

# COLORADO



# FBLA

# TODAY

Winter 2020

Opportunity Awaits





# Colorado FBLA Today

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# FBLA Districts



**District 1**  
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**District 2**  
**Kara Lerudis**



**District 3**  
**Skyler Hawks**



**District 4**  
**Tanley Andersen**



**District 5**  
**Emily Aspey**



# FBLA Districts



**District 6**  
**Mauren Vaughn**



**District 7**  
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**District 8**



**District 9**  
**Gavin Lindsey**



**District 10**



**District 11**  
**Gabrielle Lockey**







# Deadlines



## **All District Leadership Experience Dates and Deadlines:**

### **January 13:**

Role Play, Production, Questions Released (including Impromptu Speaking/Parli Pro topics and Job Interview/Future Business Leader questions)

Pre-Judge Projects Due

### **January 20:**

Recorded Presentations Submission Deadline (including ALL events - role plays, interviews, speeches, demonstrations, presentations with and without equipment)

### **January 25-27:**

Online Testing Window (for objective tests and role play tests)

**February:** District Leadership Experience





# So, You Want to Study Business?



Ava Trahan, Cherokee Trail High School

Many seniors and upperclassmen are looking towards the future. FBLA members may be thinking about pursuing a degree in business and are curious about what business education entails at the collegiate level. During November, Colorado FBLA partnered with the University of Colorado's Leeds School of Business.

CU Leeds took over the Colorado FBLA instagram account on November 11th and 12th. The takeover included student testimonials, insights into Leeds special programs, clubs, and organizations, and pictures of campus and Leeds' buildings. Over the two days, FBLA members were treated to a unique and comprehensive virtual tour of Leeds and all that it has to offer. If you missed the takeover, you can take a look on the @ColoradoFBLA Instagram page.

Additionally, the Leeds School of Business presented at the Colorado FBLA November State Membership Meeting. Members learned more about the different programs Leeds has like the Diverse Scholars Program, BE Tech Scholars Program, and a variety of certificates. CU Leeds also provided a student perspective who shared about the advantages to staying in-state for college, her experience, and clubs that she was involved in like Ralphie's Closet – a professional clothing swap for Boulder students, making business attire more accessible around campus. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and become more familiar about what pursuing business at the next level may look like.

—“ —

I love the community that DSP provides. It's such a welcoming community that encourages meaningful connections and reflection about the intersectionality of our identities and how that plays a part in how we show up as our authentic selves.

—” —



—“ —

I have very fond memories of the case competitions I've participated in through DSP. I love being able to put together a team that usually starts out as strangers and becoming really good friends in a span of a few days.

—” —







# How I Got Involved

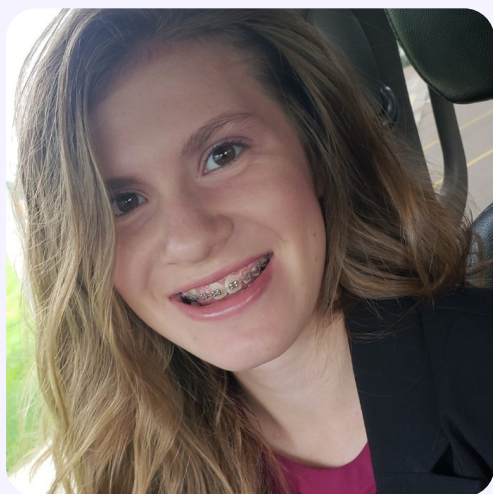
Daisy Stone, Flagler High School



I go to a small school in Flagler, Colorado. Our middle school and high school are in the same hallway and we have the same teachers. My eighth-grade year I talked to a number of high schoolers daily. My computer teacher was also the FBLA adviser. At my school everyone is involved in at least one extracurricular activity, if not more. It is very rare to not be involved. I wanted to be involved and I knew that I wanted to run my own business when I graduated college.

