

2026–2027 Competitive Events Guidelines

Coding & Programming

Coding & Programming challenges members to design and develop a standalone application that solves a specific problem or accomplishes a defined task. Members present their completed program to a panel of judges, demonstrating technical skills, logic, and creativity in software development.



Event Overview	
Division	High School
Event Type	Team of 1, 2, or 3 members
Event Category	Presentation
Event Elements	Presentation with a Topic

Event Information:	
<u>National Leadership Conference:</u> Timing Structure: • Equipment Set-Up: 3 minutes ◦ No interaction allowed with judges during this time. • Presentation: 7 minutes ◦ A one-minute warning will be provided • Question & Answer (Q&A): 3 minutes <i>Important: Time allocations are exclusive. The presentation must begin immediately after the 3-minute set-up time concludes. Time may not be shifted between segments. Competitors will not interact with judges during the set-up period.</i> Important Notes: • Internet Access: Provided ◦ Please be aware that internet access at conference venues may be unreliable. Always prepare a backup plan in case the connection is lost or does not work with your device. • Event Schedule Notes: ◦ Some events may begin before the Opening Session. ◦ All schedules are posted in local time for the NLC host city. ◦ Schedule changes are not permitted.	<u>District Leadership Conference:</u> Check your DLC Call to Conference and Policies & Procedures for the timing structure, prejudice deadlines (if applicable) and other information. <u>State Leadership Conference:</u> Timing Structure: • Equipment Set-Up: 1 minute ◦ No interaction allowed with judges during this time. • Presentation: 7 minutes ◦ A one-minute warning will be provided • Question & Answer (Q&A): 3 minutes Important Notes: • Time allocations are exclusive. • Internet access: Provided but prepare a backup plan. • Colorado FBLA follows the NLC model for Event Administration unless noted otherwise. • Check the SLC Call to Conference for additional information and prejudice deadlines (if applicable).

*** Event specifics are continued below. Review the document in its entirety.

2026-2027 Topic

Serving the Community: Nonprofit Volunteer Management

Nonprofit organizations rely on volunteers to support programs, events, and community initiatives. Effectively managing volunteer information, service opportunities, schedules, and participation can help organizations operate more efficiently and increase their impact.

Use your programming skills to develop a program that helps nonprofit organizations recruit, organize, and manage volunteers and community service activities. Your program may be a command-line application, desktop application, or interactive interface. Choose the platform that best demonstrates your programming skills.

Your solution should help nonprofit organizations coordinate volunteers, manage service opportunities, maintain records, and monitor participation while supporting the needs of both volunteers and organization leaders.

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National Leadership Conference

Required Competition Items

	Items Competitor Must Provide	Items FBLA Provides
Preliminary Presentation	- Conference-provided nametag Photo identification - Attire that meets the FBLA Dress Code - Technology and presentation items	- Table - Internet Access
Final Presentation	- Conference-provided nametag Photo identification - Attire that meets the FBLA Dress Code - Technology and presentation items, including any adapter or cord needed beyond an HDMI connection	- Table - Power - Projector with HDMI cord - Projector screen - Internet Access

Eligibility Requirements

To participate in FBLA competitive events at the National Leadership Conference (NLC), the following criteria must be met:

- **Membership Deadline:** FBLA national membership dues must be paid to the specific division by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on March 1 of the current school year.
- **Repeat Competitors:** Members may only compete in an event at the NLC more than once if they have not previously placed in the top 10 of that event at the NLC. If a member places in the top 10 of an event at the NLC, they are no longer eligible to compete in that event at future NLCs, unless the event has been modified beyond a name change. Chapter events are exempt from this procedure.
- **Conference Registration:** Members must be officially registered for the NLC and must pay the national conference registration fee to participate.
- **Official Hotel Requirement:** To be eligible to compete, competitors must stay within the official FBLA housing block.
- **State Entry Limits:** Each state may submit up to four entries per event.
- **Event Participation Limits:** Each member may participate in:
 - One individual or team event, and
 - One chapter event (e.g., *Community Service Project* or *Local Chapter Annual Business Report*).
- **Competitor Responsibility:** Only registered competitors are permitted to plan, research, prepare, and set up their presentations. Advisers and others may not assist.
- **Participation Requirement:** To be eligible for an award, each competitor must complete all components of the event at the National Leadership Conference.
- **Team Composition:** All members of a team must be from the same local chapter.
- **Identification at Check-in:** Competitors must present valid photo identification (physical or digital) that matches the name on their conference name badge. Acceptable forms include a driver's license, passport, state-issued ID, or school ID.
- **Late Arrivals:** Competitors will be allowed to compete until such time that the results are finalized, or participation would impact the fairness and integrity of the event, as determined by Competitive Events staff. If judges have left the competitive event area, it is no longer possible to compete. Five penalty points will be assessed for late arrivals in any competitive event.

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Event Administration

This event consists of two phases: a preliminary presentation and a final presentation.

