

TO: FBLA Advisers
FROM: Morgan Ruff, FBLA State Adviser
DATE: February 17, 2026
SUBJECT: 2026 State Leadership Conference (SLC)
 April 7-8, 2026, Little Rock



The Arkansas State Leadership Conference will be held April 7-8, 2026, in Little Rock. Join Arkansas FBLA advisers from across the state to:

- Attend exciting leadership workshops!
- Experience the thrill of campaigning for state office!
- Participate in competitive events!

Mark your calendars and plan to attend! This packet has all the information you will need to register members for the conference, run a campaign for state office, enter competitors in events, etc. Please refer to the individual handouts for additional information.

Deadlines to Remember

All Information **MUST BE RECEIVED** in Office by Deadline

| DATE | ✓ | ITEM AND INSTRUCTIONS |
|--|---|---|
| February 20 th | | Hotel reservation window opens. (Advisers are responsible for reserving rooms) |
| February 18 th -March 4 th | | Registration window open |
| March 9 th -20 th | | Online testing window Skills test will be uploaded to Blue Panda. |
| March 20 th | | All forms, projects, applications, and reports should be uploaded to Blue Panda with registration. |
| March 20 th | | State and National Officer Candidate Applications and Information sheets should be uploaded to Blue Panda with registration. |

**OPTIONAL
 CHAPTER
 PIN
 TRADING**

**CONNECT.
 COLLECT.
 TRADE.**

Optional pin trading will take place throughout SLC.

Chapters are responsible for creating and bringing their own pins.
Buttons may be traded in place of pins and may be more affordable.

Conference Overview

Conference Packet Pick Up

Packet pick up will be in **Hall III** of the Statehouse Convention Center on Monday from 7:00- 9:00 p.m. and on Tuesday from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. The adviser responsible for the delegation must come to this area to pick-up registration materials. **DO NOT BRING YOUR ENTIRE DELEGATION TO THE REGISTRATION AREA.**

Competitor Internet

Internet WILL NOT be provided for students during ANY competitive events. Please make sure that your students bring a hot spot or have an alternative way to deliver their presentations.

Name Badges

Because of security concerns, name badges **must** be worn to gain admittance to any activity. Students, advisers, and guests must all have name badges to enter workshops, general sessions, and competitive events. **It is imperative that all guests who are attending with your delegation be registered.** There will be people stationed at the doors of workshops and general sessions to check for name badges. However, caution students not to wear their name badges when leaving the conference area to go downtown or to one of the restaurants in the area.

Conference Schedule

A tentative conference schedule is included with this packet. A detailed copy of the workshop schedule and any changes in the conference schedule will be distributed closer to the conference. **Check your conference program or the conference app on the first day of the conference for the official schedule that will include any changes in times and/or room assignments.**

Advisers' Assignment Sheet

This year, advisers will sign up for times to work when you do registration in Blue Panda. You will be selecting which round is your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice. All advisers need to help to have a successful competitive events program at the state conference. If you are unable to complete your adviser assignment, it is your responsibility to find your replacement. The competitive events program is offered for the benefit of your students; therefore, your help is necessary. This year there will be an Adviser's Briefing before each competitive event time. Please be present for the briefing so that we can determine if anyone is missing. Please make sure you are on time for the briefing and that you know the competitive event where you will be working. Last year, as in years' past, there were quite a few "no shows" at assigned events, and that puts a hardship on other advisers and the students. It also causes delays in the performances and judging.

Student/Adviser Assignment

For every fifteen (15) students, there must be one adult chaperone. Chaperones may be teachers, parents, bus drivers, etc., if they accept full responsibility for fifteen (15) students. These adult chaperones should know the names and hotel room numbers of the students for which they are responsible. Advisers and adult chaperones must assume full responsibility for the conduct and activities of their delegates during the conference.

Public Etiquette

Remind your students they are ambassadors of the FBLA organization. We want to make sure that each person associated with FBLA upholds the integrity of the organization and stays respectful when shopping, eating, or traveling around Little Rock.

Conference Dress Code

Please be sure your students and parents have copies of the state dress code. We will be enforcing the [National Dress Code](#) during the conference. **Business attire** (as defined by the dress code document at the end of this packet) is required for **ALL FBLA State sessions. Students not in dress code will not be allowed on stage.**

CLARIFICATION—Many women’s two-piece suits are currently designed so that they do not require a blouse. Therefore, this will be accepted. In addition, sling-back shoes, open-toe shoes, and sleeveless dresses are accepted.

Please remind students that professional dress is very conservative. They should dress as if they are going to a job or college interview. If there is any question as to whether a dress/skirt is too short, err on the side of caution and do not wear it.

Curfew

Conference curfew is 11:00 PM. Students must be **in their own room and quiet** by curfew time, and no one is to be out of their rooms **before** 6:00 a.m. without permission from his or her adviser. Please remind your students that there are other guests in the hotels and ask them to respect other guests’ rights. Please, no running, shouting, or door slamming in the hotel hallways or rooms. Security guards will be on duty at all hotels. Students creating disturbances or creating problems in the hotel will be escorted to their adviser by security personnel. Serious infractions of the conduct rules by a student could result in the student’s parents and the school administrator being called, and the student sent home from the conference.

