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2006-2007

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Articles & Letters Welcome for Publication

The policy of the Michigan Association of Family, Career & Community Leaders of America is that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any program or activity or in employment.



Family Matters!

Ashley Miller, Vice President of Public Relations

"The family. We were a strange little band of characters trudging through life sharing diseases and toothpaste, coveting one another's desserts, hiding shampoo, borrowing money, locking each other out of our rooms, inflicting pain and kissing to heal it in the same instant, loving, laughing, defending, and trying to figure out the common thread that bound us all together." --Erma Bombeck

Everyone is part of a family, and whether you like it or not, it is something that you were born into.

From the first breath you took, you were immediately part of a past, present and future of something more than just a name. You came into this world with more than just a set of lungs. Years of accomplishments, mistakes, affection, struggle, and so much more ran through your face before you were even on this planet for five minutes. You were born into a family. A family consisting of people who had never even met you until this point in time, yet they instantly loved you, and you knew they always would.



Life is too short to take things for granted. I'm sure you've all heard that one before, but it's true. It's easy to take family for granted; as a matter of fact it's hard not to take family for granted. At the end of the day, you know you'll be going home to a fairly predictable home full of fairly predictable people who you have to put up with and vice versa. You can always count on someone to be occupying the bathroom when you need it, or hogging the television when your favorite show is on, you can even count on someone to have left you some cereal at the bottom of the box, but not even enough to fill half of a bowl. But at the same time you can always count on your family to be there for you when you need them, like when you were little and you had nightmares, your mom and dad would let you sleep in between, or when you couldn't shoot a basket, your brother would make it for you and give you the credit. Families just have a way of helping each other out.

But no family is perfect. We all get in fights. We fight with our parents, and we fight with our brothers or sisters, it comes naturally. It may be a small fight, or a big fight; it can last for days, or five minutes. Its just one of those things you can count on to happen.

It's very important to keep good family relations. Continuing traditions or starting new ones can help make strong family bonds. Simple occurrences like having dinner together, going out to a movie, or just sitting back and talking can make a difference in the way you and your family members view and treat one another. You may not always agree, but learning to value each other can make a world of a difference in developing those meaningful and rewarding relationships.

Always remember that love is thicker than blood. A family isn't just who you swim in the same gene pool with; a family is who you can go to when times are tough, who cares about you and has had an impact in your life. Whether you recognize it or not, your family is made up of those who have made you who you are today. Everyone has their own story, and that's what makes a family so great. Each one is different, yet so much the same. The great thing about family is that we can grow separately without growing apart. We can live our own lives and make our own mistakes but at the same time we can always go home.



Don't Miss Out!

State Leadership Meeting

April 18-20, 2007

Valley Plaza Resort, Midland

Register with your Adviser today!



All Work and No Play? NO WAY!

Jill Borman, State President

Does it ever seem like all your chapter does is just work? Are your members getting grouchy?

Sometimes our chapters get so caught up in finishing their current projects and planning their next community service activities we forget to have fun. Having fun together is one of the most important things to do with your chapter. Everyone works together better if they can have fun together. Doing fun things with your chapter is a good way to retain your membership and get to know each other. So this year I encourage you to not only have a productive chapter, but have a fun one too. Here are some ideas for you.

There are a lot of fun activities you can do with your chapter. Holiday parties are always a lot of fun! Halloween is a fun time to follow up a fun community service project, like trick-or-treating for canned goods, with a costume party! Christmas time can be a ton of fun for you chapter by having secret Santas, baking cookies together, or caroling. Hush Hearts is a fun Valentine's Day Activity and Easter egg hunts, no matter how old you are, are always fun.

Along with holiday activities, seasonal activi-

ties are also fun. Fall is the perfect time to rake someone's leaves into a huge pile and jump in them! Fall is also a great time to go to haunted houses together, or trying to find your way out of a cornfield maze. Winter is perfect for snowman building contests and sledding parties, while spring is ideal for kite flying and trips to the zoo. Swimming, camping trips, canoeing, and outdoor games like drip, drip, splash or red rover are great summer activities.

