

**FAMILY, CAREER AND COMMUNITY
LEADERS OF AMERICA, INC.**

Georgia State Association



GEORGIA
STATE ASSOCIATION

**POLICIES & PROCEDURES
MANUAL**

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF
FAMILY, CAREER AND COMMUNITY LEADERS OF AMERICA

Policies and Procedures Manual

Revised March 2023

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I. Copyrights, Representation, and Interpretation

A. Name and Emblem

1. Guidelines for Non-Official Name Usage by State

The name of the organization is FAMILY, CAREER AND COMMUNITY LEADERS OF AMERICA, INC. State and local associations using a name other than FAMILY, CAREER AND COMMUNITY LEADERS OF AMERICA, INC., are required to indicate their affiliation with national FAMILY, CAREER AND COMMUNITY LEADERS OF AMERICA, INC., in official communications and printed materials.

2. Use of Name and Emblem and Responsibility for Protection

FCCLA is required to enter into a licensing agreement with any entity regarding the use of FCCLA intellectual property. The national organization, the Georgia state association, or its affiliated groups may use the name and emblem to identify Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc. for educational, promotional, and informational purposes such as articles in newspapers and periodicals, on radio and television programs, or display and/or demonstration exhibits that are designed to promote the national organization or its affiliated groups.

FCCLA Organizational Materials

The national organization and the Georgia state association and chapters may use or authorize the use of the name and emblem with identification of the national, state, or chapter level, as specified in Section I, A3, on organizational items such as, special certificates, programs, yearbooks, publications and other educational materials developed for use in connection with the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., program.

Products for Sale

The name and emblem Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., or FCCLA shall not be used on commercially developed products for sale at any level of operation, national, state, or chapter, except on co-branded materials with Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., and on other items as authorized by the national organization.

In accordance with this national policy, neither state associations nor local FCCLA chapters may use the name and emblem on commercially or FCCLA developed products for sale or permit such action at any level of operation within the state.

Cooperative Activities

The name and emblem may be used in printed or other informational materials developed for cooperative activities with educational, professional, civic, or business organizations at national, state, or local levels.

The level of operation must be clearly identified and the materials approved by the decision-making body of the designated level. Cooperative projects shall reflect the goal and purposes of the organization.

Fundraising

The name and emblem shall not be used on printed materials or commercial products that are developed for the primary purpose of soliciting or raising funds for other organizations or groups, without prior written approval from the national organization.

Advertising and Product Labeling Restrictions

Neither the name nor emblem nor any advertising or labeling indicating or implying any connection with Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc. and/or Georgia FCCLA will be used or employed by commercial firms on products for any purpose, either locally, statewide, or nationally, unless authorized by the

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national organization.

Identification of Level of Operation

State Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., associations and local FCCLA chapters using the name and emblem of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., should always identify the level of operation by indicating whether national, state, chapter, or other. All materials carrying the name and emblem of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., including letterheads, newsletters, etc., should identify the level of operation originating the material. This does not apply to items made available by the nationally authorized emblematic dealer.

Materials originating in a state association shall carry the name and address of the state association.

Georgia Association of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc.

P.O. Box 840

Bogart, GA 30622

Materials originating on the local or chapter level shall carry the name of the state association and the chapter address.

[Name of Chapter and School]

Georgia Association of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc.

[City, State Zip]

Reproduction of Emblem by Exact Replica

When an emblem of the organization is reproduced, it should be an exact replica of the emblem as registered through the collective trademark. In general, an emblem may be reproduced on emblematic materials manufactured by the dealer(s) authorized by the national staff and organizational and informational materials as specified in the policies of this document.

Protecting the FCCLA Image on the Web

Because the Internet has a worldwide audience, and communication via the Internet may have far-reaching effects, state associations, local chapters, and chapter members should understand that in using the internet they may be seen as representing Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc. and/or Georgia FCCLA to the public. Therefore, each member is expected to consider carefully any materials placed on the internet and social networking sites using the FCCLA name, image, or brand. It is the responsibility of each member not to cast FCCLA in a negative light or to discredit or harm the reputation or good will of FCCLA's name, image, or brand.

Website Links

Any and all links to be placed on the FCCLA website, including affiliated state organizations, and local chapters, business partners, and related organizations must be approved by the national staff.

Responsibility for Protection

Protecting the name and emblem of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., is the responsibility of the national organization and its chartered state associations and affiliated local chapters as defined in the bylaws [Article I, Section I] of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc. In order to maintain the identity of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., as a preeminent educational youth organization, the name and emblem must be protected at all levels of operation--national, state and local. To this end, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., shall:

- a. Permit the use of its name and emblem only in connection with Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., programs (FCCLA chapters) and projects that have a direct relationship to the mission, goals,

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and purposes of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., and in accordance with policies defined in this document, and

- b. Preclude the use of its name and emblem by any individuals and groups in the promotion of unauthorized programs, projects, and products.

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc. has the FCCLA name and emblem registered as a copyright trademark.

3. Authorization for Use of Name or Emblem

The official FCCLA vendor and emblematic supplier has the exclusive legal right to use the FCCLA logo and acronym on merchandise.

If a local chapter, state association, or other FCCLA affiliate (the "Affiliate") wants to purchase products with the FCCLA emblem or acronym on merchandise not already sold by the emblematic supplier, the Affiliate may ask the emblematic supplier directly:

- a. The Affiliate must obtain one or more written bids for such FCCLA logo products to be produced;
- b. The Affiliate's bid terms must require the would-be vendor to provide at least 5% of the full order amount to FCCLA as a royalty;
- c. The Affiliate must provide a copy of each submitted bid to the emblematic supplier and give the emblematic supplier 24 hours to decide whether to match that bid and produce the desired merchandise itself; and,
- d. Or, If the emblematic supplier notifies FCCLA and the Affiliate that it wishes to match the proposed bid and produce the merchandise, the Affiliate works with the emblematic supplier to order the merchandise or does not order the merchandise at all;
- e. If the emblematic supplier does not respond within 24 hours or indicates it does not wish to produce the merchandise, then the Affiliate is free to engage the other vendor to produce the merchandise under the terms of the bid on the condition that the Affiliate provides FCCLA with a completed one-time use agreement form and a photo proof of the product, so that FCCLA can provide that company a one-time permission to use the logo on that item in exchange for that company paying FCCLA 5% of the sales order as a royalty payment.

At National Level

Only the national organization can authorize use of the name and emblem on the national level.

At State Level

The policy-making body of a state association may authorize use of the name and emblem on the state level in accordance with policies stated in this document. [Section I, A2]

At Chapter Level

Local chapters of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., may use or approve the use of the organization's name and emblem in keeping with the policies of this document. [Section I, A2]

4. Authorized Dealer of Emblematic Materials

The manufacturer and sale of all emblematic materials bearing the official name of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., or its emblem in full or in abbreviated form, shall be authorized only by the national staff of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc. The sale of emblematic materials is limited to individual members. A list of state advisers and affiliated chapters is supplied annually by the national headquarters staff of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., to the authorized dealer

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of emblematic materials. The nationally authorized dealer helps protect the use of the name and emblem by selling emblematic materials only to the national organization, chartered state associations, affiliated chapters, and individual members.

B. Publications

1. Permissions and Copyrights

All copyrights in and to the publications, photographs, written materials, and audio and visual materials of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., and any reprints and republications shall be the exclusive property of the national organization in all formats now known or developed in the future.

Permission for FCCLA members and local chapters to reproduce FCCLA materials, such as publications, photographs, written materials, and audio and visual materials may be granted by state staff.

All future publications, photographs, written materials, and audio and visual materials of FCCLA shall be copyrighted at the time of their initial creation and at each subsequent reprint or republication.

2. Guidelines for Selection of Non-FCCLA published Materials for Sale

To protect members and advisers from needless exposure to products that may be harmful or that promote socially unacceptable behavior, the following guidelines will apply for selection of non-FCCLA published materials, either print or video, for sales at meetings, through mail order, or Internet sales:

Materials must be consistent with the mission and purposes of FCCLA.

Materials must be appropriate for use by Family and Consumer Sciences professionals.

In addition, all promotional flyers and marketing information about the non-FCCLA published items will contain a disclaimer to the effect that the organization does not necessarily support and/or promote all information contained in the items offered for sale.

In all instances, where doubt exists as to the appropriateness of the materials, the Executive Director shall make the final decision.

C. Representation and Interpretation

Organization

Any individual requested to represent the state association on a national/state program or national/state committee, or to prepare or broadcast articles or materials describing or dealing with the national organization and/or state association shall do so only with the approval of the national staff.

At National Level

Only the national organization can authorize representation and interpretation of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc. on the national level. Such authorization shall be in accordance with the policies and procedures manual found on the National FCCLA website.

At State Level

Only the state association can authorize representation and interpretation of the Georgia Association of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America on the state level. Such authorization shall be in accordance with the policies defined in this document found on the Georgia FCCLA website.

Use of Name in Testimonials of Endorsement

No individuals or groups by virtue of their connection with Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., shall authorize or permit use of their names or the name and emblem of the organization in testimonials of endorsement of any product, program or platform of other groups or organizations, unless approved by the

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National Executive Director or his/her designee.

II. Organizational Structure

A. Operational

1. Membership

The national headquarters shall issue membership acknowledgement or recognition annually. Students will be recognized as affiliated members upon receipt of payment to National FCCLA, Inc. This might be membership cards, electronic certificates, or other membership identification.

Chapter member minimum remains at 12.

All chapter advisers will pay the annual membership dues and receive annual Alumni and Associates membership.

National annual membership dues are \$9 for members and advisers. Georgia annual membership dues are \$4 for members and advisers.

2. Alternative Membership Options

a) Home School Policy

Home school chapter members must be currently taking or have taken a Family and Consumer Sciences education course or related course or program of study.

Home school members must affiliate with an affiliated chapter of the Georgia Association of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc.

Home school members who meet these criteria are eligible for full membership benefits.

b) Middle Level Affiliation (grade 8 and below)

Those students in grade 8 and below, enrolled in a course of a semester or less in length, or scheduled to take a course are eligible for middle level affiliation.

Chapters are tied to the teacher. If there is more than one teacher in a school, each may have a chapter, or materials can be sent to one teacher to share with others.

In schools with grades 6-12, only those students in grade 8 or lower are eligible for middle level affiliation. Others must join as individuals.

Middle level membership for grade 8 and below is optional for schools. Those schools with small enrollments may want to continue to affiliate individual members.

If a chapter is affiliated, any member of that chapter may participate in any FCCLA national program. Verification of their enrollment in the class will be required.

Teachers must submit names when dues are paid, and with each new group of students, so full membership count is available.

c) Urban Affiliation

Eligibility: An urban school district located within the corporate limits of a city with a core population of 100,000 or more can enroll all of its students currently or previously enrolled in a Family and Consumer Sciences Education class. New urban affiliations must be approved by the Executive Director and national FCCLA before proceeding with urban affiliation.

Benefits:

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- All students are eligible to participate in all national programs and attend national meetings.
- The district receives 500 copies of the August/September version of *Teen Times*.

Dues: National - \$4,500 (Equivalent to 500 members at \$9 each), State - \$1,500 (equivalent to 500 members at \$3 each)

III. Board of Directors

A. Authority Powers

The board of directors provides leadership and support to the state association. It serves in a dual role that is both advisory and managerial in nature. The board of directors shall set policies, approve budgets, and make decisions on how the state organization operates. The board of directors is instrumental in the development and implementation of an annual strategic plan and budget to support quality programs across the state.

The primary functions of the board shall be to set policy related to programs, fiscal matters, and to be responsible for sound management. The board receives and acts upon the recommendations of the Executive Director relative to the management of programs and fiscal matters. The board shall have authority over the association membership and the executive council.

