

WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT?



**Nebraska Future Business
Leaders of America**

**Compiled by
2002-2003 State Officer Team**

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Special thanks to the following Nebraska FBLA chapters for contributing ideas to this project.

Ainsworth	Grand Island Northwest	Papillion-LaVista
Arlington	Grand Island Senior	Pleasanton
Ashland-Greenwood	Gretna	Ponca
Aurora	Humphrey	Ravenna
Bellevue East	Johnson-Brock	Raymond Central
Blair	Kearney	Republican Valley
Boone Central	Lakeside Central	Sandhills
Cambridge	Laurel-Concord	Sandy Creek
Cedar Rapids	Lewiston	Seward
Centennial	Lincoln Christian	Shelby
Centura	Lincoln Lutheran	Shickley
Chase County	Lincoln Northeast	Southern
Columbus Lakeview	Lincoln Southeast	South Sioux City
Columbus Scotus	Litchfield	Stanton
Conestoga	Lyons-Decatur	Syracuse
Cozad	Madison	Tecumseh
Crete	McCook	Tri County
Deshler	Meridian	Twin River
Diller-Odell	Minden	Wahoo
Dundy County	Mitchell	Wakefield
Elkhorn	Neligh-Oakdale	Waverly
Elmwood-Murdock	Nemaha Valley	Wayne
Emerson-Hubbard	North Bend Central	Wilber-Clatonia
Ewing	Omaha Bryan	Wilcox-Hildreth
Fairbury	Omaha Central	Wood River
Fillmore Central	Omaha Northwest	Wynot
Freeman	Omaha Roncalli Catholic	York
Gibbon	Osmond	Yutan

CHEER Challenge

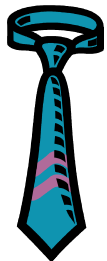
Chapters Helping Establish Excellence by Reaching Out or the CHEER Challenge provides local chapters with opportunities to strengthen FBLA throughout Nebraska. Each local FBLA chapter is a part of a CHEER Team based upon geographic location. The CHEER Challenge encourages effective teamwork among local chapters. Working together as a team provides chapters the opportunity to accomplish more than they can achieve working independently. The teamwork and collaboration gained from the CHEER Challenge will provide students with valuable skills used in today's workplace.

The following ideas are suggestions for CHEER Challenge activities that can be used within your own chapter's CHEER Team.



Aurora FBLA invited the **Centura** and **Wood River FBLA Chapters** to their annual Halloween party. A costume contest was held at the party, and prizes were awarded for the best costumes. Members also enjoyed playing musical chairs.

The **Cozad Chapter** sold pies for the holidays with their CHEER Team. They suggest preparing the crusts ahead of time and freezing them. Then, prepare the filling at a later date. This project takes a joint effort, and it works well if the pies are pre-sold.



The **Elmwood-Murdock Chapter** invited the **Waverly, Gretna,** and **Conestoga Chapters** to a Business Olympics. Students were divided into groups to participate in various business competitions. One competition was the Dress for Success event where students were timed for the fastest "necktie tying". The Typewriter Relay found students addressing envelopes, and the Entrepreneur Match allowed students to match entrepreneurs to their respective products.

The **Johnson-Brock FBLA Chapter** invited the **Auburn, Tecumseh, Lewiston, Nemaha Valley, Syracuse,** and **Nebraska City Chapters** to an Area Meeting in which Tyler Jensen, State Treasurer, spoke. The Auburn Chapter was chartered and held their officer installation at this meeting.

The **Neligh-Oakdale Chapter** included the **Madison** and **Norfolk Chapters** in painting signs that said, “Making a Difference in Our World Today,” for a float in the Lavitsef parade. This parade honored outstanding citizens from each area town in Norfolk. The members put the signs on a pickup and handed out candy and pamphlets concerning FBLA.

The **Southeast Nebraska CHEER Team Chapters** promoted teamwork by having chapters collaborate on a project. Eighty FBLA members and advisers from the **Syracuse, Johnson-Brock, Nemaha Valley, and Lewiston FBLA Chapters** toured the Tecumseh State Correctional Institution. During the tour members and advisers met with the warden and an inmate from the prison.



The **Southern FBLA Chapter** and the **Lewiston Chapter** hosted a “Kiss the Pig” Contest.

The **Wood River Chapter** invited the **Grand Island, Grand Island Northwest, Centura, Ravenna, and Aurora Chapters** to a bowling party at a local bowling alley in Grand Island. The state officers attending the activity made a brief presentation. It was an excellent way to learn about FBLA and to meet members from the surrounding area.