I was conflicted and didn't know which organization, or after school activity would best serve me and my future goals. I didn't know what to do. I had many options, I could get involved in FBLA, FFA, Drama, etc. I wanted to put all of my energy into one organization rather than have to split my priorities between many organizations. The last month of my eighth-grade year I decided I'd talk to upperclassmen who were in every organization and get their feedback of what they liked and disliked. Everyone praised the organization or group that they were involved in and said they were so happy with their choice. Everyone who was in multiple organizations gave me the differences between the two and told me how stressed they were with all of the things they had to do with school, sports, and their other activities. These interviews helped me finalize my decision to only do one.

Then, I decided to go to the internet. I looked up FBLA and made my own list of pros and cons, and I did the same with my other options as well. I finally decided on FBLA as it would benefit me the most with my preferred future career. I even helped run the FBLA dodgeball tournament my eighth-grade year and I fell in love with it even more. I wanted to help with this fundraiser to improve my business knowledge and skills.



This is me before my very first FBLA event, excited as ever as we parked the car!



Through my years as an FBLA member I have learned so much and do not regret my decision one bit. The most important things I have learned are the meanings of FBLA.

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**F** is for FUTURE. Everyone has a future, and we can't stay stuck on the past because so much good is to come in our lives and I for one am excited to enjoy and experience it.

**B** is for BUSINESS. "Business is everywhere" as my FBLA advisor says, and I totally agree. I enjoy learning about business, and I hope to own my own someday.

**L** is for LEADER. I strive to be a leader in my community, family, and school. I try my hardest to serve others and help out in any way I can. That is what a leader is to me, a good example.

**A** is for AMERICA. America is the greatest country in the world, and I hope it stays this way. I believe that I am truly blessed to be able to live in this amazing country!







# Trunk or Treat!



Mauren Vaughn, Palmer Ridge High School

When people drove onto the Palmer Ridge parking lot on October 31st, the first thing they were greeted with was one of the FBLA trunks. Members of the community were greeted with the dazzling personalities of Cohort A. Further down the line, the trunk for Cohort B could also be seen. These FBLA members showed up early to decorate these trunks to the nines.

Palmer Ridge FBLA was an excellent way to kick off this 2nd annual Trunk or Treat. Both of these trunks were “decked out” in spiderwebs, spiders, caution tape, garland, and a few Disney decorations. Roughly 50 spiders could be seen in 600 feet of spiderwebs! Cohort A even came up with a trivia question for cars as they went through. Members of the community were encouraged to count the number of spiders in the car. They then told the next trunk how many there were and if they were correct, they received extra candy.

Throughout the entire experience, these dedicated FBLA members kept spirits high with fun conversations. They were engaged with people of all ages, complementing cars and costumes alike. This experience will not be forgotten by these members of FBLA or the community.





# Chapter Challenges & Peak Awards



Emily Aspey, Cherokee Trail High School

A good way to increase your chapter's recognition is by participating in national Chapter Challenges as well as Colorado's Peak Awards. Both of these activities can be found in Colorado FBLA's Livebinder under the Program's Awards/Recognitions tab. There are three chapter challenges throughout the year: Super Sweeps, Non-Stop November, and Action Awareness. Each challenge spans multiple months and is submitted through the national website once an adviser sets up a chapter login. On the other hand, Peak is a year-long process due in March. In my chapter, my main job as an executive officer is to delegate and submit these different awards. If your chapter is interested in participating in these challenges going forward, here is a list of tips I've learned throughout the year:

Understand the Awards! If you do not know what chapter challenges are due in which months or how to submit activities, make a list. Chapter Challenges require a login which needs to be set up by your adviser; the format is very similar to a BAA where certain activities are required but there are a certain number of others that you chose. With Peak, you can select any number of activities for certain point values. There are five peak awards, Peak 1 only requires 120 points whereas Peak 5 requires 300+ points. Peak utilizes a spreadsheet to log points collected as well as a slideshow to log documentation (because of this I recommend requiring Peak documentation in the form of image files).