B. Board Members

Duties, Responsibilities and Authority

- Board members shall agree to commit the time to serve a term Board of Directors of the Georgia Association of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc. This will include Board meetings, assigned committee service, and additional workdays as needed for committees, Board development, or task force work.
- Board members are expected to attend all regular and special meetings of the Board.
- Board members agree to serve on committees during their term of office.
- Board members shall demonstrate an active interest in Family and Consumer Sciences education and a commitment to the mission, goals, programs, and activities of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc.
- Board members shall have experience or knowledge in at least one element needed by the organization: career and technical student organization involvement, leadership, program development, administration, finance, personnel, organization management, business and industry involvement, media/marketing, resource development, and public policy development.
- Board members shall be knowledgeable about the role of the Board to act relative to personnel, program, and fiscal matters of the organization.
- Board members shall be alert to opportunities to improve knowledge and understanding of career and technical student organizations and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc..
- Board members shall abide by and support all decisions, policies, and programs adopted by the Board.
- Board members shall not act independently on matters that should be decided by the entire Board, keeping the mission statement of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., as the focal point. When deemed necessary for time sensitive or pertinent circumstances, the Board Chair in conjunction with the Executive Director, may make decisions on behalf of the Board.

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- Board members shall promote sponsorships, resources, and the interest and active participation in the organization on the part of the membership and representative groups.
- Board members shall participate in an annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director.
- Board members shall agree to represent Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., when called on by the Board Chair, Executive Director, or DOE State Program Specialist.
- Board members shall adhere to the organization's Code of Ethics.
- Board members shall review and vote on the proposed budget.
- Board members shall review suggested amendments and formulate proposed amendments to the Bylaws.

C. Members of the Board

The state board of directors shall consist of members elected by related organizations and groups, members ex-officio, youth members, and members elected by the board; the total number of which shall not exceed twenty-four.

- a. There shall be five directors elected by related organizations and groups (according to their election procedures) as follows: GAFCS, GATFACS and three local advisers to serve staggered terms elected by the local advisers attending the state leadership conference.
- b. The ex-officio members of the Board are as follows: executive director, DOE Family and Consumer Sciences State Program Specialist/State Adviser, State Executive Council President, Past Chair of the state board of directors, and the local advisers of the two members of the board.
- c. In addition to the current state president of the State Executive Council, there shall be one additional youth member to be chosen from the current State Executive Council.
- d. There shall be two members representing business and industry elected by the board and one representing family and consumer sciences programs at colleges and universities. There shall be one School Administrator and one Alumni and Associates member, both to be elected by the board.
- e. Members elected by related organizations and groups and members elected by the board shall serve a three-year term, or until their successor is elected. Such directors may be re-elected for a second three-year term. At least one year must have elapsed before any such director having served two consecutive terms may be elected for another term. The Board Chair shall serve one year following his/her term of office; other members ex-officio shall serve on the board until the time they vacate their respective offices.
- f. Voting Privileges. Each member of the board (except for the executive director, the DOE Family and Consumer Sciences State Program Specialist/State Adviser and the two student members of the board) shall have the power to cast one vote on any issue to be determined by the board. The two local advisers of the student members shall have one vote representing the student voice.
- g. Vacancies. Vacancies in the board may be filled by the electing power, at its own option. Any director elected for the balance of an unexpired term shall, in addition, be eligible for the maximum number of complete consecutive terms as director as provided in these bylaws.
- h. Representation. Members of the board shall serve as directors of Georgia Association of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America as a whole and not solely as a representative of any other body, while taking into consideration the views and interests of others.
- i. Assumption of office. Persons elected to the board shall assume their office as director immediately following the state leadership conference, or immediately in the event of a vacancy.
- j. Members of the board may be removed by the board, for cause, by the procedures detailed in the

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parliamentary authority.

D. Officers of the Board

The officers of the board shall consist of Chair, Chair-Elect, Past Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.

- a. The above officers shall be elected by the members of the board. The treasurer shall serve for a term of two years or until his/her successor has been elected. The other officers shall serve a term of one year or until their successors have been elected. Officers may be eligible for reelection. No director, however, shall serve in the same office for more than three consecutive terms. Any vacancy among the officers may be filled at any duly constituted meeting of the board. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the association. Officers may be removed from office at the pleasure of the board as provided in the parliamentary authority, while retaining their seat on the board.
- b. The Chair shall preside over all meetings of the board and shall perform the duties customary to that office. The Chair shall chair the executive committee and shall be a member ex-officio of all committees of the board. The Chair shall appoint all committees of the board.
- c. The Chair Elect shall serve as vice-chair and accede to the position of Chair at the next election of officers or if the office of the Chair becomes vacant. When the Chair Elect accedes to the office of Chair and a vacancy is created in his/her former position on the board, the electing power may, as usual, fill the vacancy, at its own option.
- d. The Treasurer of the board shall serve as chair of the finance committee; shall have authority to sign any official documents duly prepared and requiring signature of the treasurer of the board. If a vacancy is created in his/her former position on the board, the electing power may, as usual, fill the vacancy, at its own option.
- e. The secretary of the board shall record all motions and actions and keep a record of all meetings. The secretary's records shall be kept in the headquarters office of the association.

1. Chair

Duties, Responsibilities and Authority

- Provides leadership to the Board.
- Appoints standing committees and special committees as defined by *Roberts Rules of Order* in consultation with the Executive Committee.
- Appoints ad hoc committee chairs as needed.
- Presides over all Board meetings.
- Chairs the Executive Committee.
- Serves as ex officio member of all committees of the Board.
- Helps orient new Board members.
- Develops agendas for Board meetings in conjunction with the Executive Director following the call for agenda items.
- Attends State Leadership Conference and participates in programs,
- Serves with the State President as a spokesperson for the organization to the press, legislative bodies, and related organizations, in cooperation with the Executive Director.
- Monitors the Strategic Plan with the Executive Committee and the Executive Director

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- Promotes and provides leadership for mission goals, programs, and activities of the organization.
- Assists with an annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director prior to the close of the fiscal year.
- Reviews with the Executive Director the results of his/her performance evaluation, in conjunction with the Chair Elect and Past Chair.

2. Chair Elect

Duties, Responsibilities and Authority

- Performs all duties pertaining to the office of Chair In the absence of the Chair.
- Succeeds to the position of Chair at the next election of officers.
- Attends State Leadership Conference and participates in programs.
- Assists with an annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director prior to the close of the fiscal year.
- Reviews with the Executive Director the results of his/her performance evaluation, in conjunction with the Chair and Past Chair.

3. Secretary

Duties, Responsibility and Authority

- Accurately records all motions and actions including those happening via electronic means. Electronic votes shall be an addendum to the previous board's minutes and will be presented with the previous board's meeting minutes.
- Ensures an accurate record is kept of all meetings, minutes, and committee reports; sends them within 2 weeks, and submits corrections within 2 weeks of meetings.
- The secretary's records shall be kept in the headquarters office of the organization.
- Serves as chair of communications committee.
- The secretary shall maintain a brief historical timeline of important board activities.

4. Treasurer

Duties, Responsibilities and Authority

- Serves as chair of the Finance Committee.
- Will have signing authority on the FCCLA checking and savings accounts.
- Has authority to sign any official documents duly prepared and requiring signature of the treasurer of the Board, with notification of the full Board.
- Works with the Executive Director to prepare the annual budget, as approved by the Finance Committee.
- Reports to the Board as appropriate.
- Reviews complete monthly financial statements and compares them to budget and previous year.
- Monitors that generally accepted accounting principles are in place for the financial security of the organization and are followed.
- The treasurer's records shall be kept in the headquarters office of the organization.

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5. Past Chair

Duties, Responsibilities and Authority

- Mentors new Chair.
- Serves as chair of Nominating Committee.
- Works with new Chair to provide continuity and help in orienting new Board members as appropriate.
- Serves as counsel to Chair and Board.
- Serves on the Executive Committee
- Ensures that the policies and procedures manual is reviewed and updated after each board meeting.
- Reviews the annual Executive Director's performance evaluation instrument based on previous evaluation results and performance goals set by the Board.
- In conjunction with the Chair and Chair Elect, reviews the annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director.
- Assists with an annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director prior to the close of the fiscal year.
- Reviews with the Executive Director the results of his/her performance evaluation, in conjunction with the Vice Chair and Past Chair.
- Attends State Leadership Conference and participates in programs.

D. Membership

1. Business and Industry, School Administrator, and Alumni & Associates Representatives

Procedures:

When a business and industry representative, School Administrator, and/or Alumni & Associates member will be elected to the Board, chapters will be notified and asked to nominate candidates for the respective available position(s).

At the same time, the current Board of Directors and other appropriate groups will be notified of the upcoming vacancy and offered an opportunity to request a nomination form.

Nominations must be received at the state headquarters by the stated deadline. Copies of all applications will be sent to the Nominating Committee. The committee will review all nominations, contact the nominees if they feel it is necessary, and select up to five final candidates to recommend to the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors will review the applications of the five finalists and score them and vote on the final candidates. The newly elected business and industry representative will become a member of the Board immediately following that year's State Leadership Conference.

The following criteria will be used by the committee, with the maximum number of points assigned to each shown in parenthesis:

1. What candidate can contribute to Board of Directors (50)
2. Experiences on other Boards of Directors (10)
3. Knowledge of FCCLA (10)
4. What organizations, networks, and access to resources does this candidate have that could be utilized with FCCLA for future resource development or partnership development (20)

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5. Evidence of desire to serve and be an asset to the national FCCLA organization (10)

The Board representative will be determined at the state conference by a simple majority vote of the Board and the candidate with the most votes is elected.

2. Members Representing Related Organizations and Groups

Members representing related organizations and groups will be elected according to the respective groups' procedures.

3. Local Adviser Representatives

Each year, an Adviser Representative will be elected to serve on the Board of Directors for a three-year term. There will be a total of three Adviser Representatives.

Chapters will be notified of the upcoming election. The applications and supporting materials are to be submitted to state headquarters by March 1st. Completed applications are then sent to the Nominating Committee of the Board and candidates are narrowed to five. These names will appear on the ballot and are voted on during the Adviser Breakfast at the State Leadership Conference.

Candidates listed on the ballot must be present at the State Leadership Conference to give their oral presentations to all local advisers. One vote per adviser will be allowed. Nominations will not be accepted from the floor.

E. Assumption of Office

After elections, new members will receive a welcome letter from the Executive Director or Board Chair with an updated Board directory and additional information.

An orientation meeting will provide information about the Strategic Plan, the organization, and its programs, details on the budget, committee responsibilities, the State Executive Council (SEC), and the roles and responsibilities of Board members, SEC, and state staff. The orientation meeting may be conducted by webinar or as a full board meeting.

F. Vacancies

To resign from the Board of Directors, one must forward a letter of resignation to the Chair of the Board.

Vacancies on the Board of Directors may be filled at any time, in accordance with the process used by the related organizations and groups. Director positions will be filled as per process outlined in the Bylaws.

Any Director elected/appointed for the balance of an unexpired term shall, in addition, be eligible for the maximum number of complete consecutive terms as provided in the Bylaws and the approval of the related group or organization.

G. Removal of a Director

If a situation such as violation of Board policy, violation of the Code of Ethics, violation of a contract, conflict of interest, or other serious matters, a Board of Directors member may be removed by the following process:

1. The Chair of the Board shall receive notice of reasons for the removal of a Board of Directors member. If the person in consideration is the Board Chair, the Past Chair should receive the notice.
2. The Chair should present this information to the Executive Committee for discussion and vote.
3. The Executive Committee shall consider the situation and make a recommendation to the full Board.
4. The full Board should receive information regarding the situation and the recommendation of the Executive Committee within two weeks.

