

June 4, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

The Piner High School chapter of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is intending to send five students and one advisor to attend the 2026 National Leadership Conference (NLC) in Washington DC, from July 5 to July 11, 2026. NLC is a student leadership conference designed for middle and high school students and their teacher advisors. This conference is the largest annual gathering of Family and Consumer Sciences professionals and students in the country.

The conference offers advisers a comprehensive educational experience to enhance classroom instruction through sessions with expert speakers, best-practices workshops and networking opportunities. One of our students and president-elect, Aiyanna Bustamante, will be competing on a national level against other high schools in the Culinary Arts competition. Three other students will be competing in the Food Innovations competition. A fifth student, our incoming vice president, will function as a Courtesy Corps member, and will also take a challenge test and/or compete in a skill demonstration event. She will be gathering experience and expertise to help lead our chapter next year.

These conferences are designed to instill skills for life through character development, creative and critical thinking, interpersonal communication, practical knowledge, and career preparation. On April 27, I returned from the FCCLA State Conference in Riverside, California, deeply impressed by the growth in maturity, responsibility and skills that our 16 students exhibited throughout the conference. These opportunities are truly a time for students to grow and mature on every level.

A draft At-a-Glance schedule is attached. We will hopefully fly Alaska Airlines out of San Francisco on July 5 (fares are quite high, I am waiting until they come down to book), arriving at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) at either 6 or 11 p.m., depending on the fare. We'll take the Metrorail from DCA to Gallery Place in downtown Washington, just three blocks from our hotel, the Hampton Inn. We'll check in that night and have a light supper. The next day we'll register at the convention center. One student will compete in a Skills Demonstration that morning, and take a Challenge Test. On Tuesday, July 7, four of our students compete in the Culinary Arts and Food Innovations events.

When not competing, students will attend networking events, orientation for voting delegates, and daily youth workshops and mini Red Talks held by other teens, teachers and exhibitors. They will have the opportunity to listen to national candidate speeches, and to vote for their favorite candidates. They will also view the best of the best, the winners and competitors of various competitions highlighted in a showcase.

State meetings of the California delegation will be held three times, followed by our own nightly region and chapter meetings when we will prepare for the next day's events and activities. We

will visit Capitol Hill, where a rally is planned for Family and Consumer Science education, and other iconic sites, on Thursday, July 9. For each general session and formal scheduled events, students will wear their uniform of red jacket, striped tie or ascot, black skirt or pants, and black shoes. The evening closing session will be held on Friday, July 10, after the awards ceremony.

We will depart Washington, DC, Saturday, July 11, after many days crammed with activities, workshops and new friends. A national winner would be icing on the cake!

Costs for the conference for five students and one advisor are:

- **FCCLA Registration fee** for 5 students, 1 advisor, \$170 per person - \$1,020
- **Culinary Arts fee** (Aiyanna Bustamante) - \$55
- **Food Innovations fees** (Kimathi Atkinson, Julie Tran, Henry Tang) - \$55 each
- **American Culinary Federation certification exam, Certified Foundational Cook** (Aiyanna Bustamante) - \$35
- **Roundtrip Airfare**, San Francisco to Washington, DC, July 5 to July 11, 6 seats - \$3,000 to \$3,600
- **Hampton Inn Washington DC Convention Center**, 3 king rooms, 6 nights July 5 to July 11, 2026 - \$5,114
- **Meals**, \$40 to \$50 per day, 6 people - up to \$3,000

The total is about \$12,954, paid for with a CTEIG grant and FCCLA club account. There will also be some public transit costs added to that total, and possible Ubers.

Sincerely,

Maureen McCabe
Culinary Teacher, CTE Chair, FCCLA Chapter Advisor

Attachment: NLC At-a-Glance Schedule, Field Trip Form