

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT STAR EVENTS

The questions will be grouped into the following categories:

General FCCLA/STAR Information

STAR Registration

STAR Project Guidelines and Suggestions

State STAR Policies

*Reference to the Star Manual throughout this document refers to the current official STAR Events Manual from National FCCLA.

General FCCLA/STAR Information

Q: Where do I mail forms and payments for State STAR Events?

A: All STAR registration forms are online at the state website, www.iafccla.org. You will complete them online and they will be directly forwarded to Michele Rogers, the State Fiscal and STAR Coordinator, for processing.

All payments, purchase orders, and any correspondence sent through the mail must use the following address to comply with Iowa Department of Education regulations:

Iowa FCCLA STAR Events
PO Box 1084
Ankeny, IA 50021

This centralized address will simplify communications for everyone and it is imperative that you contact your business office to update their files so we are in compliance. Your cooperation with this is very much appreciated. Thank you.

Q: What is the timeline for districts to hold STAR Events? Can we hold them in November, for example?

A: The only timeline for STAR events that needs to be considered is that the state forms (chapter registration, and district summaries) are due Feb. 10th. District events can take place any time so November is fine. Remember: the top 3 medal winners (from 3 different chapters) advance to state in events that qualify one entry for national STAR Events and the top 6 medal winners (from 6 different chapters) advance to state in events that qualify two entries for national STAR Events.

Q: Where do I find the “official” STAR manual for all of the STAR Events?

A: The STAR manual can be downloaded at the state website: www.iafccla.org or from the national website: www.fcclainc.org

Q: Our new comprehensive chapter has two STAR events qualifying for state. What forms do I fill out for state and where do I find the forms?

A: Try these steps on the Iowa website: www.iafccla.org

1. Select STAR Events Information from the menu on the left side of the home page.
2. Go to the large red “Register Here” button and follow directions for online registration

Q: Can a freshman and sophomore compete in the same division?

A: Yes, they can compete on the same team, but it has to be a senior team. The STAR manual states, "A team composed of both junior (through grade 9) and senior (grades 10-12) comprehensive or occupational members must enter the senior category."

Q: What makes a Chapter Comprehensive and/or Occupational?

A: FCCLA members may be classified as either a comprehensive member or an occupational member. Comprehensive members are taking or have taken courses in family and consumer sciences that are broad in scope and content related to the many areas of family and consumer sciences. Occupational members are students who have or are taking courses to prepare them for entry-level or advanced careers, such as: early childhood and culinary arts. (i.e. ProStart or FCS course sequences that "clearly" define a specific occupational field of study). Both types of membership can be affiliated under one chapter, but signified as either "occupational" or "comprehensive".

Q: This is our second year as a chapter and I have not been able to get anyone interested in STAR events because we are unsure how they work! I have had several of my students wondering if we can "observe" STAR Events during Monday's competition? Is that possible???

A: YES, please come Monday. All of the events allow spectators and it is a great way to see how a STAR event "looks". They are scheduled from 8:30-3:30 The awards ceremony is part of the second general session Tuesday. Once your students see the recognition, they will be interested for sure! There is no charge for the day, but please stop in at the registration table and let us know you are there, then you can pick up schedules and get questions answered. Also, if you go to the state website, www.iafccla.org and select STAR events information from the menu on the left side you will find a document, Getting Started with STAR Events Ideas, under general information. This may help you envision how to get some interest generated and find a starting point.

STAR Project Guidelines and Suggestions

Q: We are doing a lot of projects that I think might work for STAR competition. Can we compete with them next year since they have been completed after the State competition or does it have to be within the same school year?

A: Regarding timing, the STAR manual states "a project must be developed and completed within a one-year span beginning July 1 and ending June 30 of the school year before the National Leadership Meeting." This means the projects you are considering would not fit in that time frame for next year (July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009).

