

COLORADO FBLA TODAY

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STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE PREP

FBLA is all about helping its members become better leaders. The March issue of Colorado FBLA Today features articles from state officers as well as some fellow members! Be sure to check the last page for announcements and upcoming dates!

Your FBLA state officers wrote pieces on their past experiences of the State Leadership Conference and what they learned from them.

*Get Ready for SLC
2023!*



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STAYING ORGANIZED AT AN FBLA CONFERENCE

By Anushka Udeshi

Attending an FBLA conference can be a little intimidating. Use these tips to get a little bit more organized so you can make your life a bit easier when you get to our SLC.

- Try to familiarize yourself with the layout of the conference center beforehand. Although this is not always possible, knowing where certain rooms are is helpful so that when the conference schedule comes out, you know where to go for the events you want to attend. Just as a reminder, all the workshops we have at SLC are super exciting and will be very engaging, so we are excited to see you there!
- Make a packing list. For my first FBLA conference, I forgot one of the most important things, my glasses. Stop this from happening by creating a packing list and making sure that you have the things you need in your everyday life as well as the things you need to be in a business professional environment. Some of the most important things people often forget are chargers, cufflinks, hair tools, writing utensils, and professional shoes.



- When you are able to access the calendar of events, make sure to plan out your day. I found it very helpful to use a note-taking app on my phone to plan out where I had to be at certain points in my day, but you can use paper or whatever else works for you. This way, you will not miss anything that you really want to go to or that you have to attend.

This being said, the most important things are to have fun and to be ready for your competition. We hope to see you in Atlanta this summer!

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PACKING ESSENTIALS

By Charitha Kunapuli

The Colorado FBLA State Leadership Conference is right around the corner! April is only 4 weeks away and many of you will be attending the conference for the first time! It is a super exciting time and experience but being prepared will help you go through the conference much more smoothly. A lot of people question what is essential and useful to bring to the state and I am here to tell you some of the most important things to pack and bring for the 3 day and 2 night trip to the Gaylord Rockies Resort!

- **Clothes:** Clothes are a very essential component of this trip, especially business clothes! To start, make sure to pack at least 3 business outfits. For ladies, this can compose of appropriate-length skirts and dresses, dress pants, blouses, and blazers. For men, this can consist of pants, nice dress shirts, and blazers. When attending workshops and your event, you will be expected to be dressed in proper formal attire. I also recommend an extra shirt being packed as there is always room for staining or spilling on your shirt. Aside from business clothes, pack comfortable and appropriate clothes. There will be downtime and wearing business attire won't be that fun during your downtime!
- **Shoes:** We wear shoes everywhere but make sure you pack dress shoes. For men, these can be nice dress shoes but no tennis shoes! For ladies, this can be dress shoes, heels, or flats. You will be walking a lot so make sure you choose comfortable shoes and if you are like me and decide to wear heels, make sure to bring bandages to protect your heels and toes. You can also bring more casual shoes to wear in your downtime just make sure you wear the right shoes when you are supposed to!



- **Electronics:** You may bring laptops and iPads to do work but when you bring these remember your chargers!
- **Personal Hygiene Items:** Make sure you pack the essentials like toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, hair brushes, and also any eye care products you will need. One thing I recommend adding is stain-removing products like pens or wipes. These are super helpful in cleaning up spills especially since you don't want business clothing to stain!
- **Extra Spending Money:** This might not be mentioned by your chapter but it is always good to have money on you in case of an emergency. You might have to make a purchase that is unexpected and having money for those situations is always a good idea!
- **Confidence:** Lastly, bring your full confidence. Regardless of the outcome, every single person that comes to SLC deserves to be there so come with the confidence that will blow your judges away or make you score amazingly on your testing event!

These are some key items that you should bring to state! Here is somewhere to start if you are lost before packing for state and I am so excited to see and meet everyone at the State Leadership Conference in April.

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DAY ONE!

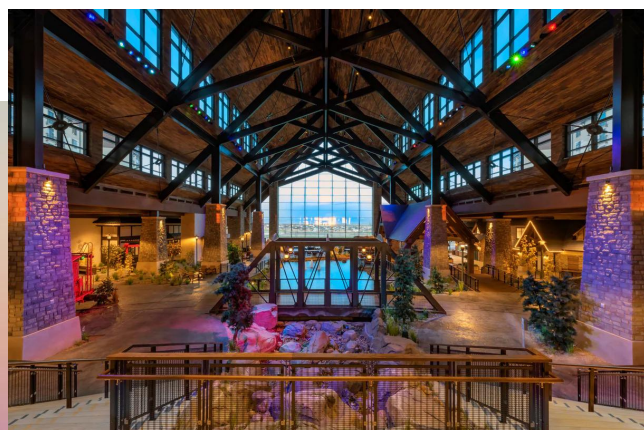
By Brayden Clark

When you get to the State Leadership Conference it can be extremely intimidating to walk through the doors of the Gaylord if you've never been to SLC before. You might even get lost even if you've been there before! With that, one of the most important things to do is familiarize yourself with the layout of the building. You can do this before the conference or even when you get there! This will help you when you need to get to your test, live event, or certification tests, and can be the difference between making nationals or missing your presentation time!