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5. Replacement of the Board member(s) would follow the selection process and Bylaws for replacement.

H. Meetings

1. Notice of Meetings

Board Meetings

A calendar of face-to-face Board meeting dates will be provided by May 1 for the upcoming fiscal year.

Written confirmation of annual and regular meetings shall be sent to directors not less than 30 days in advance. The agenda and information related to items of business shall be sent to directors, sent not less than 14 days in advance.

Standing Committee Preparation, Work, and Meetings

The committee chair shall ensure that the discussions and actions of the committee are properly recorded and promptly distributed to its members, the Board Chair, Board Secretary, and the Executive Director. Staff shall serve on committees without a vote under the supervision and coordination of the Executive Director.

2. Order and Nature of Business

Board meetings shall address themselves to important matters of policy and planning and priority issues and problems, giving minimal attention and time to administrative matters. At least once a year the Board shall consider the Strategic Plan of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc.

3. Absences

Two regularly scheduled Board meeting absences without acceptable reasoning determined by the Chair of the Board may be sufficient cause for termination from the state Board of Directors.

4. Attendance by Non-Directors

All Board of Directors meetings and standing committee meetings are open to interested individuals. The Board of Directors always reserves the right to move into executive session.

5. Recording

Anyone wanting to record meetings must inform members of the Board or committee at the beginning of the meeting.

6. Minutes of Executive Session

When the Board of Directors or Executive Committee goes into executive session, action taken will be noted and a summary of those actions will become a part of the minutes of the full meeting.

7. Voting or Meeting by Electronic Means

When deemed necessary by the Executive Committee, committees of the Board or the full Board may conduct business via email or conference call. The Executive Director shall be notified of the need for the conference call or email discussion and may be included, as needed.

In convening a special Board meeting, notification of the date, time, and process for the call or email discussion will be provided to participants at least 15 days in advance, when possible.

Votes conducted by conference call or email shall follow the Bylaws in relation to quorum and majority.

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I. Committees of the Board

1. Committee Chairs

Duties, Responsibilities and Authority

- Orient committee members to their roles and responsibilities.
- Prepare the committee agenda in consultation with the Board Chair, Executive Director, and/or appropriate staff.
- Preside over all committee meetings or appoint a member to preside.
- Report to the Board of Directors all recommendations of the committee.
- Create sub-committees as appropriate following Board approval.
- The committee Chairperson shall ensure that the discussions and actions of the committee are properly recorded and promptly distributed to the Board Chair, Board Secretary, and the Executive Director.

Management of Committees:

- a) In the month prior to each Board meeting, the Standing Committees shall participate in communication via email, conference calls, or in person to prepare for each upcoming Board meeting. This shall be initiated by the committee Chair.
- b) Prior to the committee conference call, the committee shall receive materials relevant to the call.

2. Executive Committee

General Description

The Executive Committee is the chief vehicle of the Board of Directors for ensuring planning for the organization. It acts on matters that require immediate attention between Board meetings, as well as on matters specifically delegated to it by the Board.

Appointment of Members and Composition of the Committee

Minimum representation on this committee is as follows:

Officers of the Board

Standing Committee Chairs

State Executive Council President

Director (ex officio, non-voting)

Duties, Responsibilities and Authority

- Evaluates, revises, and recommends short-, medium- and long-term goals.
- Reports all interim actions at the next regular meeting of the Board.
- Recommends an orientation and training program for new members of the Board of Directors.

Meetings

Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at the call of the Board Chair at such date, time, and location as the Chair may designate.

At least 15 days before each meeting, if possible, the Board Chair shall send to each member of the committee the agenda and information relative to items of business. Conference call meetings shall be permissible.

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3. Finance Committee

General Description

This committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Board for the overall direction and control of the finances of the organization.

Appointment of Members and Composition of the Committee

Minimum representation of 6 directors, to include the following:

Board Treasurer, Chair

Executive Director

Any other Board members as appointed by Board Chair

Duties, Responsibilities and Authority

- Reviews and recommends draft of annual budget of Georgia Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., for Board approval.
- In concert with the Executive Director, explains deviations from budget that may have occurred to the Board of Directors.
- Recommends budgets for unanticipated expenses to the Board.
- Reports other financial matters to the Board as requested.

4. Nominating Committee

The Board Chair shall appoint an ad hoc nominating committee, when needed, to nominate candidates for officer of the Board positions, screen nominations for Board position. When requested by the Board Chair, the committee shall review and recommend selection criteria and procedure for Board membership. The committee shall be chaired by the immediate Past Chair of the Board and shall include the Chair-Elect and at least one representative from each standing committee of the Board.

The committee shall be dissolved when its assigned tasks are completed.

5. Communications/Membership Committee

General Description

This committee shall recommend, revise, and evaluate the organization's methods for communicating with the membership and other audiences, including the general public. The committee shall ensure the initiation and continuation of an overall communications, marketing, and membership development program that is based on building and maintaining a positive image of the organization.

Appointment of Members and Composition of the Committee

The Board Chair will appoint board members and other stakeholders to this committee as needed. The secretary will chair the committee.

Duties, Responsibilities and Authority

- Reviews publications and other printed materials of the organization to ensure adequate and appropriate communication with members, advisers, and other adults, related career and technical student organizations and the public.
- Reviews promotional, public relations, and media activities and makes related recommendations to the Board of Directors.

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- Reviews membership strategies and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors for strengthening student membership components.
- Reviews the organizational marketing activities to ensure that they align with the mission of the organization and the strategic plan.
- Reviews adviser training and development for both state and chapter advisers to ensure adequate program offerings.

6. Program Committee

General Description

This committee shall recommend, review, evaluate, and recommend the programs and projects of the organization and national programs. This committee shall review, evaluate, and update the policies and procedures related to the Georgia STAR Events. The committee shall ensure all programs and projects contain a member recognition component based on building and maintaining a positive image.

Appointment of Members and Composition of the Committee

The Board Chair will appoint board members and other stakeholders to this committee as needed. The STAR Events Coordinator shall have input on the agenda and discussions.

Duties, Responsibilities and Authority

- Recommends programs and projects for the organization that are based on short-, medium-, and long-range goals and strategic plan.
- Evaluates programs and project activities, including awards and scholarships, to ensure they are meeting the needs of the organization.
- Reviews existing programs and makes recommendations for revisions to the Board of Directors.
- Reviews proposed new programs and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors.
- Reviews membership strategies and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors for strengthening Alumni & Associates membership components.
- Reviews state STAR Events management and makes related recommendations.
- Ensures that the SEC is actively involved in providing leadership to chapters, regions, and states.

IV. Non-Dues Revenue

A. Georgia FCCLA Foundation

The Georgia FCCLA Foundation is a separate entity with its own Board of Directors. The Georgia FCCLA Foundation may choose to give funds to Georgia FCCLA to carry out projects and to help fund members attending the National Leadership Conference.

B. Advertising and Exhibits

1. Guidelines for Advertising and Exhibit Sales

To protect members from needless exposure to products that may be harmful or that promote socially unacceptable behavior, the Board of Directors has approved the following guidelines for advertising and exhibit sales:

No advertising and/or exhibit sales may be accepted by the organization for products/services specifically involving:

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- alcoholic beverages
- tobacco and other drugs
- contraceptive devices/products

Advertising/exhibits featuring products not listed above but paid for by a parent company (i.e., an ad for peanut butter manufactured by a cigarette company) may be accepted.

Advertising/exhibits promoting public service type activity (i.e. an ad that espouses the pitfalls of underage drinking paid for by an alcoholic beverage manufacturer) may also be accepted.

All advertising/exhibit materials that promote and/or provide information on products/services that portray Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., contrary to its image as outlined in the official organizational case statement will not be accepted.

In all instances where doubt exists as to the appropriateness of advertising/exhibit materials, the Executive Director shall make the final decision.

2. Career and Trade Expo (Exhibits)

The Board of Directors recognizes that the successful development and implementation of a professionally run exhibit at its state meetings and conferences can assist the organization in achieving its mission and goals as outlined in the Bylaws by providing a variety of educational opportunities to the organization's members and advisers.

TYPE

Exhibit shall provide attendees with opportunities to learn about the careers, products, and services available through participating firms.

GUIDELINES FOR OPERATION

Firms participating in the FCCLA exhibit shall not market, advertise, or demonstrate products that are alcohol, drug, or contraceptive related.

The FCCLA exhibit shall be open to registered attendees of the meetings at which the exhibit is held.

The FCCLA Executive Director or designee shall be responsible for the development, management, and operation of the exhibit, and its annual budget shall be included in the organization's annual budget and program of work.

V. State Executive Council

A. Officer Uniforms

State and region officers will wear one of the approved FCCLA uniforms whenever they are representing the organization in their capacities as officers.

Official dress consists of:

- Red blazer
- Gold FCCLA officer pin and guard only
- Black skirt, sheath dress, or dress slacks
- Pumps, black flats, and/or closed-toed professional dress shoes

Black dress slacks and polo shirt is also acceptable FCCLA dress for less formal occasions.

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B. Meetings of the State Executive Council

Joint SEC/BOD Meetings

The State Executive Council can meet concurrently with the Board of Directors, keep each other informed, and participate in the decision-making process through its representatives on the Board.

The Board shall ensure that council members are represented on committees of the Board and shall bring before the Board and council for joint action major policies and decisions that affect the operation of the organization and the membership.

The implementation of programs and policy development of FCCLA is a youth/adult partnership.

C. State Officers

1. Duties and Responsibilities

- All officers are members of the State Executive Council.
- The president shall preside over all business meetings of the Association and of the State Executive Council.
- State officers are NOT allowed to compete in in-person STAR Events during their year of office. Online STAR Events are allowed.
- All state officers are required to communicate regularly with the state officer team, Executive Director, and other appropriate parties on a regular basis and respond promptly to all inquiries for information.
- Officers must check their email daily.
- Officers must attend all state officer meetings and functions from start to finish.
- State officers are required to send monthly reports to the president, first vice president, chapter adviser, and Executive Director.
- Officers shall make school visits to local chapters to discuss FCCLA and encourage further participation in state and national programs.
- Officers must attend all required meetings as outlined in the State Officer Agreement.
- Officers shall keep documentation of all activities during their term in office.
- Officers must communicate with chapter adviser on a regular basis.
- Officers should support chapter advisers in their efforts to implement FCCLA.
- Officers will assist with expenses not paid by the state association or local chapters necessary to carry out the duties of the office.

2. Eligibility

- **Deadline:** The online form must be completed and submitted by midnight of the application deadline. If all or any part of the officer application is received after the deadline, the entire application may be disqualified.
- Candidates for the office of president or first vice-president must be in 10th or 11th grade. Candidates fulfilling the middle school allotment shall be in 6th or 7th grade. Enrollment in 6th grade or above is required for all other offices.
- At the State Leadership Conference, all candidates will prepare an up to 2-minute speech using a theme given after candidate interviews in February. Candidates will also answer a fact and situation question.

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Voting delegates will cast votes for candidates at the designated time at State Leadership Conference.

- Dress Code: All candidates will wear official dress when giving their speeches and during the candidate interviews at State Leadership Conference. Official dress is the red jacket, white oxford button-down shirt, black pants, and black, closed toed shoes.
- Candidates must abide by the campaigning and use of electronic devices listed in Section 9.