At the beginning of your chapter's meetings you can get everyone involved in an energizer. Energizers are good for breaking the ice and making everyone more comfortable around each other. Some fun energizers include; the Name Game, Hey Burrito, and the Pony game. Energizers also help to get extra giggles and giggles out before the meeting begins. Other fun activities include: Honey, I love you, the Baby Food Blunder, and Hula Hoop Havoc (see below for descriptions).

There are tons of fun things you can do with your chapter. Don't forget to plan some fun events this year and have a blast! Having fun is crucial. So make this year unforgettable and throw some silliness into your year!

Fun Chapter Activities

Hush Hearts

Half of the day is spent with all girls wearing a paper heart around their neck. If they speak to a boy they must give them their heart. Then switch it up so the boys are wearing the hearts for the second half of the day.

The Name Game

Everyone begins by sitting in a circle and saying their name. Then one person will be the caller. The caller says their own name and then anyone else in the circle's name. That person will then say their name and someone else's name. If anyone pauses for more than about 2 seconds, everyone shifts to the left and the game begins again.

The Pony Game

Everybody is in a circle. The song goes like this, "Front to front to front, my baby, side to side to side my baby, back to back to back my baby, this is how we do it. Come on, (someone's name) ride that pony, Come on (someone's name) ride that pony, come on (someone's name) ride that pony this is how we do it." When someone's name is said they are in the middle pretending to ride a pony. The song repeats itself and the person in the middle chooses another person from the circle to ride the pony next.

Honey, I love you

Everyone is in a circle again and one person is "it." The "it" person has to go to someone in the circle and try to get them to laugh and then say to them, "Honey, if you love me you'll smile for me." Without smiling the person in the circle must reply, "Honey, I love you, but I just can't smile." If the person smiles they become the "it" person.

Baby Food Blunder

For this game you will need partners. One person is seated in a chair and their partner kneels behind them. The kneeling person will act as the seated person's arms. The kneeling person will spoon feed the seated person a jar of baby food. The first team to finish their jar wins!

Hula Hoop Havoc

Have your group get into two lines. The beginning of each line is given a hula hoop. Have everyone in the line hold hands and try to get the hula hoop from the front of the line to the back with out letting go of hands. Everyone should pass through the hula hoop.

Connect with FCCLA Members online!

Check out Michigan FCCLA online! We have two groups to help members connect with each other:

Visit our **MySpace** page at www.myspace.com/mifccla add us as a friend!

Or join our **Facebook** Group! Just search for "Michigan FCCLA" in the Groups Search.

And don't forget to check out www.mifccla.org for up-to-the minute information about Michigan FCCLA, project ideas, fundraising ideas and more!



STAR Events

George Hart, Vice President of Competitive Events

WOW...FLW's were WILD! Thank-you to all of the members that made that experience more fun than imaginable. My roundtable on STAR Events was good too, and thanks to all who attended. I kind of did a little compiling of the STAR Events in which the attendees of my roundtables wanted to compete. It is pretty clear to me that most of the participants this year are going to be in the Early Childhood and Focus on Children Events. Every roundtable that I gave had two or three members that wanted to compete in those two categories.

The acronym STAR stands for Students Taking Action with Recognition. These sixteen events are competitive events in which members are recognized for proficiency and achievement in chapter and individual projects, leadership skills, and occupational preparation. The recognition levels are as follows: Bronze, Silver, and Gold (which is the highest level of recognition). The gold medalist(s) with the top score in their category are accepted to represent Michigan FCCLA at the National Leadership Meeting, which is held this year in Anaheim, California. Here is a list of the STAR Events; Applied Technology, Career Investigation, Chapter Service Project (Display/Manual), Chapter Showcase Project (Display/Manual), Culinary Arts, Early Childhood, Entrepreneurship, Focus on Children, Illustrated Talk, Interpersonal Communications, Job Interview, National Programs in Action, and Parliamentary Procedure.