After you know where you need to be make sure to study study study! You'll be participating in preliminaries tomorrow and need to do your best! After you get done preparing for your event the next thing you need to do is relax. The first day is only the Opening Session, so take some time to rest before the hectic next two days full of events and workshops! It's busy but fun and you'll need it!

Make sure you know your role in your chapter as well as the rules in place by your chapter. If you are a voting delegate, state officer candidate, or selection committee member you need to know what you're doing, where you're doing it, and what time it is. Knowing what your own chapters curfew, workshop, and room key policies can also make your life much easier right off the jump too.

With day one concluding you should be in the full swing of things and the only important thing to do is enjoy yourself! State is meant to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for everyone to grow in their leadership, network, have fun, and compete in so many different and wonderful events! Now get out there and get to Atlanta, Colorado FBLA!



GAYLORD ROCKIES
CONVENTION
CENTER



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PALISADE HIGH SCHOOL RAISES ALMOST \$500 FOR THE MARCH OF DIMES

*By Bailey Edwards
Palisade High School*

So far this school year, from August 2022 through March 2023 the Palisade High School's Future Business Leaders of America chapter has planned multiple successful activities to help support the charity, March of Dimes. The chapter's multiple activities planned and executed this year include a bake sale, hot cocoa sales, and Penny Wars. Through these activities, the club was able to raise close to \$500 for charity.

March of Dimes is a United States nonprofit that works to end preventable maternal health risks and deaths, end preventable preterm birth and infant death, and close the health equity gap. Their mission is to lead the fight for the health of all moms and babies. March of Dimes is a partner with the national FBLA organization.

The chapter held a 4-day long bake sale from November 29-December 2, 2022 where they sold various different sweets as well as hot chocolate. This was held a couple of weeks after World Prematurity Awareness Day, and its main purpose was to raise awareness for the cause as well as raise money for the charity.

BAKE SALE TABLE



PENNY WARS BOOTH IN SCHOOL'S LOBBY



The chapter held a week-long hot chocolate sale from November 28-December 2, 2022 where they sold freshly made hot chocolate with the option to add whipped cream or toppings for an additional 50 cents. Members were able to make money by working the fundraiser before school the entire week.

Penny Wars was a fundraiser held during Palisade High School's Homecoming week. It is a competition between the different grade levels and whoever won at the end of the week got another spirit point that went towards the competition for the spirit bone, the school's prized homecoming possession. The rules of the competition were that each class had a jug, pennies were worth one point, and silver change and dollars took away however many points the money was worth. This fundraiser was the chapter's most successful fundraiser and had the most school involvement.

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CHERRY CREEK HIGH SCHOOL REACHES OUT TO THEIR COMMUNITY

By Carissa Pomeroy

Cherry Creek High School

FBLA has many goals for its members to follow to help better the community. One of these goals is to “create more interest in and understanding of the American business enterprise”. Cherry Creek FBLA demonstrated this value through their development of a middle school level business club that taught young students the importance and basics of the business world. This club was formed at Campus Middle School, which has a direct connection to Cherry Creek High School. “I believe this club is testament to the power of young students' ability to share their knowledge and leadership with others.” said Nicholas Edwards, a social studies teacher at Campus Middle School. Over the course of the past few months and countless meetings with Campus teachers, Cherry Creek FBLA made their dreams a reality and worked with the students at Campus. Cherry Creek FBLA taught the students different types of economies and how to make an invention and sell it to the right people, motivating them to not only join FBLA in their future high school careers, but to also push students to pursue higher education and their passions within the business world. “This has been a big help for a lot of students,” founder Jaden Cole said “I feel like we’ve really been able to help them discover a passion for business.”



CHERRY CREEK FBLA
TEACHES THE YOUNG
MEMBERS HOW TO MARKET
THEIR PRODUCT



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FBLA: IN THE BUSINESS OF MAKING LEADERS

By Aneesh Indukuri

Cherokee Trail High School

FBLA is—as I have learned from personal experience—in the business of creating leaders. After joining the club as a 9th grader, the little knowledge I had of the club turned into an admiration for it after competing and seeing the tight bonds that make FBLA a community for the first time. However, it was the Cherokee Trail High School chapter officer team that inspired me and made me want to stay. Those on the officer team became my friends and role models through my first year of high school and I found myself wanting to be like them. I chose to join them on the officer team in the 2021-2022 school year as our chapter's competition officer.