3. Officer Code of Conduct

The following code of conduct applies to all State Executive Council members:

- Behavior at all times should be such that it reflects credit to the officer, his/her family, his/her school, and his/her state and national FCCLA organization.
- Officers are expected to exhibit trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, care, and citizenship.
- Officers will have a clean, powerful, and positive social media presence.
- Smoking and/or vaping, as well as use of illegal drugs and alcohol are not acceptable for a state officer. Participation in any of the above will result in automatic termination of office.
- If an officer is found responsible for stealing or vandalism, the officer and his/her parents/guardians will be expected to pay the damages.
- Any accidents, injuries, or illnesses should be reported to the Executive Director immediately.
- Inappropriate physical contact with other officers or members is not acceptable.
- All officers will abide by the curfew times at state and national meetings.
- Officers are not allowed in hotel sleeping rooms with other members, officers, or visitors unless they are a designated roommate or an adult is present.
- The dress code will be followed at all times.
- Sexual conduct, material, and/or behavior is strictly prohibited.
- Officers should be punctual and have good time management skills.

4. Officer Policies and Procedures

- The term of office shall be for one year, to begin at the conclusion of the State Leadership Conference, or until successors are elected.
- In the event the office of president becomes vacant by resignation or otherwise, the first vice president shall assume the duties of the office for the unexpired term.
- In the event an officer withdraws from the election prior to the installation, the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes will be asked to serve as the candidate.
- State Officers may be removed from office for one of the following: Violations of the Code of Conduct, lacking sufficient preparation and readiness for meetings, not fulfilling officer duties and responsibilities.
- Removal process will take the following steps:
 - Filing of Complaint: An invested stakeholder must file a written complaint with the Executive Director or Board Chair.
 - Notification and Inquiry: The state officer involved will be notified that an inquiry is being conducted regarding a complaint.

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- Notification to Board of Directors: After a conclusive investigation, the Executive Director will inform the Board of Directors of the findings and recommendation for further action.
- Improvement Plan: If the infraction is of a correctable nature, the state officers will be given appropriate training and a timetable to improve their performance.
- Probation: If the infraction is not corrected based off of the improvement plan presented to the officer, the officer will then be placed on probation. If placed on probation, the officer will not (1) be able to receive any additional state officer scholarship funds for the year, and (2) will not be allowed to run for office for the next school year (must take one full year off before running for office again).
- Removal: If the infraction is of a serious nature or not correctable, then the Executive Director will recommend to the Board of Directors that the officer be removed immediately.
- Appeal: The Board of Directors shall have the final decision on all disciplinary termination or probation with regards to the state officers.

5. Officer Professional Image and Official Dress

- Being a state officer is a major responsibility that requires firm commitment and cooperation. State officers are expected to present themselves in an exemplary manner in appearance and behavior.
- State officers are expected to purchase and wear the official uniform when making public appearances on behalf of Georgia FCCLA, unless otherwise requested or approved by the Executive Director.
- In less formal occasions, state officers may be asked to wear FCCLA polo shirt or collared shirt with black dress pants.
- Unless provided by the state office, candidates must purchase black pants, white button-down shirt, ascot or tie, and black dress shoes. Females must have black pumps. Georgia FCCLA will provide the red jacket. If not elected, the red jacket is to be returned to Georgia FCCLA.

6. Officer Travel Policies and Procedures

- State Officers will be obligated to attend several state meetings. Officers may also receive invitations to region and chapter meetings, as well as those for community and civic groups.
- State Officers must follow their local district travel policies in terms of travel to and from events.
- State Officers are permitted to transport themselves to chapter and business and industry visits within their region (if permitted by local district travel policies). A travel document must be signed prior to the visit with signatures from a parent/guardian, chapter adviser, and one school administrator.
- The State Officer's school or school system and/or parents/guardians are responsible for providing transportation to and from Georgia FCCLA events (in accordance with the local district travel policies).
- If the State Officer's school or school system and/or parents/guardians are unable to provide transportation (and other transportation methods were requested according to the officer transportation flow chart), the state officer can transport themselves to and from the event (if permitted by local district travel policies). Prior communication must have been made from the State Officer's adviser with the Executive Director and the travel document must be signed prior to the event with signatures from a parent/guardian, chapter adviser, and one school administrator. A new travel form must be signed for each event.
- The chapter adviser is still required to attend the event as per this handbook and the State Officer Adviser Signature Page. Excessive lack of transportation will be reviewed by the Board of Directors as per the State Officer Policies and Procedures.

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- A multiple release form must be signed by a candidate parent/guardian and local adviser. This form will be kept on file all year.

7. Officer Communication Requirements

- Each state officer should have access to internet to check email on a regular basis.
- The Monthly Officer Report must be submitted to the president, first vice president, chapter adviser, and executive director no later than the 5th of the month.

8. Social Media

Voting Delegates frequently check social media sites prior to selecting the members that will serve as Georgia FCCLA state officers. With that in mind, we highly recommend immediately removing any inappropriate language or material (i.e., photos comments, status updates, links, likes, etc.).

State Officers must maintain clean and positive social media pages. Sites will be frequently checked by state staff and consequences can result from failure to adhere to this important requirement.

Examples of unsuitable material – posted by officers or their friends – include inappropriate behavior in photos, videos, or written references, such as:

- Revealing photos
- Profanity, alcohol, smoking, vaping, drug use, or sexual content
- Any negative content toward peers, school officials, or FCCLA
- Links or “likes” to inappropriate sites or pages

Social media sites should not be used to campaign or ask for votes. Page should not reveal that students are state officer candidates.

9. Nominations and Election of Officers

State Officer Candidates

A list of state officer candidates, together with the qualifications of the candidates, shall be made available to the voting delegates prior to, or on the first day of, the State Leadership Conference.

a) Campaigning and Use of Electronic Devices

- State Officer Candidates and/or their supporters may openly share that the candidate is running for a state office and may address the candidate’s qualifications both verbally and in writing. State Officer Candidates and/or their supporters must never make disparaging statements about another candidate.
- State Officer Candidates and/or their supporters must not purchase, create, or distribute any paraphernalia supporting the candidate, including but not limited to: business cards, brochures, stickers, etc.
- State Officer Candidates are prohibited from using electronic devices during the State Officer Candidate election sessions at the State Leadership Conference. All voting delegates are prohibited from using electronic devices during election sessions. The purpose of this policy is to prohibit communication or the sharing of resources between officer candidates, spectators, and/or voting delegates, which might give the candidate an unfair advantage during the election process.
- If a member or adviser of Georgia Association of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America has evidence that a State Officer Candidate and/or their supporters or a Voting Delegate

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has violated these policies, such violation must be reported, in writing, via email, to board@gafcccla.com prior to the close of the voting process.

- The chapter and state adviser of the member will be notified that a panel consisting of Board of Directors members will review the allegation and deem if further action is necessary. If the review panel determines that the State Officer Candidate and/or their supporters, or Voting delegate has violated this policy, that individual may be removed from the election process and/or the candidate may be disqualified from the election. The decision of the review panel is final.

b) Qualifications

- Affiliated member of an affiliated chapter.
- Affiliated member of an affiliated chapter for at least two years, for the office of president.
- Enrollment in tenth grade or above, for the office of president or first vice-president.
- Candidates fulfilling the middle school allotment shall be in sixth or seventh grade. Enrollment in sixth grade or above is required for all other offices.
- Candidates must currently be enrolled or have successfully completed at least one course in family and consumer sciences.
- Candidates should be a current or past officer of a local chapter.
- Candidates need three recommendations: one from a school administrator, one from a family and consumer sciences teacher, and one from a community leader. Candidates need all required signatures of support.
- Candidates must have participated in one or more of the FCCLA national programs.
- Candidates must have a GPA of at least 80 (unweighted) at the time of submission of application.
- Candidates must attend the Qualifying Exam and Interviews and wear a red polo shirt (provided by Georgia FCCLA) and black pants.
- Candidates cannot hold a district or state office in any other school or school-related organization, or organization relating to Family and Consumer Sciences.

c) State Officer Election Process

Phase 1 – Intent Form Completion

- Complete by established deadline.

Phase 2 – Application Submission (Must be submitted by established deadline) • Section I:
Application for State Office

- Section II: Major Contributions/Accomplishments in FCCLA (Resume)
- Section III: Other Accomplishments/Honors
- Section IV: Three Recommendation Letters
- Section V: Transcript
- Section VI: Signature Page

Phase 3 – Officer Interviews and Exam

- Advisers and candidates will be walked through the candidate process and requirements by the State Interview Committee Coordinator and Executive Director.

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- Candidates must arrive in red polo shirt (Georgia FCCLA State Office will provide) and black pants.
- Candidates must provide an official transcript showing GPA and Family and Consumer Sciences courses.
- Candidates will be given the State Officer Qualifying Exam. The score received on the exam will indicate the candidate's knowledge of the organization. Test questions will be based on FCCLA, the State Officer Application and Handbook, and parliamentary procedure knowledge. A study guide will be provided.
- After the test, candidates will move on to an interview with the State Interview Committee. Candidates will be rated during the interview.
- To move on to Phase 4, candidates must receive at least 85 points during Phase 3.
- In the situation that there are more than 15 candidates that receive 85 points or higher during Phase 3, then only the top 15 candidates will move on to Phase 4.

Phase 4 – Candidate Speeches and Election (State Leadership Conference)

- Candidates are required to register for and attend the State Leadership Conference and the gala at the State Leadership Conference.
- Candidates will give a 2-minute speech at the State Leadership Conference.
- Candidates must be in Official Dress with black dress pants and black shoes.
- Candidates will deliver their speech on the first afternoon of the State Leadership Conference. Speech times will be given to candidates. Voting will take place prior to the Opening Session.
- All candidates will receive a Letter of Notification on the first night of State Leadership Conference.
- A Selection Committee will interview the elected candidates and will assign offices based on qualifications, speech, and interview.
- Candidates receiving an office will be announced at the Recognition Session. A long, semi formal white dress will be worn by females. A picture of the dress will need to be sent to the Executive Director by the established deadline for approval. Males will wear a tuxedo.
- The Installation Ceremony will take place during the Closing Session.

D. Region Officers

1. Duties and Responsibilities

Region Officers will serve on Region Officer Teams compiled of 1-3 members from each respective region. Region Officers will report directly to the Region Adviser.

Region Officer Team Required Duties and Responsibilities:

- Attend the Region Officer Team training ~~in June~~.
- Create and send monthly emails to advisers in the region.
- Receive chapter spotlights and post them to the designated social media outlets.
- Maintain up-to-date region social media account.
- Attend the Fall Region Conference.
- Develop leadership sessions with guidance from the Chapter Adviser and state staff and chapter adviser, for members at the Fall Region Conference.
- Attend and assist the Region Adviser with the Region STAR Events competition.

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- Design and execute the Region Awards Ceremony with guidance from Region Adviser during the State Leadership Conference.

Region Officer Individual Required Duties and Responsibilities:

- Check their region email daily.
- Submit monthly reports (5th of the Month Reports) to State Staff.
- Make at least two school visits to local chapters to discuss FCCLA and encourage further participation in state and national programs.
- Keep documentation of all activities during term in office.
- Communicate with chapter adviser regularly.
- Support chapter advisers in their efforts to implement FCCLA.
- Assist with expenses not paid by the Region Adviser, state association or local chapters necessary to carry out the duties of the office.

Region Officer Team Suggested Duties and Responsibilities:

- Participate in conference calls with the Executive Director.
- Attend DISCOVER Training with chapter officers.
- Attend Fall Leadership Rally with chapter members.
- Attend the Fall Leadership Conference.
- Submit a workshop proposal for Fall Leadership Conference.
- Attend the State Leadership Conference.

2. Eligibility and Qualifications

- **Deadline:** All forms must be received at the State Office by the established deadline. If all or any part of the region officer application is received after the deadline, the entire application may be disqualified.
- Affiliated member in an affiliated chapter.
- Affiliated member in an affiliated chapter for at least one year.
- Enrollment in sixth grade or above.
- Candidates must currently be enrolled or have successfully completed at least one course in family and consumer sciences.
- Two Recommendations from a family and consumer sciences teacher/FCCLA adviser and school administrator or community leader.
- Signatures of support from a school administrator, a chapter adviser, and a parent/guardian.
- Participation in one or more of the FCCLA national programs.
- Have a GPA of at least 80 (unweighted) at the time of submission of application.