Community Service

Nebraska FBLA strives to actively serve local communities throughout our state. Serving local communities provides members with opportunities to utilize their talents to improve themselves and their communities. Reaching out to the local communities will help ensure continued support for local chapters that will make the future of Nebraska FBLA even brighter. Local chapters also have the opportunity to participate in Nebraska FBLA's statewide program "Tally It Up," which records local chapters' total community service hours. Nebraska FBLA accumulated over 20,000 hours of community service during the 2001-2002 school year!

The following ideas are some possible community service activities that your local chapter can use.

Ainsworth held a Halloween party for elementary children.

The **Arlington FBLA Chapter** taught computer classes to adults in their community.

Aurora tutored elementary children.

Blair FBLA conducted safety checks and a safety fair as a part of a safety project to encourage students to wear their seatbelts.

Boone Central delivered plates of cookies to the elderly and shut-ins of their community.

Cambridge FBLA members worked with the American Cancer Association during their walk-a-thon. Members bagged and lit luminaries along with participating in the event.

Cedar Rapids FBLA members gathered used paper each week and brought it to the local recycling center.

Centennial, Minden, and Columbus Lakeview Chapters visited the nearby retirement homes. Members played games and shared stories with the residents.

Centura made Christmas presents that were donated to Habitat for Humanity.



Columbus Scotus created Thanksgiving and May Day baskets that are given to a manor's residents.

Cozad FBLA members decorated a small building in their downtown to host Santa Claus. Members supplied a Santa, elves, and candy canes. They invited the community children to attend.

The **Cozad FBLA Chapter** co-hosted a "spook night" with the Cozad Chamber of Commerce. Events included face painting, cookie decorating, pumpkin painting, and a costume contest.

Deshler FBLA helped their Chamber of Commerce with Christmas festivities.

Diller-Odell and **Raymond Central Chapters** sold links to students at their schools as part of a competition with the rival school. At a sporting event, both schools presented their links. The principal from the school with the least links received a pie in the face. The money raised was donated to MADD.

The **Dundy County Chapter** organized a summer reading program for children.



Elkhorn FBLA members sought donated tickets for haunted houses that were later raffled. The proceeds went to the March of Dimes.

Elmwood-Murdock coordinated a Veteran's Day Program. They also submitted the name of a noteworthy individual for Highway Renaming Designation.

Emerson-Hubbard FBLA wrote letters to firefighters in their towns and in New York City thanking them for everything that have they done.

Ewing FBLA members honored the firefighters and EMTs in their town.

Fairbury FBLA members painted a mural at their elementary school.

Fillmore Central organized the Easter egg hunt for children in their community with their town's Chamber of Commerce.

The **Gibbon FBLA Chapter** handed out valentines for veterans at the nearby Veteran Hospital.



The **Grand Island FBLA** members acted as Santa by writing greeting cards to elementary children. No gifts were promised, but small stories depicting Santa's life were shared.

Grand Island Northwest FBLA raffled signed sports balls. The money was given to MADD and to the community for improvement projects.

The **Humphrey FBLA Chapter** prepared two food baskets around the holiday season that were given to a local church to distribute. Members also bought Christmas presents for two children from the Wal-Mart Christmas tree.

Johnson-Brock FBLA worked closely with the community in a Habitat for Humanity project. They provided food and labor for all phases of building the house.

Kearney presented Halloween skits to middle school students.

Lakeside Central and **Chase County Chapters** made cards for residents at a nearby care center during the holiday season.



Laurel-Concord and **Wilber-Clatonia Chapters** painted items in their city parks.

Lincoln Christian FBLA helped at a nearby boys and girls home.

Lincoln Southeast serves dinner at a local soup kitchen.

Litchfield and **Gretna Chapters** conducted food drives during the holiday season that would be distributed to the elderly or handicapped in their community.

Madison networked with the Madison Chamber of Commerce to work on community improvement projects.

Meridian FBLA members participated in the Adopt-A-Highway program.

The **Neligh-Oakdale FBLA Chapter** provided a Halloween movie, hayrack rides, costume judging, trick-or-treating, and games for the children in their community.

The **Nemaha Valley FBLA Chapter** painted addresses on the curbs in their town.

North Bend Central FBLA created a monthly calendar for their town's senior center.

