the following:

- All conference participants must wear a name badge in order to gain admittance into FCCLA events. Everyone must register for the conference in order to receive a name badge.
 - Conference name badges should be removed when walking between conference venues.
- Behavior at all times should reflect a positive, professional image of you, your school and the organization.
- Any accidents, injuries, or illness should be reported to the adult chaperone or chapter adviser immediately. State staff should be informed of such incidents as well.
- While the Haymarket, Railyard, and Downtown areas are very safe, students should always travel with at least one other individual.
- Pay attention to traffic signs and flow. Many streets become one-way once you enter the downtown area. Most streets in the Haymarket area are 2-way. Use crosswalks and follow all crosswalk signals at all times
- If a student is found responsible for stealing or vandalism, the student and his/her parents/guardians will be expected to pay for damages.
- Students may not purchase, possess, consume, or be under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs at any time.

Nebraska FCCLA does not have a set requirement for a chaperone to student ratio. However, a recommended ratio is 1 adult to every 15 students. Chapter advisers are encouraged to seek clarification from their local school administration or activities director.

CTSO Medical Release/Personal Conduct Agreement Form

All chapter advisers are required to have a completed [CTSO Medical Release/Personal Conduct Agreement Form](#) on file with them for every student traveling under their supervision. These forms must be signed by parent/guardians to be valid. These forms will not be collected at the event, but are essential for advisers to have, if there were to be any type of emergency situation. If the local school or district has an alternative form, that form can be used instead of the form provided. However, it's important for the chapter adviser to ensure that the local form has the same information/elements as the form that's provided.

Chapter advisers will confirm during the SLC registration process that they have collected these forms for all students attending the conference.

Important SLC Dates

February 1 SLC Affiliation Deadline

2 [Nebraska FCCLA Scholarship applications due](#)
Nebraska [Honorary Membership & Distinguished Service](#) award applications due
[Chapter Developer Award due](#)

3 Baking & Pastry and Culinary Arts Top 8 Qualifiers announced

5 **State Leadership Conference registration opens**

5-13 LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl Qualifying Quiz Testing Window

10 [SLC National Anthem auditions](#) due at 5pm CST
[Honorary Conference Assistant, Content Creator, RED Talks](#) applications due at 5pm CST

16 SLC National Anthem, Honorary Conference Assistant, Content Creator applicants notified
[State Officer Candidate applications due](#)
[STAR Event Lead Consultant sign up](#) ends
LifeSmarts Knowledge Bowl Top 12 Teams Announced

20 RED Talks applicants notified
[Innovate the Plate](#) applications due
[National Adviser of the Year & National Member of the Year](#) applications due

28 [STAR Event Evaluator Interest Form](#) due

March 2 [Nebraska Individual, Chapter, and Adviser Award applications due](#)
[National Program Awards, National Chapter Public Relations Award, & National Scholarship applications due](#)
[National FCCLA Adviser Mentor & Educated Adviser Award applications due](#)
[National School Administrator, Alumni Achievement, Distinguished Service, Honorary Membership, & STAR Events Volunteer Award applications due](#)

5 **State Leadership Conference registration closes (12am midnight CST)**
[Fashion Show applications](#) are due at 6pm CST
[Participant with Accommodations Form](#) for all competitors due

6 State Leadership Conference - late registration in effect
Cutoff date for making reservations at the [conference hotels](#)

7 **State Leadership Conference - late registration closes (6pm CST)**

10 State Officer Screening Day & State Degree Interviews at ESU 10 in Kearney
STAR Event Competition schedules shared

11-20 FCS Challenge Tests Online Testing Window closes Friday, March 20 at 6:00pm CDT

13 [Adult Volunteer Form](#) submission deadline
SLC SCHED Released
Fashion Show applicants notified

16 Skill Demonstration Event schedules shared

16-20 [FCCLA Serves & Tours Sign-Up](#) Window ends Friday, March 20 at 6:00pm CDT