3. Selection Process

Each affiliated chapter shall be eligible to recommend one nominee for region office. Online Qualification Test:

- Chapter advisers with a Region Officer Candidate will email the name and email address of a non-FACS instructor/FCCLA Adviser who will act as the proctor no later than the posted deadline.
- Region Officer Candidates will participate in an online qualification test during a posted testing window.

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- The testing window will not be extended for any reason. If the qualification test is not taken during the testing window, the Region Officer Candidate will receive zero points on that portion of the rubric.

Selection Committee:

- A Region Officer Selection Committee for each region shall score the application of qualified nominees using a rubric approved by the Georgia FCCLA Board of Directors.
- The Region Officer Selection Committee shall be composed of at least three people as determined by the Region Adviser. The committee may consist of (but not limited to): the Region Adviser, representatives from Business & Industry, Alumni & Associates members, administrators, or former chapter advisers.
- Region Officer Selection Committees will not grade applicants from their respective region.
- Scores from all selection committee members shall be averaged.
- The top three applicants from with each region with the top averaged score shall be selected to serve on the Region Officer Team.
- A minimum score of 70 must be received on the rubric to be considered for a position on the Region Officer Team.
- Region Officer Candidates can only represent the region in which their school is in.
- Region Officer Candidates will be notified of the results no later than the posted deadline.

4. Term of Office and Vacancies

- The term of region office shall be for one year, ending with the conclusion of the State Leadership Conference.
- In the event a Region Officer position becomes vacant, the candidate who received the next highest score for the region in which the vacancy occurs may be offered the position. In the event there are no additional applicants, duties will be assigned to the other officers on the team.

5. Region Officer Code of Conduct

The following code of conduct applies to all region officers:

- Behavior at all times should be such that it reflects credit to Region Officers, his/her family, his/her school, his/her state, and national FCCLA organization.
- Officers are expected to exhibit trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.
- Officers will have a clean, powerful and positive social media presence.
- Smoking and/or vaping, as well as use of illegal drugs and alcohol are not acceptable for a region officer. Participation in any of the above will result in automatic termination of office.
- If an officer is found responsible for stealing or vandalism, the officer and his/her parents/guardians will be expected to pay the damages.
- Any accidents, injuries or illnesses should be reported to the Executive Director immediately. • Inappropriate physical contact with other officers or members is not acceptable. • All officers will abide by the curfew times at state and national meetings.
- Officers are not allowed in hotel sleeping rooms with other members, officers or visitors unless they are a designated roommate or an adult is present.
- The dress code will be followed at all times.

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- Sexual conduct, material, and/or behavior is strictly prohibited.
- Officers should be punctual and have good time management skills.

6. Region Officers Policies and Procedures

- Region Officers may be removed from office for one of the following: Violations of the Code of Conduct, lacking sufficient preparation and readiness for meetings, not fulfilling officer duties and responsibilities, excessive absences from scheduled activities.
- Removal process will take the following steps:
 - Filing of Complaint: An invested stakeholder must file a written complaint with the Executive Director or Board Chair.
 - Notification and Inquiry: The officer involved will be notified that an inquiry is being conducted regarding a complaint.
 - Notification to Board of Directors: After a conclusive investigation, the Executive Director will inform the Board of Directors of the findings and recommendation for further action.
 - Improvement Plan: If the infraction is of a correctable nature, the state officers will be given appropriate training and a timetable to improve their performance.
 - Probation: If the infraction is not corrected based off of the improvement plan presented to the officer, the officer will then be placed on probation. If placed on probation, the officer will not be allowed to run for office for the next school year (must take one full year off before running for office again).
 - Removal: If the infraction is of a serious nature or not correctable, then the Executive Director will recommend to the Board of Directors that the officer be removed immediately.
 - Appeal: The Board of Directors shall have the final decision on all disciplinary termination or probation with regards to the state officers.

7. Professional Image and Official Dress

- Being a region officer is a major responsibility that requires firm commitment and cooperation. Region officers are expected to present themselves in an exemplary manner in appearance and behavior.
- Region officers may be asked to wear FCCLA polo shirt, collared shirt with black dress pants, or FCCLA official dress.

8. Region Officer Travel Policies and Procedures

- Region Officers will be obligated to attend several state meetings. Region officers may also receive invitations to region and chapter meetings, as well as those for community and civic groups.
- First and foremost, Region Officers must follow their local district travel policies in terms of travel to and from events.
- Region Officers are permitted to transport themselves to chapter and business and industry visits within their region (if permitted by local district travel policies). A travel document must be signed prior to the visit with signatures from a parent/guardian, chapter adviser, and one school administrator.
- The Region Officer's school or school system and/or parents/guardians are responsible for providing transportation to and from Georgia FCCLA events (in accordance with the local district travel policies).
- If the Region Officer's school or school system and/or parents/guardians are unable to provide transportation (and other transportation methods were requested according to the officer transportation

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flow chart), the state officer can transport themselves to and from the event (if permitted by local district travel policies). Prior communication must have been made from the Region Officer's adviser with the Executive Director and the travel document must be signed prior to the event with signatures from a parent/guardian, chapter adviser, and one school administrator. A new travel form must be signed for each event.

- The chapter adviser is still required to attend the event as per this handbook and the Region Officer Adviser Signature Page. Excessive lack of transportation will be reviewed by the Board of Directors as per the Region Officer Policies and Procedures.
- A multiple release form must be signed by a candidate parent/guardian and local adviser. This form will be kept on file all year.

9. Region Officer Communication Requirements

- Each Region Officer should have access to internet to check email on a regular basis.
- The Monthly Officer Report must be submitted to the Region Adviser no later than the 5th of the month.

10. Region Officer Social Media

Region Officers must maintain clean and positive social media pages will be a requirement. Sites will be frequently checked by state staff and consequences can result from failure to adhere to this important requirement.

Examples of unsuitable material – posted by officers or their friends – include inappropriate behavior in photos, videos, or written references, such as:

- Revealing photos
- Profanity, alcohol, smoking, vaping, drug use or sexual content
- Any negative content toward peers, school officials or FCCLA
- Links or “likes” to inappropriate sites or pages

VI. State Headquarters Staff

A. Executive Director

1. Relationship to the Board of Directors

Within the limits of the Bylaws, the Executive Director is responsible and has commensurate authority to accomplish the duties set forth below:

- Attends all meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Communicates Board and Executive Committee decisions to the staff.
- Ensures the Board of Directors are kept informed monthly on the conditions and operations of the organization.
- Ensures that ideas for programs which will further the goals and objectives of the organization are presented to the Board and is responsible for implementing policies adopted by the Board.
- Prepares FCCLA update for GACTE and GATFACS meetings upon request.
- Prepares an annual report on the status of the organization to be presented to the Board. The contents of the annual report will be determined by the Georgia Department of Education.
- In cooperation with the Treasurer and the Finance Committee, develops an annual budget, which, after

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approval by the committee, is presented by the treasurer to the Board of Directors. Operates within the approved budget and sees that the finances of the association are audited annually

- Ensures that sound standards and policies are in place and being followed for the financial security of the organization.
- Is responsible to the Board of Directors and, through the Board, to the membership for seeing that the programs and policies of the organization reflect the needs and aspirations of the membership, and that, once approved, are implemented.
- Is an ex officio member of all standing committees, without vote.
- Consults with and advises the Board Chair(s) and appropriate committee Chairs on all matters pertaining to association policies, programs and finances, as applicable.
- Functions as the chief administrative officer of the organization and as liaison between the state staff and the Board, the State Executive Council, chapter advisers, and the membership.
- Conducts Board business and communicates in a professional manner.
- Assures that Board communications occur in accordance with Board policy.
- If a formal complaint or grievance is filed in writing against FCCLA or any FCCLA staff member, the Executive Director shall notify the Board Chair in writing.
- Plans and implements programs and activities that support Family and Consumer Sciences.
- Provides communication systems and related linkages and collaboration with teachers and advisers of local school systems of FCCLA and the Georgia Department of Education.
- Conducts a program of activities consisting of, but not limited to the following:
 - State officer training
 - Local chapter officer training
 - Fall Leadership Rally
 - Fall Leadership Conference
 - State Leadership Conference
- Maintains the monthly CTSO master calendar.
- Updates the FCCLA website in a timely manner.
- Coordinates attendance of Georgia chapters at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference.
- Provides leadership for participation in the CTSO Winter and Summer State Officer Training.
- Attends all meetings and professional development events planned by the Georgia Department of Education for CTSO Executive Directors.
- Provides leadership for involvement for the FCCLA state officers in the CTSO legislative event.
- Maintains accurate accounting records and participates in a financial review of all financial activities for the fiscal year.
- Provides the Georgia Department of Education, as well as the FCCLA Board of Directors, with specific and measurable goals and a strategic plan to meet those goals.
- Adheres to reporting and documentation requirements.
- Identifies stakeholders and develops business partnerships with government and other non-profit

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organizations.

- Supports and works collaboratively with the FCCLA Foundation Board.

2. Annual Performance Evaluation

There shall be an annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director prior to the close of the fiscal year. The evaluation shall be conducted by the Board of Directors.

Input shall be sought through a form approved and updated as necessary by the committee.

B. Georgia FCCLA Administrative Coordinator

1. Description of Duties

- From implementing Georgia FCCLA processes, to assisting execute membership growth efforts, to assisting with event planning and organization, the Georgia FCCLA Administrative Coordinator will be entrusted with administrative tasks and be prepared to report or give status updates on almost any initiative under their directive.

2. Communications – Mail, Email, Phone

- Monitors and assists with prioritizing incoming email and phone requests during business hours, providing prompt responses.
- Develops systems for scanning and organizing physical documents electronically c. Assist with social media outreach efforts.

3. Database and website management

- Works with Family and Consumer Sciences teachers to ensure FCCLA member records are entered and updated in the online affiliation system.
- Design surveys, collects responses, analyzes results, including yearly survey and post event surveys.
- Monitors and updates website with current materials ensuring website is accurate and up-to-date.

4. Accounts Receivable

- Work with bookkeeper to keep accurate financial and historical records.
- Processes conference payments.

5. Event Management

- Assist with meeting planning and event materials preparation.
- Performs pre-registration and post-registration functions including processing registration, badge preparation, data entry, and proper meeting attendee billing and reimbursements.

C. Periodic Review of the Organization

To assure that every aspect of the operations and management of the Georgia Association of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., is performed with due effectiveness and within the policies laid down by the Board of Directors, there shall be conducted a periodic evaluation and review of the state of the organization emphasizing progress toward major goals and objectives. These evaluations shall be made up of:

- The management of the organization with special reference to the office of the Executive Director and the state headquarters staff.

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- The program and projects of the Georgia Association of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc.
- The membership of the organization and membership promotion, fulfillment and dues d. the financial and business affairs of the organization.
- The communications, public relations and development functions of the organization f. the Board operation and Executive Director effectiveness.
- The annual fundraising and financial development plans and goals.
- The relevance and effectiveness of the Board composition.

VII. Fiscal Management

A. Financial Review

There shall be an independent financial review of the annual financial statements by a Certified Public Accounting firm, determined by the Department of Education.

A representative from this independent accounting firm shall prepare a report to be given to the Executive Director and Board Chair. This report should at the Board's next meeting.

B. Authority to Borrow Funds

The Board of Directors has the sole authority and responsibility to borrow funds or cause funds to be borrowed on behalf of the organization.