However, if students do similar projects after July 1, these could be STAR events. Just be sure that the students go through the FCCLA planning process and decision making for the "new" project after July 1. (Example: Perhaps a service project for food pantry was done this school year. After July 1 students identify this as a concern again. (planning process). Treat it as a new project and do collections or fundraising. (This would work as chapter service.) Note that a project can only be entered **once**. So, in this example a third year of food pantry donations could not be used as a project.

Q: Where can I find information regarding new STAR Events for this year?

A: Find all of the information and guidelines for new events in the STAR Events Manual found on the national website, www.fcclainc.org or the state webpage: www.iafccla.org

Q: Can students participating in the Fashion Construction event use a basic commercial flat pattern?

A: Yes.

Q: Does a participant in Life Event Planning have to use the provided grid for the Event Plan?

A: No. However, the STAR manual states ~~on page 71~~, “One to five pages using the chart format provided...” If a participant needs larger boxes to fit their information that is fine as long as the format for the information stays the same.

Q: One school in our district had two entries in the same event. Can they possibly both go on to state?

A: Districts may submit the top three awards from each event and category for state STAR events. These must be from different schools.

Q: Are lining and facing interchangeable for the Fashion Construction event?

A: Yes, lining and facing will be interchangeable under the following conditions; a lining can be considered as a facing if the lining was used as a facing. If the lining was primarily used for another purpose then, no, it can not be considered a facing.

Q: Can we use copyrighted material such as Mickey Mouse?

A: Yes, copyrighted material may be used as long as the owner of the copyright is cited in the project.

Q: Can we use trademarked items such as candy bar wrappers?

A: Yes, trademarked items may be used as long as the owner of the trademark is cited in the project.

Q: Can papers like planning process displayed horizontal rather than vertical?

A: Yes, papers like the Planning Process may be displayed horizontally, however, they can only be on one 8 ½ x 11 inch sheet of paper.

Q: I will have two students graduate early this year, prior to the state conference...will they be eligible to compete at the state level? National level?

A: Eligibility for STAR events participation is determined by the preceding school year, ~~in this case '08/'09~~. If a member was a student any time within that time frame, they are allowed to participate.

Q: Can students do a power point presentation for their STAR Events projecct?

A: In the STAR Events manual is an allowable elements chart for STAR Events and it states which events allow visual equipment and visuals so a power point would be permissible. It is also recommended that the students be prepared with transparencies in the event that technology would fail. At state level competition, it is the chapter's responsibility to provide an LCD

projector and an overhead projector, along with screens or something to project onto for the STAR event presentation.

Q: Can electronic portfolio pages or slides have a colored background?

A: A colored background is okay as long as it is a solid color. It cannot have varied shades of a color or graduate from a red to a pink because that is considered a graphic.

Q: Can you help clarify for Career Investigation what "describing ways FCS coursework will be used in selected career" and does the career have to be something like an FCS teacher?

A: First of all, the career can be any career but some lend themselves to support by the FCS curriculum. In cases where the career isn't strongly related, students have to think harder to identify ways the classes helped them choose their career to research. The main thing is to describe "how" that happened. Examples: Decision making unit.....helps identify priorities and interests; a unit on child abuse could spark the interest in pediatrics; a family living unit on current problems like health care could support the decision to be a nurse. A student who investigated a biology teacher used the health classes more than FCS classes for this section and the judges **deducted** points. This student needed to focus on the **FCS classes** more, not change her career choice.

Q: I have a student that did a project that I would like to see if it would qualify as a STAR event. I am wondering which category to put it in. He started a program at the YMCA for high school kids on Wednesday nights. They play a game called Scatterball. His idea was to give kids that weren't physically active something fun to do that they would enjoy. It has gone over incredibly well. Could this be a National Program - (Student Body) - STAR event?