Best of luck to all of those who are planning to compete at the 2006-2007 State Leadership Meeting in Midland, Michigan.



Membership Recruitment

Samantha Magdaleno, Vice President of Membership

ZzZzz..... Oh wow! Where has time gone? I fell asleep for a second and now half the year is gone.

This school year is flying by so fast! I know that all of the chapters are working hard on reaching their Gimme 5 goal! Hopefully this article helps you in your membership recruitment efforts.

To my knowledge, two chapters have started My Space accounts for their members to communicate with each other—Belleville High School and Romulus High School. I encourage all chapters to promote their chapters through the Internet. It does not have to be My Space, it can be Facebook or a chapter web page. Be creative and go "wild" with networking ideas!

There is always the traditional way of promoting your chapter by making festive posters and hanging them up around your school. You can also make flyers with information about your chapter on them. If you want to get fancy you can make pamphlets up on the computer and hand those out...there is even a sample on Michigan FCCLA's website at www.mifccla.org - just click on the "Gimme Five" logo, and you'll find a lot of membership resources, even a sample PowerPoint!

Do you know the Muffin Man? Wait no that's not right. Do you know about FCCLA? Now that sounds better! The best way to recruit members is to go out there and talk to the students. Just like in the Muffin Man Game that many of you participated in at the Fall Leadership Workshops, go up to as many people as you can who don't know about FCCLA and fill them in so they can go and tell other people about it. There

is one other difference between the Muffin Man Game and this strategy; it's probably not a good idea to jump up and down while telling them about FCCLA, that may just scare them away. When they are a paid member then you can jump up and down all you want to!

Another way for you to gain new members is to invite people to just sit in at your meetings. This will allow them to see how your chapter is run. Make sure while you have a guest that you try to make the meeting run as smoothly as possible. Make it a point to learn the potential member's name. During the meeting try to ask them for ideas or their opinion to show them they already have a voice without even joining FCCLA yet. Also ask them after the meeting how they liked it and if they are still interested in joining your chapter. No matter what their response is, thank them for taking the time to come to the meeting.

When talking to potential members make sure you let them know all about the positive things that your chapter does. Share personal experiences with them. Tell them how FCCLA has affected you personally. When talking to administrators let them know that a good FCCLA chapter brings great publicity for your school, a little positive PR for the school always makes administrators, and your community, happy.

In the end, be "wild" and have fun while recruiting members! If you need any help or ideas feel free to email me at Lil_sammie15@yahoo.com. State officers are also able to come to your school to help motivate members and work with you on getting projects together for the State Leadership Meeting, so let us know if you're interested.



Michigan FCCLA is challenging each chapter to recruit just five more members than last year...a challenge that we need each chapter to accept. Membership growth is an important goal of the state officers, and ultimately will positively affect each and every chapter in the state.

Five more members...what does that mean for your chapter?

- A beautiful plaque to proudly display in your classroom
- Recognition on stage at the State Leadership Meeting
- Recognition online
- A press release sent to your local newspaper

But most importantly, more members for your chapter means more opportunities to work together to learn and achieve greatness.

Check out www.mifccla.org for membership recruitment ideas, and for YOUR chapter's goal!

Are you from a new chapter? No problem! You can be recognized too! The minimum number of members to form a chapter is nine...so you just need five more than that for a total of fourteen.

Are all of the students in your classes already members? No problem! Just fill out the form for 100% membership (or Perfect FACS Participation), and you're all set!



Touch Up, Clean Up, Fix Up!

Kaylynn Portice, Vice President of Community Service

The State Leadership Meeting is not that far away, and we would love for all of our members to come and receive state recognition. Individual recognition is great, but chapter recognition can demonstrate the impact that your whole chapter is having on your community. Receiving chapter recognition will not only give acknowledgment to your chapter but also to your school and administration. Without the help of our schools and administration, having an FCCLA chapter is very difficult and sometimes seems impossible. These are just some of the reasons why your chapter should reach for recognition. One project that is a fun and easy way to receive recognition is the State Community Service project: Touch up, Clean up, Fix up.