16-25 [Competitive Event Youth Volunteer Sign-Up](#) ends Wednesday, March 25 at 5:00pm CDT

20 Adult Volunteer assignments are shared

25 Skill Demonstration Event Substitution Deadline
[Spotlight on Projects Sign-Up](#) ends at 5:00pm CDT

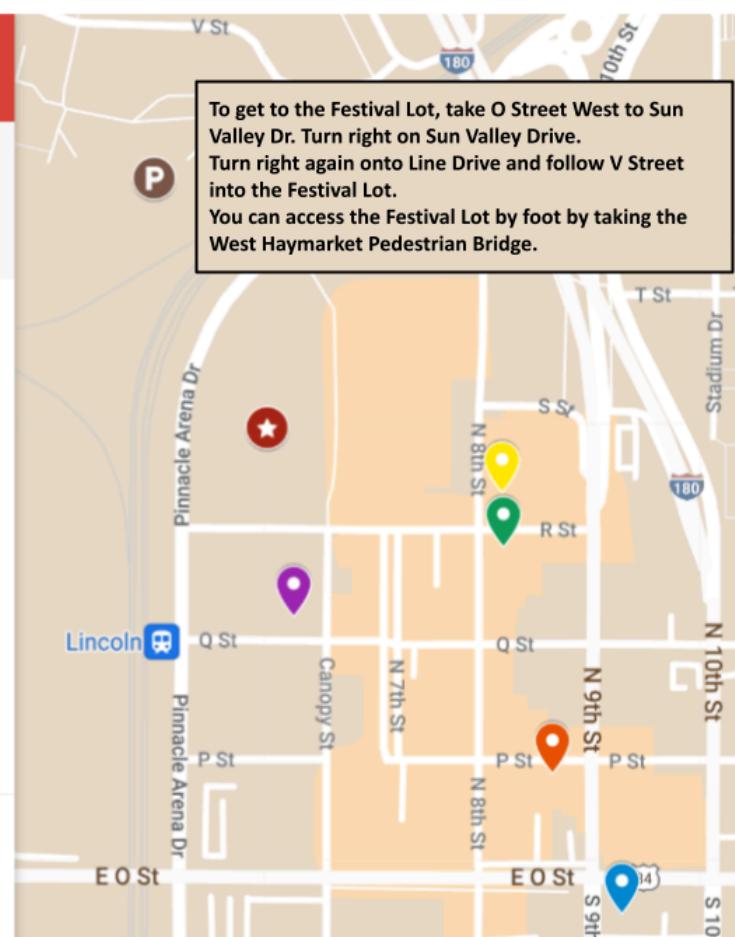
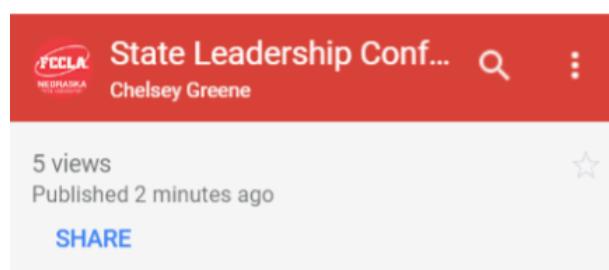
25 Award & Recognition notifications shared

Lincoln Haymarket Map

Getting to Know Lincoln

Advisers and all attendees are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Haymarket and Railyard areas of downtown Lincoln. Complete maps and business information can be found at www.canopyst.com, www.lincolnhaymarket.org, and www.lincoln.org. The Lincoln Convention and Visitors Bureau also provides a free app for Android and Apple.