- Super Sweeps: August - Late October
- Non-Stop November: November - Mid December
- Action Awareness: January - Early March
- Peak: Due Early March

Plan Ahead! At the beginning of the year/each semester, plan your chapter activities out based on Peak activities. It's a great way to discover ways for your chapter to become more involved with the state and with your members.

Delegate! I cannot stress this enough. Peak and Chapter Challenges are made for an entire chapter to complete so do not place all the work on yourself or an adviser. Create an ongoing document with activities assigned to other chapter officers/committee members who can collect the required documentation.

Set Deadlines! I personally have been delegating documentation to officers due on a monthly basis. It is easier to keep track of and also help set goals for your chapter to complete in specific months. Because Peak is a year-long award, it can be easy to procrastinate and get behind on documentation; hold yourself and your officers accountable. Doing Peak in a few nights is a huge undertaking, save yourself the last minute effort and do it throughout the year instead. With these tips, I hope to encourage more chapters across the state to participate in both of these awards. They are a great way to further local involvement in the program of work and statewide activities, increase membership, and boost morale.







# 'Time' Kid of the Year: Gitanjali Rao



Kylie Purkeypile, Holyoke High School

On January 4, 2021 Colorado FBLA got to start off the new year in such a humbling and inspirational way! Staff from the FBLA-PBL National Center and from Colorado FBLA received the opportunity to virtually interview 'Time' Kid of the Year, Gitanjali Rao. State adviser, Jen Girvin, and Vice President of Education, Kylie Purkeypile, represented and spoke on behalf of Colorado FBLA when interviewing Gitanjali.

Gitanjali discussed her point of view on FBLA; such as why she joined, what it has done for her, and how the skills and information she has learned has been applicable to her successes.

Gitanjali Rao is a 15 year old scientist and inventor from Colorado. She was awarded the title "Time's first ever Kid of the Year". This is an incredible honor on her behalf! She was awarded this honor through her astonishing work. Gitanjali has done many things at such a young age; for example, she invented a device called "Tethys" that uses carbon nanotubes which react with lead and allow for her device to determine if drinking water is contaminated with lead or not. She has also focused on tackling issues dealing with cyberbullying and opioid addiction.

Aside from being a public figure, young scientist, and inventor, Gitanjali is also an active member of Colorado FBLA. Gitanjali talked about how FBLA has made an impact on herself and her successes at such a young age. Before she decided to join FBLA, she neglected anything related to business. Later on she realized how much the skills and information within FBLA applied to her inventions and scientific thinking. Some applicable functions she has learned and use include management, product design, public speaking, and production. She also gained valuable knowledge regarding advocating for issues in today's society and being a young student leader. FBLA opened doors for Gitanjali that allowed her to understand the important role business plays in her work. FBLA has also allowed her to add a business aspect to her innovative processes.

Gitanjali emphasized innovation greatly throughout the interview. Her goals target teaching young students like herself the process of innovation, and how you can turn an idea into a reality. Since being honored as 'Time' Kid of the Year, Gitanjali has been asked to speak to students all over the world. So far she has visited countries including Kenya, Nepal, Afghanistan, and more.

Gitanjali Rao's brilliant mind will make a large impact on our world. It will be exciting to see where Gitanjali goes from here as she continues to encourage students to innovate and bring ideas to life!





# What Can YOU do for FBLA?



Tanley Andersen, Haxtun High School

Persuading non-members to join FBLA can be one of the greatest challenges an FBLA leader will face. You may face an abundance of questions:

"What even is FBLA?"

"Can I still be in the organization if I don't want to go into a business-related career field?"

"What do I get out of FBLA?"

Over and over, I have found myself listing the same benefits to our wonderful CTSO: the valuable leadership skills, an opportunity to serve your community, and real life business readiness.