This year's project has three modules: Community Beautification, Solid Waste Reduction, and Litter Prevention. We are focusing most on Community Beautification and cleaning up our own backyard. Solid Waste Reduction is a great way to clean up litter and start a recycling program. Litter Prevention is a method your chapter can take to increase awareness about recycling and garbage. For example, did you know that 18% of litter finds its way into rivers, lakes, and streams?

To receive Bronze recognition at state meeting in April, your chapter will need to complete one

Community Beautification Project. While conducting this project, a chapter can really focus on making a visible difference to people, by picking up some trash, painting a building, improving a park...the options are as unlimited as your imagination. This will help make your community a more pleasant place to live and visit.



Next, to receive Silver recognition, a chapter will need to complete one Community Beautification project and a project in either Litter Prevention or Solid Waste Reduction. By working toward Silver recognition, your chapter will take on a larger project that, without the support from all of your members, will be hard to complete. Remember to work together; you could even try to work with students not in FCCLA or with other schools around you that are thinking about starting a chapter. Just remember to have fun.

Finally, to receive Gold recognition, a chapter will need to complete two Community Beautification projects, one Solid Waste Reduction project and a Litter Prevention project. If your chapter is working for Gold recognition, think about splitting up into small groups. This will help to ensure that your projects run more smoothly, and you will get a lot accomplished for your community. These projects don't need to be huge and overwhelming - every little bit helps make your community a better place to be.

Keep in mind that you don't have to compete at the State Leadership Meeting with the Community Service Project. Of course you can; it's a great project to take to state as a Chapter Service Project; but you may want to do it as a fun chapter activity - you might be surprised how much of a bonding experience that a Community Service Project can be. This is a great way to get all of your members together. It's also a fun and exciting way to get to learn more about other people in your chapter and to show some group conformity while working for a great cause.

Your State Executive Council is hoping that you will take the Community Service Project to heart and encourage your chapter to complete it and receive recognition. We can't wait to see you there with your wild projects. We hope that you come ready for an exciting, fun-filled, jam-packed conference.



Running for State Office
Katy Miller, Vice President of Programs

When I joined FCCLA I had no intention of becoming a State Officer. I never even thought I would be an officer for my chapter! But after being on my chapter's executive council and learning so much more about FCCLA, I knew I wanted to be on the State Executive Council.

It was a scary thought! What would I have to do as an officer? How much time does it take? How do I even apply!? I was scared out of my mind about it, but my adviser pushed me to write up my application. It was the best choice I could have made.

So what do you have to do to apply to be a State Officer? There is an application on our Michigan FCCLA website, www.mifccla.org, which has all the paperwork you need to fill out. You'll need a recommendation from both your chapter adviser and one of your school administrators (a principal or vice principal). Also, you have to complete one module of the Power of One National Program. The Power of One Award is a nationally recognized award and is the highest award possible in FCCLA. I recommend doing all five modules if you can. It's a great experience that helps prepare you for being a State Officer.

But is it all worth it? All that paperwork can seem intimidating. I'm here to say: it TOTALLY is. Being a State Officer is an amazing experience. You learn to become a better leader, you help make decisions that affect Michigan FCCLA, you can be a voting delegate at the National Leadership Meeting for the new National Executive Council Officers, you get to attend awesome trainings that take you to Washington D.C., you set up the Fall Leadership Workshops and State Leadership

Meeting, and so much more. Most importantly, you make great friends that you'll have for life in the Council. I have gotten to know some of the



coolest people on the Council that I would have never gotten to know if it weren't for me becoming a State Officer.