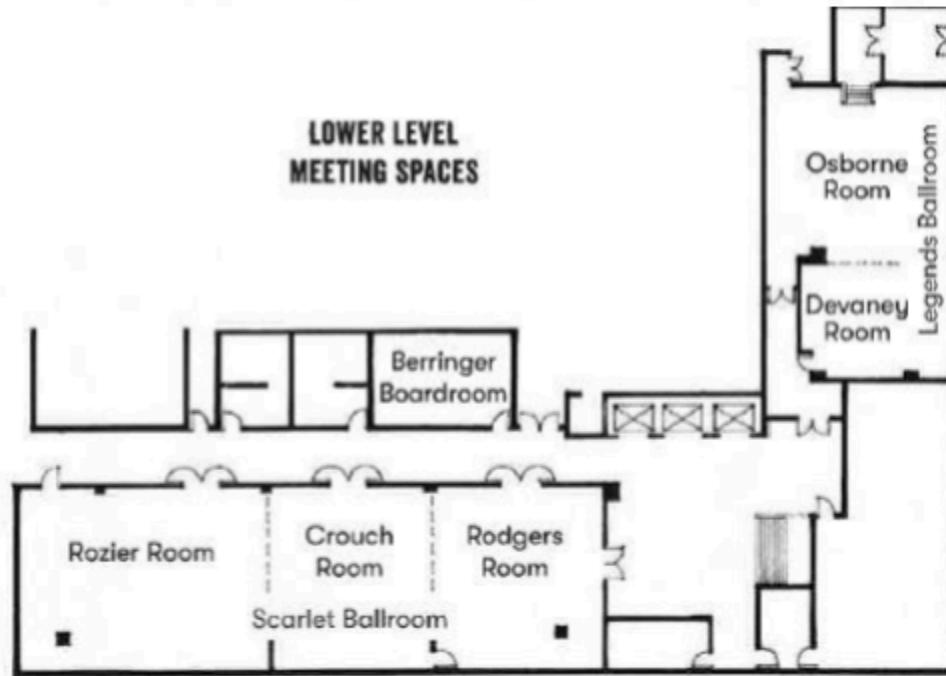
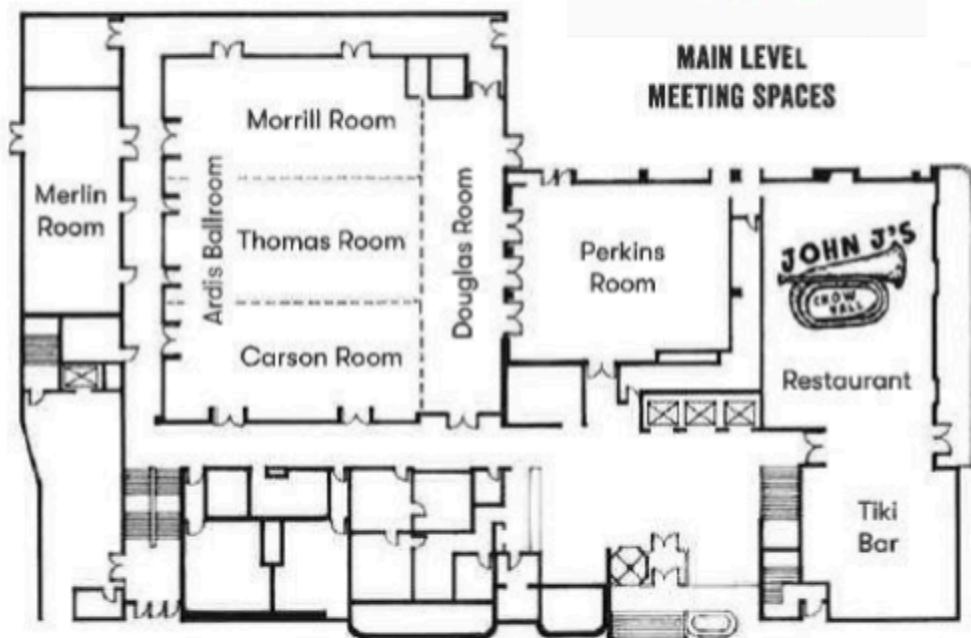
[Check out the State Leadership Conference map on Google!](#)



Graduate Hotel Map

State Leadership Conference

Graduate
LINCOLN



Pinnacle Bank Arena Map

State Leadership Conference