Even though this was my first formal leadership position, I found that I was fitting into it easily, following the examples set before me and learning about my own leadership profile. Public speaking which had been difficult in the past became like breathing. My passion to help others grew along with my extroversion, sense of responsibility, and pride in our FBLA chapter. Having had an amazing year (even in Covid) and wanting to contribute even more, I became the chapter's president.



DISTRICT 5 OFFICERS
CELEBRATING AT
THE DISTRICT 5
LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE

This year as president has been the most challenging year I have had in terms of leadership. The new duties of being a delegator, organizer and coordinator for a group of amazing individuals that made this 2022-2023 year so successful for our chapter was something entirely new to me. Using the professionalism from competing and the leadership skills my time in FBLA have taught me, though, I grew into these roles and am now the best leader I have ever been. So, if you're wanting to become a better leader, take my advice and let FBLA help you become the leader you want to be.



CTHS FBLA OFFICER
TEAM ON THE
ANNUAL TRICK OR
TREAT TRAIL



RECRUITING NEW
MEMBERS AT AN
INCOMING
FRESHMAN NIGHT

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MY FBLA STORY: HOW JOINING FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA TRANSFORMED ME

*By Chiebuka Onwuka
Pueblo West High School*

As a sophomore last year, I decided to join Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) at my high school, with the intention of helping grow the program from its then 20 members. FBLA proved to be a life-changing experience, and I became deeply involved in the organization's events and competitions.

One of the most significant moments of my FBLA journey was participating in the coding and programming event. As someone with a passion for technology, I dedicated countless hours to honing my skills and preparing for the state competition. Despite the nerves on the day of the competition, I persevered and ended up finishing in the top 10 at the state level. This experience instilled in me the value of hard work and determination.



This year, I decided to participate in the web design event. FBLA has given me an opportunity to develop new skills and learn from some of the best professionals in the field. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to connect with like-minded students who share my passion for technology and business.

Through FBLA, I have attended conferences and events, where I have met people who have inspired me to pursue my goals and strive for success. I have learned how to think critically and strategically, and how to approach problems with a solutions-oriented mindset. These are skills that will serve me well in any career I choose to pursue.

FBLA has been an invaluable experience for me, allowing me to grow and develop both personally and professionally. I am grateful for the opportunities that FBLA has provided me, and I would highly recommend it to any high school student who is interested in technology, business, or simply developing skills that will serve them well in any career.

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DISCOVERING MY PASSION FOR BUSINESS AND LEADERSHIP THROUGH FBLA

By Julia Nichols

Highlands Ranch High School

I am writing to express my strong support for Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and to share my personal experience with this incredible organization.



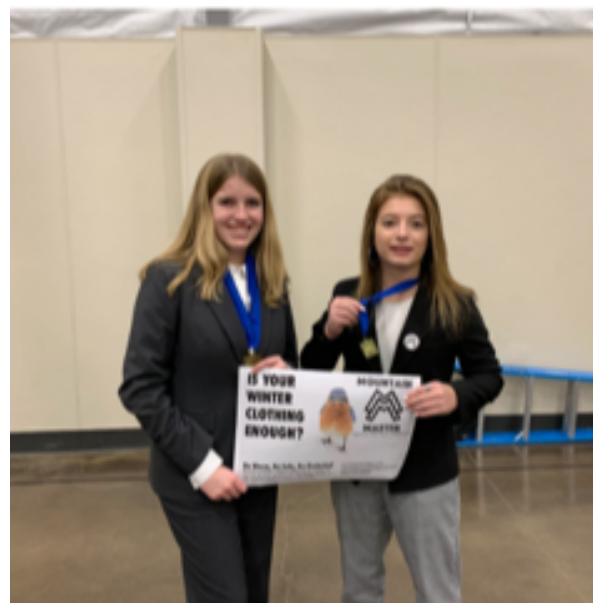
As a Junior in high school, I had no prior knowledge of anything business-related when I joined FBLA last year. However, from the very first meeting, I knew that I had made the right decision. FBLA has not only taught me about various aspects of business, but it has also provided me with numerous opportunities to develop my leadership skills, meet new people, and participate in competitions.

One of the things I love most about FBLA is the sense of community and support that exists within the organization. I have had the privilege of meeting and working with so many talented individuals who share a passion for business and who are always willing to lend a helping hand. Whether it is through study groups, workshops, or mentoring programs, FBLA has created a supportive environment that has helped me grow both personally and professionally.

In addition to the supportive community, FBLA has also exposed me to various business concepts and practices that I would have never known otherwise. Through various workshops, conferences, and competitions, I have learned about everything from accounting and finance to marketing and entrepreneurship. Not only has this knowledge helped me in my FBLA activities, but it has also given me a valuable foundation that I can apply to any career path I choose in the future.