The Board of Directors may, upon a majority vote, authorize the Executive Director to enter into negotiations to borrow funds from lending institutions.

The Executive Director will present the results of negotiations and his/her recommendation(s) to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors will act on the recommendation(s) and if approved, will authorize the Executive Director to execute the required documents on the Board's behalf. Once the Board of Directors approves the renewal of the line of credit, the Executive Director, with approval of the Treasurer, shall borrow and pay off the line of credit as needed.

C. Bank Deposits

Deposits at any one federally insured financial institution should not exceed the maximum amount that would be federally insured.

D. Capital Expenditures

Capital expenditures are those items, when purchased, which are classified as assets and are used in the continuing operations of the association over a number of years. These items are known as depreciable assets. Examples of depreciable assets are:

- office furniture
- computer equipment
- copying equipment

It is the policy of Georgia FCCLA to keep an accurate inventory of these assets to be turned in during the annual financial review.

The final liquidation of assets is covered by the bylaws.

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Disposal of real assets (i.e., land and buildings) must be approved by the Board of Directors. Disposal of other depreciable assets (i.e., furniture and equipment) must be approved by the Executive Director.

E. Contingency Reserve

The organization targets a reserve amount equal to 50% of the annual operating budget.

F. Investments

The Executive Director, upon approval of the Finance and Budget Committee, shall be permitted to enlist an outside investment agency for the purpose of managing investment funds.

G. Access to Financial Information

The balance sheet shall be prepared monthly by the Georgia FCCLA bookkeeping firm and sent to the Executive Director to distribute to the entire Board of Directors monthly. A financial summary is presented by the State Executive Council 1st Vice President at the Business Session of the State Leadership Conference.

A summary statement of revenue and expenses is printed each year the annual report. Copies of the approved budget, as well as current financial statements, are available at all meetings of the Board of Directors.

H. Solicitation of Bids

Georgia FCCLA is committed to obtaining quality products and services at competitive prices. To assist in ensuring fair and equitable contracting activities in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, the organization adheres to a bid solicitation procedure.

For all purchases over \$15,000, three independent bids shall be solicited from potential vendors/suppliers.

The bidding process shall be blind in that one vendor shall not be informed of another's bid.

The vendor/supplier with the lowest bid that meets the organization's specification as determined by the Board of Directors and Executive Director shall be awarded the contract. The lowest price alone does not prevail.

All contracts shall be put out to bid on a regular basis. The contract duration will not exceed five years. The Executive Director shall settle any questions that may arise in connection with the bidding policy.

I. Travel Reimbursement Guidelines for all Stakeholders

Travel reimbursements are only provided for those individuals where specified in their contracts.

This travel policy specifically addresses reimbursement for three categories of travel-- transportation, meals and lodging and miscellaneous expenses.

Prior approval must be obtained for reimbursement of expense items that are not specifically covered in this policy.

Local and out of town travel shall be done using the most expedient mode of transportation. Transportation expenses are fully reimbursable under the following guidelines:

Reimbursement requests for "travel expenses" need to be submitted within thirty (30) days of the event.

TRANSPORTATION

Travel by car shall be reimbursed at the State Government current rate.

The State Government Per Diem rate is used for all travel. When a meal is provided by the organization, its cost may not be claimed on the expense form.

Moderately priced accommodations are to be secured when traveling on Georgia FCCLA. Rooms are to be

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reserved on a single occupancy basis and charges will be reimbursed accordingly. Incidental charges (phone calls, photocopying, etc.) will be the traveler's responsibility and will be reimbursed (in accordance with current policy) when the expense form is submitted.

J. Annual Surplus Allocations

The Board of Directors, in conjunction with the Finance Committee, will decide how surplus funds should be allocated.

K. Georgia FCCLA Payment Policy

Chapters are required to follow the payment policies as outlined in each event's Adviser Guide. Once registration closes for any region or state event, competition, conference, etc., the chapter is responsible for payment regardless of attendance.

If a balance is unpaid, the following notification schedule is in place:

- a. **7 Days Past Due**- The Executive Director will send an additional invoice for any unpaid balances.
- b. **30 Days past due**- A letter will be sent to the adviser and school bookkeeper. The chapter will not be able to register or attend any FCCLA event until the outstanding balance is paid.
- c. **60 Days past due**- A letter will be sent to the adviser and the CTAE Director stating that the balance is still outstanding. A \$25 late fee is assessed. The chapter will not be able to register or attend any FCCLA event until the outstanding balance is paid.
- d. **120 Days past due**- The fourth and final invoice will be sent. An additional \$25 late fee is assessed. A letter signed by the executive director will be sent to inform the adviser, principal, and CTAE Director that all actions have been taken and the organization regrets to inform the chapter that no registration will be accepted until all past due balances are paid.

L. Returned Checks

If a school check and/or adviser personal check bounces, the chapter will be charged for the original payment amount, plus any other fees charged by the bank to process the returned check.

M. Reissuing Checks

If a check is issued to a chapter and/or member for refunds, reimbursement, prize winnings, etc., it is valid for 90 days after the issue date. Georgia FCCLA will not reissue checks after the 90 days unless the chapter or individual contacts the state office before the 90-day deposit deadline.

Georgia FCCLA will not stop payment on checks issued for refunds, reimbursement, prize winnings, etc. Chapters and other stakeholders must wait until the 90-day deadline for Georgia FCCLA to reissue any payment. If the chapter or other stakeholder requests a stop payment on a check prior to the 90-day deposit deadline, there will be a \$50.00 administrative fee placed on the chapter or stakeholder.

N. Credit Card Payments

Chapters and/or school systems can request a credit card invoice (to be sent via QuickBooks) for registration payments or other fees. A credit card processing fee of 3% will be added to the QuickBooks invoice to be paid by the chapter and/or school system.

VIII. Ethics

A. Ethics Statement

All members of the Board, State Executive Council, committees of the Board and employees of Georgia FCCLA,

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shall follow a Code of Ethics developed by the Board and reviewed annually by the Board.

The ethics statement will be explained to all new Board members in detail at the new Board orientation or first Board meeting and each person will be required to sign a statement agreeing to abide by the ethics statement.

See Appendix A

B. Conflict of Interest

A situation involving conflict of interest in which a business arrangement to which a director may directly or indirectly be a party shall be subject to the following: full disclosure to the Board duly reported in minutes of the meetings, nonparticipation by any director in the decision affecting any relationship, opportunity for free discussion for proposed or existing arrangements in Board and committee meetings with the consideration of alternative options and reports on services contracted.

Any Board member seeking employment with FCCLA shall be required to resign from the Board of Directors upon submission of his/her application of employment.

Board of Directors members serve as directors of Georgia FCCLA as a whole and not solely as a representative of any other body. The interest of Georgia FCCLA shall be the primary focus of members of the Board of Directors, while taking into consideration the various interests of other bodies.

Any suspected conflicts of interest shall be communicated to the Chairperson of the Board of Directors and discussed by the Executive Committee prior to Board action.

See Appendix B

C. Confidentiality

See Appendix C

D. Whistleblower

See Appendix D

IX. Protection of Rights and Human Subjects

A. Alcohol Policy

No alcoholic beverages or narcotics in any form shall be possessed by FCCLA members at any time, under any circumstances. Further, no alcoholic beverages will be served at official FCCLA events where students are present.

Adults in attendance are encouraged to follow the policy, which governs members.

B. Disaster Plan

Georgia FCCLA has a disaster plan that safeguards invaluable paper, computer database, the building, and its employees.

Back-up copies electronic files are saved in Dropbox.

An emergency response plan at state headquarters should be available in the event of a terrorist attack or other emergency.

C. Crisis Plan

The organization shall develop and communicate to Board members and chapters (and advisers) a crisis plan for national events which might include: appointed spokespersons to the media, evacuation plans, lock down

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procedures, notification of parents, accessible medical forms, and information and other plans to assist the management of a crisis situation, terrorism, student endangerment or run away students. This crisis plan shall be updated regularly.

D. Document Retention

See Appendix E

E. Equal Opportunity Employer

This organization grants equal employment opportunities to all qualified persons regardless of race, creed, color, sex, age, national origin, marital status, or physical/mental handicap. It is the intent and desire of the national Board of Directors that equal opportunities be provided in recruitment, selection, salary, promotion, benefits, privileges, and all other terms and conditions of employment.

All employees must provide proof of citizenship or legal work status.

F. Special Needs

Georgia FCCLA upon notice by the registration deadline to its headquarters in advance of any of its scheduled events, will work with--chapters, schools, or families to locate and obtain the services of an aide, assistant, interpreter, nurse, or other person whose assistance would enable a member with special needs to participate fully in the scheduled event. The state staff will identify service options that will be funded by the local school district. Federal funds are typically available to school districts for this purpose.

G. Research

Georgia FCCLA will not participate in any research that would have actual or potential unacceptable risks to students or adults.

H. Sexual Harassment Policy

Georgia FCCLA oppose sexual harassment of any kind. Sexual harassment of students is a real and serious problem in education at all levels. It can affect any student, regardless of sex, race, or age. Sexual harassment can threaten a student's physical or emotional well-being, influence how well a student does in school, and make it difficult for a student to achieve his or her career goals. Moreover, sexual harassment is illegal – Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual harassment.

Title IX protects students from unlawful sexual harassment in all school programs or activities, whether they take place in the facilities of the school, on a school bus, at a class or training program sponsored by the school at another location, or elsewhere. Title IX protects both male and female students from sexual harassment, regardless of who the harasser is.

FCCLA activities are integral to local school instructional programs in Career and Technical Education and are a responsibility of the state. Therefore, the sexual harassment policies and procedures in effect in a student's home school or schools last attended are the means by which sexual harassment issues at FCCLA events will be addressed*.

If a student believes that sexual harassment has occurred, while participating at a nationally sponsored FCCLA event or activity, the student is strongly encouraged to report the incident immediately to: 1) the chapter adviser responsible for FCCLA activities in the student's home school; 2) the student's home school principal; or 3) the Executive Director of Georgia FCCLA. Harassment issues reported to the Georgia FCCLA Executive Director will be referred to the students' home school administrator(s).

This Sexual Harassment Policy is adapted from the Policy of the National Coordinating Council of Career and Technical Student Organizations. (NCC-CTSO)

Georgia FCCLA reserves the right to respond to any disciplinary situation, as they deem appropriate and

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independent of any action by a school.

I. Liability Insurance Coverage Policy

State Headquarters will cover the Board of Directors with liability insurance. The Board of Directors will receive copies annually of the liability insurance provided to Board of Directors.

J. Non-Discrimination Policy

Georgia FCCLA does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status in any of its activities or operations.

K. Gender

Official Dress

The FCCLA official dress is worn for Georgia FCCLA activities per the dress code as outlined. Students may select the attire that best fits the gender with which they identify. This is a personal choice as long as the Georgia FCCLA dress code guidelines are followed. This also applies to the dress code guidelines for FCCLA conferences.

Conference Housing

Regarding conference housing of students and gender identification, the adviser(s) will need to inform the Executive Director prior to the close of registration. The Executive Director will work closely with the adviser(s), school administration, and the conference facility to determine the best solution for all involved. Our main priority is that all FCCLA members feel informed, safe, respected, and comfortable.

X. Scholarships/Awards/Recognition

Please see the Scholarships/Awards/Recognition document created and updated by State Staff.

XI. External Relations

A. Cooperation of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc.

At State Level

The state policy-making body may authorize cooperative activities and/or relationships on the state level. This authorization shall be in accordance with the provisions stated in this document.