While all of these answers are accurate, students still struggle to grasp the concept of why joining FBLA, or any organization for that matter, is important. John F. Kennedy, at the time that he would give his presidential inaugural speech, was struggling to inspire civic duty and public action among the American people. Kennedy proclaimed a statement that would resonate with Americans for the next fifty years:

"Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

This meaningful quote applies to the Future Business Leaders of America perfectly. This organization is made great because of the time and effort put in by each and every member, across the United States. The Future Business Leaders of America is one of the most inspiring, and innovative organizations a student can join, because it is student-led. Time and time again, I am amazed at the creativity and passion displayed by FBLA members at every competition, conference and gathering. Students in FBLA have a drive for success that is unmatched in any other CTSO.

The members of FBLA strive to embody the three pillars of FBLA- education, progress and service. These students are educated and prepared for the business world through FBLA projects and service activities. The countless hours they put into serving their communities benefits not only FBLA members, but their peers as well. Finally, FBLA members learn the importance of progress through competing at the district, state and national level.

High school students can be hard to convince. No matter the opportunities, skills or experience that can be gained from organizations like FBLA, some students will not join. Encouraging potential members to join can be as simple as sending out invitations to a meeting, or giving a hands-on orientation from your officers. Everyone can benefit from the Future Business Leaders of America, and do their part to better the organization. So my fellow members, I ask: What can YOU do for FBLA?







# New Years Resolutions



Mollie Kelley, Eads High School

The new year is here, and it is a great time to get more involved in FBLA. With District Leadership Experiences kicking off and everyone getting excited to compete, it's easy to get wrapped up in your competitions. However, it is so important to continue to take advantage of all that FBLA has to offer! Competitive events can be a great way to work on your skillset with public speaking, teamwork, and more, but that doesn't have to be the end of your enrichment. By utilizing the other opportunities that FBLA gives you, you can build and better yourself even more! This can be done through Community Service Awards (CSAs), Business Achievement Awards (BAAs), offices or leadership positions in your chapter, district, or state, writing articles for newsletters like this one, and much more! Competing is a highlight in FBLA, but FBLA has much more to offer you! It is up to you to take advantage of these opportunities and take initiative to be involved. If you're more interested in doing things by yourself, look into the BAAs or CSAs! Look under the 'Programs' tab and choose the 'Service' or 'Education' tabs on the Colorado FBLA website to check these out! If you want to be a leader and work with others, consider applying for an office in your chapter, district, or even up to the state level! Talk to your adviser to see what opportunities are available to you! You can also ask your adviser about other ways to get involved, like writing an article, helping plan a chapter event, or just helping out! Make your new year's resolution to be involved in FBLA and make a difference!

New Year,  
New me!





# Want to Submit an Article for the Spring Edition of "Colorado FBLA Today"?



Go to [coloradofbla.org](https://coloradofbla.org) → Access livebinder

The screenshot shows the Colorado FBLA-PBL website. The navigation bar includes links for Table of Contents, What's New, Calendar, Chapter Map, Communications, Conferences & Events, FBLA Districts, Competitions, Programs, and Chapter Resources. The Communications dropdown menu is open, showing options for Memo Mondays, PBL Posts, Middle Level, Newsletters, FBLA Leadership, and PBL Leadership. An arrow points from the 'Newsletters' link to the 'Colorado FBLA Today' section. This section lists various past issues of 'Colorado FBLA Today' and includes a link to the 'Colorado FBLA Today Article Submission Form'. Another arrow points from the 'National Submissions' section to the same submission form link.

Chapter Name \*

Article Title \*

Article Author Name \*

Email (for confirmation of submission) \*

You can type your article directly in the box below, give a Google link or upload a WORD document:

**complete the submission form by  
attaching the article and additional  
article information**

Upload a WORD document with the article

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Picture 3

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Picture 4

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Picture 4 Caption

Picture 5

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Picture 5 Caption

Once you properly fill out the form,  
click submit to have your article  
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**Winter**



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**Designed & Report by:**

**Kylie Purkeypile, Vice President of Education**