Finally, FBLA has given me numerous opportunities to develop my leadership skills. Through serving as an officer in my local chapter, I have gained experience in project management, public speaking, and team building. These skills have not only helped me in my FBLA activities, but they will also serve me well in college and beyond.

Overall, FBLA has been an incredible experience for me, and I cannot recommend it highly enough. I encourage anyone who has an interest in business or who simply wants to develop their leadership skills to consider joining FBLA. It has truly been one of the best decisions I have ever made.



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WHAT DOES FBLA MEAN TO ME?

By Miranda Arteaga

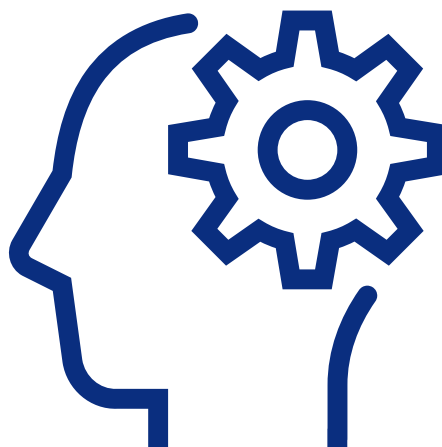
Valley High School

Joining FBLA is more than just joining a club. Being a member of FBLA has come with many academic benefits and new leadership skills. From traveling to attend conferences to regular chapter meetings, there are always chances to learn something new. Being a part of my

There is always time to form new skills and acquire new knowledge to help benefit your future. FBLA has endless possibilities to set yourself up for success. You can take steps towards attending college and finding careers with preparation and knowledge when you take advantage of what FBLA can offer.

Chances for networking and meeting new people will never end. Meeting new people creates many new opportunities for yourself and the members of your chapter. Networking gives members the chance to use their communication skills. Working with new people helps create new ideas, offers social support, and allows you the opportunity to learn something new from your peers. Meeting new people at different FBLA events has led me to so many new friendships while being able to practice important life skills such as public speaking.

FBLA will never fail to offer new knowledge and skills to learn. The new things I have learned and friendships I have created are just a couple of examples of things that I will appreciate for the rest of my life. The memories and opportunities will forever make FBLA something cherishable to me.



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PENNY WARS

By Hunter Green

Canon City FBLA

In Canon City, our FBLA Chapter has a yearly fundraiser called Penny Wars. Penny Wars is a school-wide fundraiser that compels students to participate because of the fact that they get to compete to get someone they want pied in the face. This person would typically be a security guard that works for the school. We did this by coming up with a points system. The way this point system works is that pennies add points whilst any other type of currency subtracts points, so a quarter would subtract 2 points, a dollar would subtract one hundred points. We plan on starting this on February 20th till March 2nd. At the end of this two-week period, the person with the most points will end up getting pied in the face!



JARS THAT
STUDENTS CAN
USE TO VOTE FOR
WHO THEY WANT
PIED.

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IMPORTANT DATES

March

- March 1: CTE Celebration (Champion Chapter) Deadline
- March 2: Colorado FBLA SLC Survival Series, Virtual (4-5 pm)
- March 3: Colorado State Leadership Conference Early Bird Registration Deadline
- March 3: NLC T-shirt & Pin Design Contest Deadline
- March 6: FBLA Night with the Nuggets
- March 9: Colorado FBLA SLC Survival Series, Virtual (4-5 pm)
- March 10: Colorado State Leadership Conference Regular Registration Deadline
- March 13: Colorado FBLA Membership Meeting, Virtual (7-8 pm)
- March 16: Colorado FBLA SLC Survival Series, Virtual (4-5 pm)
- March 23: Colorado FBLA SLC Survival Series, Virtual (4-5 pm)
- March 30: Colorado FBLA SLC Survival Series, Virtual (4-5 pm)

April

- April 5-7: State Leadership Conference, Gaylord Rockies

Summer

- June 27-30: National Leadership Conference, Atlanta



FBLA: NOT JUST A COMPETITION

WHAT IS FBLA?

FBLA is a non-profit that helps students help high school students prepare for careers in business through academic competitions, leadership development, and educational programs

AIMS TO DEVELOP FUTURE LEADERS



FBLA is known to hone future leaders. The organization is incredibly active in organizing national leadership events, annual conferences, and mentorship programs. If you want to become the best you can be, learning FBLA lessons is critical to providing you the most promising future.

OPENS UNIQUE DOORS AND OPPORTUNITIES



FBLA gives you something beyond what you learn in your classes. It gives you the opportunity to network, and share your thoughts and ideologies. You'll also develop a web of mentors and other aspiring leaders early on. As you grow, you will find that these opportunities assure you of a brighter, better future.



Colorado
FBLA



TEACHES YOU WHAT IS IMPORTANT



FBLA opens your eyes to what matters. Remember that you are never too young to start on the path to success. So allow yourself to be surrounded by the right support group, peers, and mentors.