Omaha Bryan FBLA held a winter banquet for the homeless in their area.

Omaha Central collected old and unused cellular phones that were given to agencies to be refurbished. The phones were then reprogrammed to dial 911 and given to violence victims to use in an emergency.



Pleasanton helped their area Target store by decorating Christmas trees.

Ponca FBLA served at annual banquets held at their school.

The **Ravenna FBLA Chapter** hosted a safe trick-or-treating night for children in their community.

Sandhills FBLA gathered students on the last day of school to help clean up the community.

Sandy Creek FBLA set up a Christmas tree at school where students and staff could donate mittens and gloves. The items were later donated to families in the community.

Seward FBLA helped set up Christmas lights at different places within their community.

Shelby participated in Christmas caroling during the holiday season.



Shickley raked leaves for the elderly in the community.

Southern FBLA helped with the Community Pride Committee, which replaced their town's Chamber of Commerce. Officers and members attended and participated in these community activities.

South Sioux City FBLA held a senior citizen prom for the elderly in their community.

The **Syracuse Chapter** assisted their town's library by selling old books when a new library was being built in their town.

Tecumseh FBLA members held a "Kiss the Pig" contest for homecoming candidates. The money that was earned from this contest was donated to MADD.

Tri County FBLA formed a partnership with a national monument near their school. They helped prepare for the monument's holiday and historical celebrations.

Twin River FBLA helped with a bloodmobile in a local community.

Wakefield FBLA members decorated for Christmas at their local Care Center.

The **Waverly FBLA Chapter** takes time each month to create a small gift for the residents in the town retirement home. The gifts usually relate to the holiday taking place each month.



The **Wayne FBLA Chapter** held a tailgate party before a football game. The admission to the party was a can of food donated to the Haven House, a domestic violence shelter.

Wood River FBLA constructed a community bulletin board and updated the board monthly. Members also assisted with meetings and activities for the Farm Safety 4 Just Kids organization.

Wynot FBLA members sponsored a child in the Philippines.

York, Republican Valley, and McCook Chapters collected canned goods for food pantries or local church shelters.

Fundraising

Effective fundraising is important in every organization. Funds are needed to support chapter activities, food, supplies, and projects. Without the financial support of others, members may not be able to participate in many activities, and donations cannot be made to great organizations such as the March of Dimes and Mothers Against Drunk Driving as well.

The following ideas are some possible fundraisers that may work for your local chapter.



Halloween Carnival—Host a carnival for elementary students on Halloween.

Greenery Sales—Sell greens and wreaths during the holiday season.

Chili Feed—Sell tickets for a chili feed at a local sporting event.

Car Bashing—Sell tickets to bash a car with a sledgehammer. This is a great activity during a school's Homecoming Week.

Best Seat in the House—Raffle a chance to sit on a couch during a sporting event. Coupons for food and beverages from the local concession stand can also be awarded to the winner.

Halftime Basketball Shot—Raffle a chance to win a prize if a person can make a half court shot on the basketball court.



Data Match—Use one of FBLA's national partners, DataMatch, to fundraise.

Work Auction—Members volunteer to work for a set amount of hours and have people bid on members for their services.

Jersey Auction—Auction jerseys to wear during a sports game day.

Apparel Sales—Sell apparel with your school's name and/or logo on them.

Concessions—Members can work in a concession stand at their school or at a local community center.

Jail-N-Bail—Students pay money to have other students put in “jail”. Then, the student in jail will have to pay his bail to get out of jail.



Flower Sales—Sell flowers and attach various greetings, such as “I love you” to “Have a nice day,” during FBLA Week, Valentine’s Day, or Homecoming Week.

Fast Food Night—Have a fast food restaurant donate a portion of their sales to FBLA.

Balloon Sales—Sell balloons at sporting events, such as a football game.

Split the Pot—Raffle a chance to win half of the pot.

Pie in the Face—Provide jars with teachers’ names on them. The teacher receiving the most money in his/her jar will get a pie in the face.

Kiss the Pig—Same as “Pie in the Face,” but the winning teacher must kiss a pig.

Fruit Sales—Sell fruit or other healthy items to athletes and students on game days.

Rally Towels—Sell small towels with an imprint of the school’s logo to wave at games.



Donut Sales—Sell donuts before school.

Coupon Booklets—Have businesses donate coupons and sell them in booklets.

Chain Wars—Team up with another FBLA chapter for this fundraiser. For every dollar your chapter donates, you add a chain link. Then, see which chapter has the most links. The losing chapter must do something for the winning chapter.