A state policy-making body, before agreeing to participate in a cooperative activity, project and/or relationship that involves a state or states in addition to its own, should ascertain in writing whether the national organization has approved such cooperation. The intent of this provision is to assure that when more than one state is engaged in a cooperative project, state approval shall be given only on condition of national approval. This policy does not preclude a state association's initiating cooperative activities, projects and/or relationships within its boundaries when such activities and relationships are in accordance with established national policies and the projects are clearly identified as state or local in origin and sponsorship.

At Chapter Level

Local chapters may establish cooperative activities and/or relationships in accordance with the policies of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc., as stated in this document, and with the policies developed by its state policy-making body.

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B. Endorsement and Development of Public Policy

So that Georgia FCCLA may have the opportunity to sign on to public policy initiatives in a timely manner, the following mechanism will be employed:

Any group may provide the Executive Director with a public policy initiative.

The Executive Director will confer with the Board Chair prior to and following involvement in any public policy endorsement or development. In addition, all public policy activities will be listed in the Executive Director's monthly report.

The Executive Director will engage in public policy development activities that serve the interest of Georgia FCCLA.

The Executive Director will involve the Board of Directors, the State Executive Council, Day at the Capitol participants, members and advisers in public policy development, and where appropriate, public policy advocacy.

XII. Competitive Events

A. Competitive Events Team

The organization shall contract with a person knowledgeable about STAR Events to serve as the Georgia STAR Events Coordinator.

The organization may contract with a person to serve as the STAR Events Evaluator Coordinator.

The Georgia STAR Events Coordinator will recruit stakeholders to serve as Lead Consultants and Assistant Lead Consultants at the annual State Leadership Conference.

The Competitive Events Team provides recommendations to the state staff.

B. Event Names, Rule Consistency, and Participation

When offering nationally sponsored Competitive Events at the state, regional, or local level, event names should be consistent with the names of the national event. In addition, event guidelines and rules should be consistent with those of national.

The basis for Competitive Event participation, event name, rule consistency, and due process are contained in the *Competitive Events Guide* which is posted on the FCCLA national portal.

C. Georgia FCCLA Competitive Events Manual

All Competitive Events participation and other guidelines can be found in the Georgia FCCLA Competitive Events Manual, which will be reviewed by the Competitive Events Team annually. Refer to the Georgia FCCLA Competitive Events Manual.

XIII. Meetings

A. State Leadership Conference

1. Voting Delegates

Each chapter attending the State Leadership Conference receives one voting delegate.

2. Official Hotels

Chapters will have the option of staying in one of several conference hotels in the location of the State Leadership Conference. Chapters can choose to travel to and from the conference each day, if desired.

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When choosing to stay in a conference hotel, the chapter must follow the guidelines by the Athens Housing Bureau and utilize the services as outlined in the State Leadership Conference Adviser Guide.

Chapters staying in a hotel and not utilizing the Housing Bureau will be disqualified from all competitions, scholarships, awards, etc.

3. State Leadership Conference Sites

The time and place of the State Leadership Conference shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The purpose of the conference shall be to transact the business of the organization.

B. Other Meeting Sites

The locations for the other meeting sites will be approved by the Board of Directors. Other conferences and meetings should take place at either Camp John Hope, the Georgia FFA FCCLA Center in Covington, or a location approved by the Board of Directors.

C. Conference Dress Codes

1. DISCOVER Training

- Longer-length shorts
- Neat jeans (no holes or tears)
- Collared shirts
- Appropriate T-shirts
- Casual footwear.
- *Chapter T-shirts are encouraged.*

2. Fall Leadership Conference

Activity	Student Attire
Mini TBT Training	Athletic attire (no short shorts), tennis shoes
Overnight Events	Casual Attire: Jeans and FCCLA T-shirt (or other nice shirt). Longer length shorts (no short shorts), neat jeans, collared shirts, sweat shirts, appropriate T-shirts and casual footwear.
Second Day Sessions (Opening Session, Leadership Sessions)	Preferred Attire: Khakis (capris or full-length) and conference T-shirt. Neat jeans or pants, collared shirts, appropriate FCCLA T-shirt, and casual footwear. (No shorts or flip flops.)

3. Fall Leadership Rally

Activity	Student Attire
General Session	Casual Attire: Jeans and FCCLA T-shirt (or other nice shirt). Longer length shorts (no short shorts), neat jeans, collared shirts, sweat shirts, appropriate T-shirts, and casual footwear.
Competitions	See specific competition guidelines for attire

4. Region STAR Events

Members:

- Professional white or black shirt.

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- Neckwear options can include the neckwear from the official emblematic supplier, black or red tie, black or red bow tie, single strand of pearls, red, black, and/or white scarf, or no neckwear.
- Black bottoms (slacks, skirt, sheath dress...skirt and dress may be no more than 2 inches above the knee).
- Shoes, black preferred.
- Official red jacket is strongly encouraged.
- Jeans, T-shirts, athletic wear are NOT acceptable.

Exception: Culinary Arts participants are welcome to wear their Chef's Attire during the STAR Events Recognition Sessions.

Advisers/ Chaperones/ Guests:

- Business professional
- Jeans, t-shirts, and athletic wear are NOT acceptable.

5. [State Leadership Conference](#)

Activity	Male Attire	Female Attire
Opening Session* STAR Events Orientation* Closing Session*	White or black professional shirt, black pants, shoes (black preferred)	White or black professional shirt, black pants, black shirts (at least knee length), black sheath dress, shoes (black preferred)
Recognition Session Gala	White or black professional shirt, black pants, shoes (black preferred) -or Dress shirt, neck tie, blazer or suits, slacks, dress shoes; tuxedo is optional	White or black professional shirt, black pants, black shirts (at least knee length), black sheath dress, shoes (black preferred) -or Dressy dress (must be fingertip length) or pantsuit, dress shoes. No cleavage, bare midriiffs, or bare backs extending below the waist
Competitions	White or black professional shirt, black pants, shoes (black preferred) -or Costumes (if competition allows)	White or black professional shirt, black pants, black shirts (at least knee length), black sheath dress, shoes (black preferred) -or Costumes (if competition allows)
Workshops Career and Trade Expo Business Meeting	White or black professional shirt, black pants, shoes (black preferred)	White or black professional shirt, black pants, black shirts (at least knee length), black sheath dress, shoes (black preferred)

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Foundation Event	Blue jeans, black or khaki pants, chapter FCCLA T-shirt (or other nice shirt)
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Inappropriate Attire at any FCCLA conference or activity:

The following should not be worn to any FCCLA activity, including in hotel hallways and lobby: • Clothing and accessories which are sexually suggestive, which advertise drugs, alcohol or tobacco products or display profanity.

- See-through, tight fitting, spaghetti straps, strapless, extremely short or low-cut blouses/tops/dresses/skirts.
- Pants or skirts that are worn below the hip bone; no undergarments may be showing. • Spandex, leggings, stirrup pants, leotards, short shorts, cutoffs or pajamas. If leggings are worn, shorts/skirt/dress must be an appropriate length over the leggings.
- Clothing which is stained, torn or ripped.
- Bare feet

D. Conference Registration Policies

1. Registration Eligibility

The following are the eligibility requirements for Georgia FCCLA conferences:

Meeting	Eligibility Requirements
DISCOVER Training	Students enrolled in Family and Consumer Sciences classes and/or affiliated FCCLA members
Fall Leadership Rally	Students enrolled in Family and Consumer Sciences classes and/or affiliated FCCLA members
Fall Leadership Conference	Affiliated FCCLA members
Region STAR Events	Affiliated FCCLA members
State Leadership Conference	Affiliated FCCLA members

2. Registration Deadlines and Late Registration

All registration deadlines will be clearly defined on the state website, as well as in the posted adviser guides for each conference.

Late Registration Policies

DISCOVER Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To register late, email croberson@gafccla.com. • Late registrations will be allowed until 48 hours after the posted regular registration deadline. • After 48 hours, no late registrations will be accepted. • There are no on-site registrations.
Fall Leadership Rally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To register late, email croberson@gafccla.com. • Late registrations will be allowed until 48 hours after the posted regular registration deadline.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After 48 hours, no late registrations will be accepted. • T-shirts are not guaranteed for late registrations. • Pre-ordered armbands are not available for late registrations. • There are no on-site registrations.
Fall Leadership Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To register late, email croberson@gafcccla.com. • Late registrations will be allowed until 48 hours after the posted regular registration deadline – for basic registrations only. • No late registrations will be allowed for overnight packages. • After 48 hours, no late registrations will be accepted. • T-shirts are not guaranteed for late registrations. • There are no on-site registrations.
Region STAR Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To register late, email your adviser. • Late registrations will be allowed until 48 hours after the posted regular registration deadline. • After 48 hours, no late registrations will be accepted. • Certificates, meal options, and other items are not guaranteed with late registrations. • There are no on-site registrations.
State Leadership Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To register late, email croberson@gafcccla.com. • Late registrations will be allowed until 48 hours after the posted regular registration deadline. • After 48 hours, no late registrations will be accepted. • T-shirts, polos, Foundation tickets, lunch tickets, gala tickets, and/or other items are not guaranteed for late registrations. • There are no on-site registrations.

E. Conference Chaperone Policy

When attending Georgia FCCLA conferences and events, advisers to expected to provide adequate supervision for his/her students. All chaperones must follow the Georgia FCCLA Dress Code and Code of Conduct as outlined in this manual. Chaperones are expected to attend all workshops or meetings with the members and advisers.

FCCLA chapters must follow the following chaperone policy:

- Day trips: 1 adult for every 10 members
- Overnight trips: 1 adult for every 4 members
 - You must have a female chaperone for female students.
 - You must have a male chaperone for male students.

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In the event that your county has a different chaperone policy than the one outlined above, your county's policy should be followed.

F. Conference Cancellation Policy

In the event of an emergency, the Board of Directors has the right to cancel or postpone an upcoming conference.

In the event of a conference cancellation, the Board of Directors has the right to force chapters to pay for conference t-shirts. Conference t-shirts cannot be reused for another conference due to the theme and dates on the shirt. Payments must be made in a timely manner and are subject to the Georgia FCCLA Payment Policy outlined in this manual.

XIV. Grievances

All grievances shall be sent electronically to the Board of Directors Chair at board@gafccla.com within 30 days of the occurrence.

Information to be included:

- Name (optional)
- Relation to FCCLA: chapter adviser, administrator, member, parent, business & industry, or other
- Date of occurrence
- Policies, procedures, or rules violated
- Detailed account of the occurrence
- Solution sought

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XV. APPENDIX A –Board of Directors Code of Ethics

Georgia FCCLA Code of Ethics

As a Board of Directors member, I will –

- listen carefully to my teammates, and those served by the Board.
- respect the opinion of other Directors.
- respect and support the majority decisions of the Board.
- recognize that all authority is vested in the Board when it meets in legal session and not with individual Board members.
- keep well informed of developments that are relevant to issues that may come before the Board.
- participate actively in Board meetings and actions.
- call to the attention of the Board any issues that I believe will have an adverse effect on the Board and those we serve.
- attempt to interpret the needs of beneficiaries of the Board and interpret the action of the Board to its beneficiaries.
- refer complaints to the proper level on the chain of command.
- vote to appoint the best possible person to manage the Board.
- represent all the beneficiaries of the Board and not a particular geographic area or special interest group.
- do my best to ensure that the Board is well maintained, financially secure, growing, and always operating in the best interests of its beneficiaries.
- always work to learn more about the Director’s job and how to do it better.
- declare any conflict of interest between my personal life and my position on the Board and avoid voting on issues that appear to be a conflict of interest.

As a Board of Directors member, I will not –

- be critical, in or outside of the Board meeting, of other Directors or their opinions. • use the Board or any part of the Board for my personal advantage or the personal advantage of my friends or relatives.
- discuss the confidential proceedings of the Board outside the Board meeting.
- promise prior to a meeting how I will vote on any issue in the meeting.
- intervene with duties of the Executive Director or undermine the Executive Director’s authority.