Preliminary Presentation Details

Timing Structure

- **Equipment Set-Up:** 3 minutes
- **Presentation:** 7 minutes (a one-minute warning will be provided)
- **Question & Answer (Q&A):** 3 minutes
- **Important:** Time allocations are exclusive. The presentation must begin immediately after the 3-minute set-up time concludes. Time may not be shifted between segments. Competitors will not interact with judges during the set-up period.

Venue & Format

- Presentations occur in-person at the National Leadership Conference (NLC).
- Competitors/teams are randomly assigned to presentation sections.
- Presentations will take place in a large, open area with a designated space of approximately 10' x 10', which includes a table and chairs for the judges.
- The preliminary round is closed to conference attendees and audience.

Technology Guidelines

- **Internet Access:** Provided (*Please be aware that internet access at conference venues may be unreliable. Always prepare a backup plan in case the connection is lost or does not work with your device.*)
- Presentations must be delivered using no more than three personal devices (laptop, tablet, mobile phone, or monitor approximately laptop-sized).
- Projectors and projector screens are not permitted, and competitors may not bring their own.
- Wireless slide advancers (e.g., presentation clickers or mice) are allowed.
- External speakers are not allowed; audio must come directly from the presenting device(s).
- Electricity will not be available.

Non-Technology Items

- Visual aids, samples, notes, and other physical materials related to the project may be used.
- Items may be placed on the provided table or on the judges table, if space allows.
- No items may be left with the judges following the presentation.

Restricted Items

- Animals, except for authorized service animals.
- Food, which may be used for display only and may not be consumed by judges.
- Links and QR codes, which may be shown but may not be scanned or clicked by judges at any time.

Research

- Information must be supported by credible, well-documented sources.
- Any use of copyrighted material, images, logos, or trademarks must be properly documented.

Team Expectations

- In team presentations, all members must actively participate in the delivery of the presentation.

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Event Specific Information: Competitors should incorporate the following aspects in response to the topic

- The development, usability and functionality of the program must be demonstrated and explained to the judges.
- Solution must run standalone with no programming errors.
- Data must be free of viruses/malware.
- Competitors must provide comprehensive documentation including a readme file, source code, templates/libraries used, and documentation of any copyrighted or open-source material used.
- The presentation should follow the rating sheet and include the following:
 - **Language Selection:** Language choice is explained using industry terms and reflects the project's needs.
 - **Code Comments:** Comments are complete, logical, and enhance readability.
 - **Programming Knowledge:** Follows best practices and demonstrates advanced skills: modular design, clean logic, effective use of data types.
 - **User Experience (UX):** Includes clear design rationale and user flow, accessibility features are present.
 - **Program Intuitiveness:** Interface is easy to navigate and instructions are clear and well-integrated.
 - **Intelligent Feature:** Includes advanced functionality (e.g., Q&A, recommendations, smart filters).
 - **Input Validation:** Validates both format and meaning, Prevents crashes and provides helpful error messages.
 - **Functionality & Relevance:** Fully meets prompt requirements, instructions explain how the program addresses the topic.
 - **Output & Data Analysis:** Customizable reports or output allow for meaningful data analysis.
 - **Data Structures & Scope:** Uses arrays/lists appropriately and variable scope is logical and efficient.

Final Presentation Details

Timing Structure

- **Equipment Set-Up:** 3 minutes
- **Presentation:** 7 minutes (a one-minute warning will be provided)
- **Question & Answer (Q&A):** 3 minutes
- **Note:** Each time segment is exclusive. Once the 3-minute set-up period ends, the 7-minute presentation time begins automatically. Competitors may not shift time between segments. Competitors will not interact with judges during the set-up period.

Advancement to Finals

- The top-scoring competitors or teams from each preliminary section will advance to the final round in equal numbers.
- The number of competitors or teams advancing to the final round depends on the number of preliminary sections:
 - 2 sections: Top 6 from each section advance
 - 3 sections: Top 4 from each section advance
 - 4 sections: Top 3 from each section advance
 - 5 sections: Top 3 from each section advance

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- More than 5 sections: Top 2 from each section advance

Audience & Viewing Rules

- Final presentations may be open to conference attendees, depending on space availability.
- Finalists may not view other presentations in their own event.

Technology Guidelines

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- Presentations must be delivered using no more than three personal devices (laptop, tablet, mobile phone, or monitor approximately laptop-sized).
- If the final round takes place in a conference room, the following equipment will be provided: a projector, projector screen, power access, and a table.
- Competitors using laptops or devices without an HDMI port must bring their own compatible adapters.
- It is the responsibility of final-round competitors to decide whether or not to use the provided technology.
- Wireless slide advancers (e.g., presentation clickers or mice) are allowed.
- Electricity will not be available.

Non-Technology Items

- Visual aids, samples, notes, and other physical materials related to the project may be used.
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Scoring

- Preliminary round scores are used to determine which competitors or teams advance to the final round from each section.
- Final round scores determine the final rankings and top award winners.
- Judges are responsible for breaking all ties in both preliminary and final rounds.
- All judging decisions are final. Results announced at the National Leadership Conference are considered official and will not be changed after the conclusion of the National Leadership Conference.

Penalty Points

- Competitors may be disqualified if they violate the Code of Conduct or the Honor Code.
- Five points are deducted if competitors do not follow the Dress Code or are late to their assigned presentation time.