Also, you get to learn about and work with multiple other Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO's) like FCCLA. You go to weekend training camp in May with the organizations to undergo some pretty amazing leadership training, learn great ideas and come up with even more. You get to work with DECA, Business Professionals of America, SkillsUSA, and HOSA. Having these CTSSO groups with you as you first enter into FCCLA as State Officers puts you on the spot to know your FCCLA info, but it also lets you learn where FCCLA stands com-

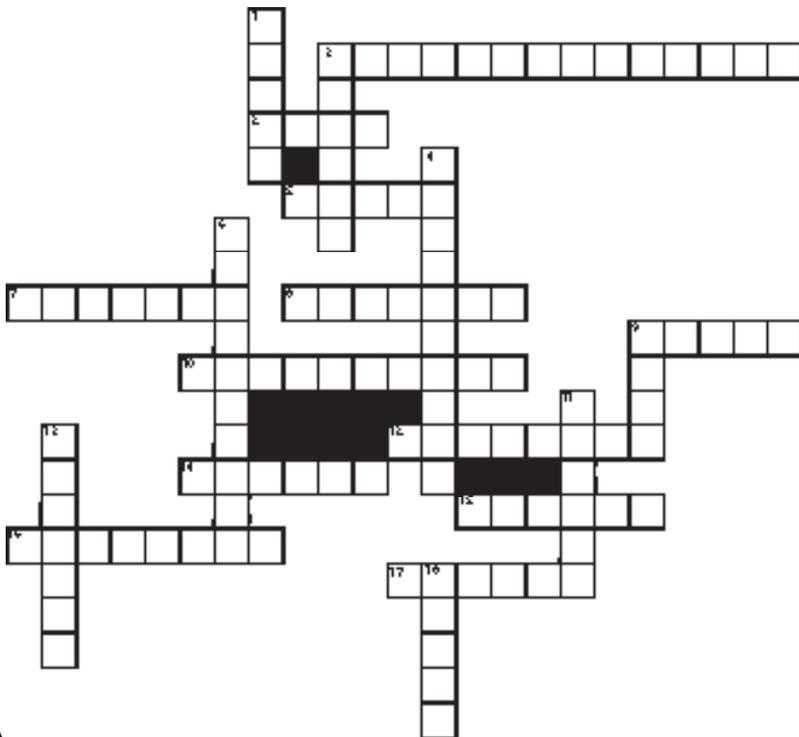
pared to other groups. We are the only CTSSO with family as its center, which is very important to other CTSSO groups and the state of Michigan.

Okay, so I've thrown all of these things we State Officers do at you, but doesn't it seem like it takes a lot of time? The truth is, it does take more time than your officer position in your chapter, but it doesn't consume your life. It takes discipline. You can't procrastinate all the time, something I had trouble with at the beginning of my term, but I'm doing better at. You do have to miss some school, which some people can't do, but the question I have for you is this: do you want to miss a few days of school for FCCLA and have to make up the work, or do you want regret not running? It takes time out of your life, but when you run for Michigan's State Executive Council you're taking on responsibility.

Coming back from the serious stuff, I'm sure you're wondering what doors open for you if you're a State Officer. You're thinking you get to work with other CTSSO State Officers, you get to go to great training sessions, and you make great friends, but is that the end?? NO! After a year of being a State Officer for Michigan, you can run for a National Officer position! Yes, I did just say that. You could be a National Executive Council Officer. Extend your FCCLA experience!

Make FCCLA your Ultimate Leadership Experience and run for a State Office. Open doors to more leadership experiences and grow as a leader. Travel all over Michigan, run the State Leadership Meeting, have voting power at the National Leadership Meeting, and gain experience in running the best organization in Michigan.

Go Wild! Crossword



Across

2. Main component of the 2006-2007 State Community Service Project
3. George
5. After the State Leadership Meeting Banquet
7. Location of the second 2006 Fall Leadership Workshop
8. 2007 National Leadership Meeting Location
9. Families Acting for Community Traffic Safety
10. 2007 National Leadership Meeting Theme: Leadership _____
13. Leadership Experience
14. Katy
15. The other Miller
16. *Go Wild* animal
17. Central focus of FCCLA

Down

1. Number of FCCLA purposes
2. State President
4. Only one state officer is from here.
6. Career
9. Gimme
11. Plaza Resort
12. Longest hair on the State Executive Council
18. State Leadership Meeting Month