Junior Sports Tournament—Host a tournament for junior high teams such as basketball or soccer.

Talent Show—Charge admission to see your chapter’s best “talents.”

Student-Faculty Challenge—Have the students play the faculty in a basketball game.

Lick Drunk Driving—Sell Ozark Delight Suckers for MADD.

Membership Recruitment

Recruiting members is valuable to every local chapter. Members are the most important asset to our organization. The members make Nebraska FBLA the outstanding organization that is. Effective recruitment strategies are key for every chapter. With quality planning and promotion, local chapters can achieve successful membership recruitment.

The following ideas are possible strategies that your local chapter can use to recruit members.



Ainsworth FBLA members spoke at freshmen orientation; they also had an ice cream social.

Arlington FBLA had a pizza party and a barbeque to entice new members. They have also initiated a Mentoring Program where older FBLA members encourage freshmen to join by talking to the 8th grade English classes at the end of the year. Older members then are responsible for reminding the incoming freshmen about meetings at the start of the next school year.

The **Ashland-Greenwood FBLA Chapter** sponsored a dance, a food feed party, and a pool party.

Aurora FBLA members talked to freshmen and had an annual hot dog roast.

Bellevue East recruited new members with a game of laser tag and the promise of attending NFLC annually.

Blair FBLA sponsored a picnic for new members and spoke to their local business classes about FBLA. They also walked in the Homecoming parade and decorated local business windows.



The **Boone Central FBLA Chapter** made posters and used announcements to tell members about the fun activities they had planned.

Cambridge FBLA officers talked to junior high students and had a scavenger hunt at the first meeting of the year. Students also participated in a pool party.

The **Cedar Rapids Chapter** offered ice cream cones at their first meeting. They also made use of flyers and announcements at their school.

Centennial FBLA members visited junior high students. They also sponsored an ice cream social and barbeque.

Centura FBLA talked to freshmen and showed a FBLA slideshow at their first meeting.

The **Chase County FBLA Chapter** had a picnic for all potential members with a large Subway party sandwich.

Columbus Lakeview FBLA officers helped the freshmen find their lockers on the first day of school. They also made FBLA known to junior high students with presentations every other year. The chapter hosted an all-school dance after the first home football game with admission free to members.

Columbus Scotus FBLA members were recognized with locker posters, each with its own slogan that related to a candy theme for the day. Example: "Let's Roll with FBLA" and then a tootsie roll was attached to the sign. They also spoke to classes and used announcements to talk about their fun activities.



Conestoga FBLA had an assembly at the middle and high schools to talk about FBLA. They also had a slideshow that they presented at the assembly. They hosted a potluck dinner and recognized all FBLA members with locker notes and a newsletter.

The **Cozad FBLA Chapter** had a booth at Recruitment Day at their school, when all organizations tried to recruit new members at the beginning of the school year. They also had an ice cream social and pool party.

Crete has a FBLA breakfast for all new and old members, and they put signs on the lockers of all 7th graders. They also hand out candy to people in the school who would join FBLA.

Deshler FBLA members talked to freshmen.

Diller-Odell FBLA hosted a Back-to-School Bash for old and new members and enticed members with a pool party.

Dundy County showed an FBLA membership video at the first organizational meeting, and the officers did a skit. They also spoke to the freshmen about the benefits of FBLA.

The **Elmwood-Murdock FBLA Chapter** planned their first meeting as a Fun Night. The Fun Night had games and snacks that related to a central theme. They gave points for bringing a junior high student to the Fun Night. Junior high students also helped high school FBLA members with fundraising and other activities throughout the year. Finally, the members spoke to business classes.

Fairbury sponsored a pool party to attract new members. Games, such as mini golf, cake walk, and balloon dart board game, were played and food was served.

Fillmore Central FBLA used a theme for their first meeting with the officers' attire matching the theme. Games and snacks also related to the theme. A skit was also presented at the meeting.

Freeman FBLA had an ice cream social and hamburger feed for their members.

Gibbon FBLA had a "5 Person Challenge" for all of the officers to recruit five members and to earn points.



Grand Island Senior High had a recruitment dinner at a local restaurant and a concert with live music in the school courtyard.

Humphrey Public High School gave candy at their first meeting of FBLA. They also sponsored an annual pizza feed for members.

Kearney FBLA had an activities fair where non-members could win a \$20 gift certificate.