Recognition

- A maximum of 10 entries (individuals or teams) may be recognized per event.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- FBLA complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by providing reasonable accommodations for competitors. Accommodation requests must be submitted through the conference registration system by the official registration deadline. All requests will be reviewed, and additional documentation may be required to determine eligibility and appropriate support.

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Recording of Presentations

- Unauthorized audio or video recording is strictly prohibited in all competitive events.
- FBLA reserves the right to record presentations for educational, training, or archival purposes. Competitors should be aware that their presentations may be recorded by FBLA-authorized personnel.

Important FBLA Documents

- Competitors should be familiar with the [Competitive Events Operations Manual](#), [Honor Code](#), [Code of Conduct](#), and [Dress Code](#).

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Coding & Programming Presentation Rating Sheet

Expectation Item	Not Demonstrated	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations	Points Earned
Code Quality					
Coding language selection	No language selected or presented	Language presented, without explanation	Language presented, with details missing	Language presented, with detailed explanation of selection process using industry terminology	
	0 points	1-2 points	3-4 points	5 points	
Appropriate use of comments, naming conventions, and proper formatting	No comments provided	Comments provided but are not logical	Comments provided assist judges throughout the demonstration	Comments provided are logical, useful, and complete	
	0 points	1-2 points	3-4 points	5 points	
The program is modular in a way that makes logical, readable sense	Program does not make logical, readable sense	Program is either logical or readable, but not both	Program is logical and readable	Program exhibits an advanced knowledge of programming	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
User Experience					
UX Design: User Journey, Design Rationale, Accessibility Features	No UX design presented	Some elements of UX design are presented	UX design presented, with details missing	UX design presented, with details about the design rationale, user journey, and accessibility features highlighted	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
User interface is intuitive or clear instructions are provided	No instructions provided and is not intuitive	Instructions provided are not intuitive	Appropriate & clear instructions are provided	Program is intuitive and clear instructions are provided	
	0 points	1-2 points	3-4 points	5 points	
Users can easily navigate between pages	No help menu or navigation system incorporated	Includes basic help menu and usable navigation	Interface contains no spelling errors, has interactive help menu, and has no navigation errors	Program use also includes an intelligent feature such as an interactive Q&A	
	0 points	1-2 points	3-4 points	5 points	
User input is validated	User input isn't validated	User input validation attempted, but does not catch important edge cases or is not done correctly	User input is validated	Input validation applied on both syntactical and semantic levels	
	0 points	1-2 points	3-4 points	5 points	
Functionality					
Program addresses all parts of the prompt	Program does not address the topic/problem	Program addresses the topic/problem at a minimal level	Program fully addresses the topic/problem	Program fully addresses the topic/problem, and the correlation is explained in the instructions	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	

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Expectation Item	Not Demonstrated	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations	Points Earned
Program generates a presentable report	Output reports are not accurate or not available	Output reports are not sufficient to analyze data	Output reports are error free and provide all necessary information to analyze data	Output reports allow user to customize and analyze information	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
Data storage	There is no storage of data	Variables are used inconsistently, or in a way that is unclear	Variable name and usage is clear. Variables store data that updates when necessary. Each variable performs only one job, and the correct data type is used	More complex data storage such as arrays and lists are used where appropriate and variable scope makes sense	
	0 points	1-2 points	3-4 points	5 points	
Presentation Delivery					
Statements are well-organized and clearly stated	Competitor(s) did not appear prepared	Competitor(s) were prepared, but flow was not logical	Presentation flowed in logical sequence	Presentation flowed in a logical sequence; statements were well organized	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
Consistently displays confidence, poised body language, engaging eye contact, and effective voice projection.	Did not demonstrate any of the listed skills	Demonstrated 1-2 of the listed skills (confidence, body language, eye contact, or voice projection)	Demonstrated 3 of the listed skills (confidence, body language, eye contact, or voice projection)	Demonstrated all skills, enhancing the overall presentation	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
Demonstrates the ability to effectively answer questions	Does not respond to questions or responses are completely off-topic.	Provides incomplete or unclear answers that show limited understanding.	Responds accurately and clearly to most questions, showing adequate understanding.	Responds confidently with clear, accurate, and thoughtful answers that enhance the overall presentation.	
	0 points	1-6 points	7-8 points	9-10 points	
Presentation Protocols					
Adherence to Competitive Events Guidelines	Competitor(s) Did Not Follow Guidelines	Execution Aligned with Guidelines: ✓ Used only allowable technology devices (sizing specs followed; maximum of three) ✓ Presentation aligned with the assigned topic ✓ Maintained professional boundaries during set-up time (no interaction with judges) ✓ Did not leave materials behind after the presentation ✓ Links or QR codes were displayed appropriately (not clicked or scanned by judges) ✓ Audio was presented without external speakers (preliminary round) ✓ Avoided use of food or live animals			
		0 points	1-10 points		
Staff Only: Penalty Points (5 points for dress code penalty and/or 5 points for late arrival penalty)					
Presentation Total (110 points)					
Name(s):					
School:				Section:	
Judge Signature:				Date:	