A: This sounds like a great project and he has a choice of a couple of events. Focus on children (project that has a positive impact on children and the community) or Chapter Service (in-depth service project that makes a worthwhile contribution to families, schools, and communities) or National Programs in Action (explain how the planning process was used to plan and implement a national program project). However, in the student body summary in the manual, the last sentence reads "Student Body give teens the facts and incentives they need to eat right, be fit, and make healthy choices." If the age group he works with is young, he may want to choose one of the other events. This is a technicality that could make this a weak choice.

Q: I have some students who have been working on a Stop the Violence project and I have a couple of questions that I hope you can answer.

1. First of all, do they have to attend the training to do the project? If so, we can put them in another category can't we?

2. The students want to do a manual but the STAR Event manual isn't really specific about what a "prop" is?

A: Your members do not have to attend a STOP training to do a project in that area. This project could be a national program in action or chapter service or a part of chapter showcase. Regarding the prop, look on This project of the STAR manual and it shows where props are allowed. Props are not allowed with manuals. The glossary found at the end of the

manual defines a prop as "An object used to enhance a theme or presentation (e.g., book, puppet, pointer, etc.) that does not include visuals, audiovisuals, or costumes/uniforms. Live objects are not allowed." The glossary also defines visuals audiovisuals, and costumes for you. Props are also not to be used outside of displays or there is a penalty.

State Policies:

Q: I am a new chapter adviser, can you tell me “who” can advance to state after our district STAR event? For example, can two of my students in the same event advance to state if they are the top qualifiers?

A: The top 3 medals earned (at district level), each medal representing the top medalist from 3 different participating chapters in each STAR Event and category, advance to state with the exception of those events that allow 2 state qualifiers to advance to national STAR Events. So in this case, only one of your entries may advance to state.

Q: Are there any events that are “excluded” from district STAR events?

A: The state policies list that, “Early Childhood and Culinary Arts are the only two “occupational” events excluded from district level competition and only compete at state.”

Q: Where do I access the state policies for STAR in Iowa?

A: The state policies for Iowa STAR Events are located on the state website: www.iafccla.org under the STAR tab on the left side

Miscellaneous:

Q: What are the benefits of affiliating a middle school FCCLA chapter?

A: There are several advantages for having FCCLA in the middle school. Most of these are also advantages for having FCCLA at the secondary level as well, but because of the middle school stage, they are even more beneficial.

First of all, FCCLA helps students develop leadership skills. Middle school is a time when students are testing these waters and FCCLA is perfect for giving them the resources to realize and practice the skills they have. Another challenge at the middle school level is developing teamwork skills and FCCLA projects build this right in. As this age group defines their friendships, having teamwork in place is important to prevent social exclusions.

FCCLA programs incorporate timely topics that are challenging to teachers and students today. For example the STOP the Violence helps students deal with bullying and teaches them what to do if they witness or suspect violence. That is probably already in your curriculum and FCCLA gives you tools to help teach it and incorporate projects to reinforce it.

FCCLA gives your students recognition through STAR events and other national programs. This recognition can be for individuals, teams, or your chapter. At a time when the middle school student is looking for ways to feel confident, this is a perfect fit. Finally, starting FCCLA in the middle school is a great way to build the FCS program at this level and at the secondary level.

Students will relate to this practical curriculum and realize that the projects and topics will help them learn to make choices in their every day lives.

These advantages can be powerful no matter how many members your chapter has. FCCLA is designed to be co-curricular and integrated into the classroom so every student can be a member and participate in the projects. Those students who enjoy expanding their focus on FCCLA projects can go beyond the classroom and do STAR events or chapter service projects.

FCCLA is so versatile that it can enhance any type of program. As you consider having a chapter, it is important to start on a small scale so you can be successful without being overwhelmed. There are so many resources you can't use them all at once. Checking on students' interests will help you choose the program(s) that will suit them the best.

Q: Does National FCCLA post any type of STAR question and answer section on the national website?

A: Yes! A Q&A is posted on the national website: www.fcclainc.org and will be updated monthly. The Q&A will be available on the STAR Events page of the website.