Lakeside Central FBLA members had a pizza party and talked to freshmen.

The **Laurel-Concord FBLA Chapter** received the benefit of a trip at the end of the year, as well as candy and fun activities to entice membership.

Lewiston FBLA had a fun night at the bowling alley for all members, and they have hayrack rides and a barbeque.

Lincoln Lutheran FBLA members used locker decorations with posters and candy that related to the saying on the poster, such as "Don't be a Dum-Dum, join FBLA."

Lincoln Northeast FBLA had motivational activities at every meeting. They also had a Booster Blastoff and distributed handouts. Chapter members hung posters and flyers to promote FBLA as well.

Lyons-Decatur sponsored a picnic in the park with food, music, and sand volleyball. The local officers talked to potential members.



Meridian FBLA members had a Welcome Get-Together where the officers had games to play, and everyone ate free food.

Minden FBLA sponsored a Bring Your Own Banana for a free banana split party for all members.

Mitchell had a membership drive with posters, and they gave points for each new member that an old member brought to a meeting.

The **Neligh-Oakdale Chapter** had a Kick-off Party at the start of the year.

Omaha Northwest FBLA posted “Ask Someone Who Knows” signs all over school for a week. Officers wore “I Know” stickers, so that people at school would ask them about FBLA to peak the interest of potential members.

Omaha Roncalli Catholic FBLA hosts an ice cream and kick ball social.

Osmond sponsored parties of volleyball and kittenball. Kittenball is like softball, but the members used a bigger ball and wooden bats. They divided into teams, putting prospective new members with past members.

The **Papillion-LaVista FBLA Chapter** offered food at every meeting to recruit new members.

Pleasanton FBLA members put flyers up at their school and had a sign-up sheet, which they pass around to encourage new members.

Ponca FBLA had a slideshow and speakers at the first organizational meeting.

Ravenna had a barbeque for all classes with free food to attract new members. They also had ice skating at the Tri-City Arena for old and new members.



Raymond Central had a recruitment picnic at the lake for members.

Republican Valley FBLA has a get-together with free food and juice.

Sandhills FBLA members put on a homecoming pep rally to bring some attention to FBLA. They also speak to classes.

The **Sandy Creek FBLA Chapter** had activities all over school.

Seward puts signs up at school and had announcements and an FBLA bulletin board to keep members informed.

The new **Shelby FBLA Chapter** put up posters, gave announcements, and provided flyers about FBLA at their school.

Shickley had a pizza party at the end of the year to introduce new officers and entice new members.

South Sioux City FBLA members had a table at lunch decorated with FBLA signs and operated by an officer to answer any questions.

Stanton FBLA officers presented to 6th graders, had a pizza party, and gave out candy for joining and paying dues on time. They had a Lounge Day for all members. Their adviser makes an announcement to the school that FBLA is recruiting new members and lists some of the fun activities that they can do as members. Then, anyone who



has paid their dues and goes to the first meeting gets to participate in Lounge Day. Held during homeroom, members who qualify get permission to open the concession stand and buy candy or pop and sit in the commons area and talk. They encourage the talk to be about FBLA with the placing of posters in the “Lounge Area” that promote FBLA’s activities. Sometimes brownies or other treats are served free of charge to members in the “Lounge”. It has proven to be a successful tool to get students motivated to join FBLA.

Tri County talked to junior high students, gave an FBLA slideshow to freshmen, and gave members locker decorations to make them proud of their membership.

Twin River FBLA is known throughout their school because of word of mouth, their fun activities throughout the year, newspaper articles, school articles, and the officers speaking to classes.

The **Wahoo FBLA Chapter** drew a name for a free membership at the freshmen orientation.

Wakefield FBLA had a pizza party.

Waverly FBLA members put up posters and announcements.

Wayne High FBLA gave locker decorations to members so that they can turn them in for free candy. They also had FBLA trivia questions on announcements for a prize during FBLA Week.

Wilber-Clatonia FBLA members talked to the junior high students, provided announcements, and planned a game for the first meeting.

Wilcox-Hildreth had an ice cream party and posters to announce FBLA to the school.

Wood River FBLA had membership parties such as a Bring Your Own Banana sundae party, and members help with Husker Harvest Days.



York FBLA members speak at 8th grade orientation and provide announcements about FBLA.

The **Yutan FBLA Chapter** spoke at the 7th graders’ orientation, and the officers gave tours of school and classrooms. They also sponsored a Scavenger Hunt.