The three decision making bodies of Georgia FCCLA are the Board of Directors, the Executive Council, and the state staff. These groups shall conduct themselves collectively and individually in good faith and in the best interest of the organization and its membership while maintaining a high level of ethical and professional behavior.

The Board will serve the organization in a tradition such that the assets and youth shall not be used for the gain or benefit of any person or entity.

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Members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Council shall not:

- seek or accept on behalf of themselves or any other person any financial advantage or gifts other than a nominal value offered as a result of affiliation of FCCLA.
- knowingly place themselves in a position that poses a conflict between their interest and those of Georgia FCCLA.
- publicly use any FCCLA affiliation in connection with the promotion of partisan politics, religious matters, positions or any issue not in conformity with the policies of FCCLA.
- disclose any confidential information about FCCLA to any person or entity not authorized to receive such information.
- knowingly take any action intended to influence FCCLA in such a way as to confer financial benefit on any entity in which the individual has significant interest or affiliation.
- operate in any manner that is contrary to the best interest of the membership of Georgia FCCLA. Conduct of the Board of Directors, Executive Council and state staff shall be above reproach so as to maintain the respect and trust of each other and all members.

Any infringement of these guidelines shall be addressed in a timely manner by an Executive Session of the Board of Directors.

I have read and am familiar with the Board policy concerning the Code of Ethics. I agree to abide by the code of ethics throughout my term as a Board of Directors member.

Board of Director's Signature

Date

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XVI. APPENDIX B –Board of Directors Conflict of Interest Statement

Georgia FCCLA Board of Directors Conflict of Interest Statement

Directors have a duty to subordinate personal interests to the welfare of the national organization and those we serve. Conflicting interests can be financial, personal relationships, status, or power.

Directors are prohibited from receiving gifts, fees, loans, or favors from suppliers, contractors, consultants, or financial agencies, which obligate or induce the Director to compromise responsibilities to negotiate, inspect or audit, purchase or award contracts, with the best interest of the national organization in mind.

Directors are prohibited from knowingly disclosing information about the Board/national organization to those who do not have a need to know or whose interest may be averse to the national organization, either inside or outside the Board. Nor may Directors in any way use such information to the detriment of the national organization.

Directors may not have a significant financial interest in any property which the national organization purchases, or a direct or indirect interest in a supplier, contractor, consultant, or other entity with which the national organization does business.

Since it is not possible to write a policy that covers all potential conflicts, Directors are expected to be alert for and avoid situations which might be construed as conflicts of interest.

Any possible conflict of interest on the part of any Director should be disclosed to the other Directors and made a matter of record, either through an annual procedure or when the interest becomes a matter of Board action.

Any Director having a conflict of interest or possible conflict of interest should not vote or use his/her personal influence on the matter, and he/she should not be counted as part of a quorum for the meeting. The minutes of the meeting should reflect that a disclosure was made, the abstention from voting and the quorum situation.

These restrictions should not be construed as preventing the Director from briefly stating his/her position in the matter, nor from answering pertinent questions of other Directors, since his/her knowledge could be of assistance in the deliberations.

I have read and am familiar with the Board policy concerning conflict of interest, and I have initialed the line opposite the appropriate paragraph below.

CHOOSE ONE:

_____ During the past year, neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, any member of my family has had an interest or taken any action which would contravene the policy of this Board.

_____ During the past year, neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, any member of my family has had an interest or taken any action which would contravene the policy of this board, except such interest or action fully disclosed below:

Board of Director's Signature

Date

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XVII. APPENDIX C –Board of Directors Confidentiality Agreement

Georgia FCCLA Board of Directors Confidentiality Agreement

As a Director of the Georgia FCCLA Board of Directors, I acknowledge the importance of confidentiality with respect to the affairs of the Board/state organization. In light of this acknowledgement, I agree to keep confidential, during and after service on the Board, all confidential information acquired pertaining to the Board/state organization and any related activities in the course of membership on the Board.

I particularly recognize the sensitivity of information regarding capitol decisions, real estate purchases, decisions regarding closures, mergers and other strategic plans that may have impact on FCCLA’s competitive position relative to other organizations.

I agree that this confidentiality agreement includes, but is not limited to:

- information pertaining to performance of the Executive Director/other employee(s) including evaluation data.
- issues related to the Board’s legal, moral and regulatory responsibility for the oversight of statistical data, risk management information and litigation information, and reviews of attitudes and opinions from those who work for the national organization.
- reports, discussion, and data shared with the Board that are not released for public information.

I understand that it is the Board Chairs’ responsibility to address infractions of confidentiality by an individual Director and take action to remedy the problem. I also understand that if infraction of confidentiality by an individual Director continues, it is expected that the Board Chair will ask for the resignation of the individual Director who has violated this confidentiality agreement.

I understand the confidentiality agreement, agree to abide by it, and agree to resign my Director position if requested by the majority vote of the Board of Directors for any confidentiality infraction.

Board of Director’s Signature

Date

Parent Signature (for student members)

Date

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XVIII. APPENDIX D –Board of Directors Whistleblower Policy

Georgia FCCLA Board of Directors Whistleblower Policy

The Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Code of Ethics and Conduct (“Code”) requires directors, officers and representatives to observe high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities. As representatives of Georgia FCCLA, we must practice honesty and integrity in fulfilling our responsibilities and comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

It is the responsibility of all directors, officers and representatives to comply with the Code and to report violations or suspected violations in accordance with this Whistleblower Policy.

No director, officer or representative who in good faith reports a violation of the Code shall suffer harassment, retaliation, or adverse employment consequence(s). A representative who retaliates against someone who reported a violation in good faith is subject to discipline up to and including termination of position or contract. This Whistleblower Policy is intended to encourage and enable representatives and others to raise serious concerns within the organization prior to seeking resolution outside the organization.

The code addresses the organization’s open-door policy and suggests that representatives share their questions, concerns, suggestions or complaints with someone who can address them properly. In most cases, the Executive Director or Board Chair is in the best position to address an area of concern. However, if you are not comfortable speaking with the Board Chair or you are not satisfied with the Board Chair’s response, you are encouraged to speak with someone on the Board of Directors whom you are comfortable approaching. All members of the board are required to report suspected violations of the code of conduct to the organization’s Chair. The Chair of the Board of Directors has specific and exclusive responsibility to investigate all reported violations. For suspected fraud, or when you are not satisfied or uncomfortable with following the organization’s open-door policy, individuals should contact the organization’s Chair of the Board of Directors directly.

The Organization’s Compliance Officer is responsible for investigating and resolving all reported complaints and allegations concerning violations of the Code and, at his/her discretion, shall advise the Executive Director and/or the audit committee. The Compliance Officer has direct access to the audit committee of the board of directors and is required to report to the audit committee at least annually on compliance activity. The Organization’s Compliance Officer is the chair of the audit committee.

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XIX. APPENDIX E – Document Retention and Destruction Policy

Georgia FCCLA Document Retention and Destruction Policy

FCCLA will retain records for the period of their immediate or current use, unless longer retention is necessary for historical reference, or to comply with contractual or legal requirements, or for other purposes as described below. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that necessary records and documents are adequately protected and maintained and to ensure that records that are no longer needed or of no value are discarded at the appropriate time.

Permanent Retention: Records that are permanent or essential shall be retained and preserved indefinitely.

Current Records: Record for which convenience, ready reference or other reasons are retained in the office space and equipment of the association.

Institutional and Legal Records Minimum Requirement:

Articles of Incorporation Permanent:

By-Laws	Permanent
Minutes	Permanent
Tax Exemption Documents	Permanent

Employee Payroll Files Minimum Requirement:

Wage or Salary History	7 Years
Salary or Current Rate of Pay	7 Years
Payroll Deductions	7 Years
Timecards or Time Sheets	7 Years
W-2 Forms	7 Years
W-4 Forms	7 Years
Garnishments	Termination Plus 1 Year

Employee Personnel Files Minimum Requirement

Employment Application or Resume	Termination Plus 1 Year
Employment History	Termination Plus 1 Year
Beneficiary Designation	Until Employee Termination
Medical Records	Until Employee Termination
Promotions	Termination Plus 1 Year
Attendance Records	7 Years
Employee Evaluations	7 Years
Disciplinary Warnings and Actions	7 Years

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Layoff or Termination	7 Years
I-9 Forms	7 Years after Termination
Employee Accident Reports	7 Years
Retirement Benefits	Life of the Employee
Disability Records	Life of the Employee

General Files Minimum Requirement

Pension/Retirement Plans	7 Years after Termination
Contracts	7 Years
Liability Insurance	Permanent
Insurance Claims	7 Years
Court Records	Permanent

Capital Property & Facilities Records Minimum Requirement:

Property Records	Current Plus 7 Years
Inventor	Current Plus 7 Years
Depreciation Schedules	Current Plus 7 Years
Long Term Debt Records	Current Plus 7 Years
Property Improvement Records	Current Plus 7 Years
Building Permits	Current Plus 7 Years
Building Plans and Specifications	Permanent
Office Layout	Permanent
Zoning and Operating Permits	Permanent
Maintenance Records	Permanent
Property Insurance	7 Years

Financial Records Minimum Requirement:

Form 990 and 990T with Support	Permanent
Accounts Receivables	7 Years
Original AP Invoices	7 Years
Expense Reports	7 Years
1099 & Sales and Use Tax Reports	7 Years

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AP Check Register	7 Years
Bank Statements	7 Years
Deposit Records	7 Years
Bank Reconciliations	7 Years
Cancelled Checks	7 Years
General Ledgers	7 Years
Journal Entries	7 Years
Annual Audited Financials	Permanent

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XIX. APPENDIX F –Member and Adviser Code of Conduct

Georgia FCCLA Code of Conduct

FCCLA members and advisers should follow the following guidelines while attending a Georgia FCCLA sponsored event:

- 1.** Behavior at all times should be such that it reflects a positive, professional image of you, your chapter, your state and the organization.
- 2.** Delegates shall keep their adult advisers informed of their activities and whereabouts at all times.
- 3.** Local advisers will be responsible for their delegates' conduct.
- 4.** Delegates will attend all general sessions, workshops and activities.
- 5.** Delegates will be prompt and prepared for all activities.
- 6.** Identification badges will be worn at all times except when outside the hotel or meeting area.
- 7.** The dress code will be enforced at all times. (The Dress Code is listed in the Adviser Guide for each event as well as the Policies and Procedures Manual)
- 8.** Any accidents, injuries or illnesses should be reported to the adult chaperone or state adviser immediately.
- 9.** All delegates will observe the curfew set by the State/National Office.
- 10.** Delegates will spend the night at the assigned hotel and in their assigned room. They will be quiet at curfew.
- 11.** Delegates are not permitted in sleeping rooms with members of the opposite sex, unless accompanied by an official chaperone.
- 12.** Inappropriate physical conduct is not allowed and will be subject to disciplinary action.
- 13.** No student shall leave the hotel unless accompanied by his/her adviser or chaperone.
- 14.** If a student is found responsible for stealing or vandalism, the student and his/her parents/guardians will be expected to pay all damages.
- 15.** Delegates attending the FCCLA Conference may not purchase, possess, consumer or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs at any time. Violators will be subject to disciplinary action.
- 16.** Smoking, vaping, or the possession of tobacco, is not allowed.
- 17.** Delegates violating or ignoring any of the conduct rules will subject their entire chapter delegation to being unseated and their candidates or competitive events contestants (if applicable) being disqualified. Individual delegates who disregard the rules will be subject to disciplinary action and be sent home at their own expense. In the case of student delegates, parents/guardians will be notified.