Hotel Information

Hotel information can be found on the Arkansas FBLA [website](#).

Competitive Event Information

Be familiar with the competitive event guidelines. Guidelines for High School events on the National [website](#) as well. There are several changes and some events have been modified this year so please read the guidelines carefully.

Online Testing

All objective tests are online and will be administered at a school site. You will need the proctor’s name, email address, and telephone number when completing the registration. The test proctor will be sent the testing tickets.

State Voting Delegate

The candidate Q & A will be from 2:30-3:15 p.m. in a breakout room in the Marriott (check app for specific location). Open to voting delegates only. Voting will be held after the Q & A is concluded. Voting delegates must show a name tag and voting delegate ribbon included in the registration packet. Voting delegates will need to bring an internet capable device to cast their vote. Results of the election will be posted outside of Toltec and on the conference app after the General Session.

State & National Officer Candidate Information

State and National Officer Candidate Applications can be found on the Arkansas FBLA [website](#). You will upload them into Blue Panda by March 20th.

Outstanding Local Adviser Application

Outstanding Local Adviser Applications can be found on the Arkansas FBLA [website](#). This application has been edited and you **no longer** have to get two letters of recommendation. You will upload them into Blue Panda by March 20th.

Scholarships and Other SLC Awards

To access available SLC Scholarships and other SLC Award information, please use this [link](#). All forms and applications should be uploaded by March 20, 2026.

- Heather Stocks Scholarship
- Hettie Lou Martin State Adviser Scholarship
- Mildred Brading - Mary Alice Elam Scholarship

Registration Information

Registration Fee

The conference registration fee is **\$50** and includes a t-shirt for FBLA attendees. Registration must be completed no later than **March 4th**. **No late registration will be accepted after March 4th**. The deadline for payments to be made is **March 20th**. All checks are made payable to **Arkansas FBLA** and should be sent to:

**Arkansas FBLA
PO Box 609
Paris, AR 72855**

Please include a copy of invoice in remittance. Fees must be paid prior to the conference for competitors to be eligible to compete. Send school checks or money orders only – **NO PERSONAL CHECKS ACCEPTED**. There will be no registration refunds.

Register conference attendees and competitors at the following website:

[Blue Panda \(gobluepanda.com\)](http://gobluepanda.com)

Special Needs Information

If you have a student that has special needs for online objective testing or performing at the conference, please include the information when you register that student.

Instructions:

- Click “Add” under “Attendees”
- Choose the attendee
- Click the box next to “Special Needs”
- Include all information that will need to be known about the accommodations for that student.
- Repeat for any other students you are registering.

Items of Note:

- ALL delegates, advisers, guests and chaperones attending the conference must pay a registration fee even though they may not be able to attend all functions. (*This is required so that we can maintain as low a cost as possible for our members. If advisers or chaperones were not charged a fee the cost per member would have to rise.*)
- Current state officers do not pay the registration fee; however, they must be listed on the registration form.
- The student/adviser ratio for all FBLA state events is 15/1.
- All competitors must pay a registration fee, even if they do not attend the conference.
- Competitors have already qualified for competition at the district conferences; **they must register for state competition by the registration deadlines.**
- Competitor ribbons will be included in chapter packets. These ribbons and name badges must be worn by competitors to gain access to their events.
- Students not meeting dress code will not be allowed on stage.**

If there is any trouble with registration, please contact:

Morgan Ruff: morgan.ruff@ade.arkansas.gov

or

Dr. Kelley Todd: ktodd1@atu.edu

Competitive Event Information

Competitor Internet

Internet **WILL NOT** be provided for students during **ANY** competitive events. Please make sure that your students bring a hot spot or have an alternative way to deliver their presentations.

Uploaded Information for Events

You will upload all files to [Blue Panda](#). Blue Panda requires different file types for different events. Please make sure to check before trying to upload documents.

When uploading your files, use the following format:

EventName_School_City_StudentLastName

Example:

ComputerGameSimulationProgramming_Central_LittleRock_Jones

We are unable to go through individual documents to determine the appropriate event. **If the document is not saved properly (see above) it will NOT be accepted.**

All submission materials

All materials listed in this packet are due by **March 20th**. There is a report check-off list for written reports included on page 15 of this packet. Check your written reports against this check-off sheet to prevent being disqualified. **Do not** return the check-off list with your reports. It is simply provided for your convenience. **The following events must be submitted to Blue Panda.**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Plan (PDF) | <input type="checkbox"/> Job Interview (one PDF with both resume and cover Letter) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Ethics (PDF) | <input type="checkbox"/> Largest Chapter Market Share Form (PDF) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service Project (PDF) | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Chapter Annual Business Report (PDF) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Applications (URL) | <input type="checkbox"/> Report of Charitable Contributions Form (PDF) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Animation (URL) | <input type="checkbox"/> Officer Applications (PDF) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Video Production (URL) | <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding Local Adviser (ZIP Folder) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Future Business Educator (PDF) | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships (refer to AR FBLA website) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Future Business Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Who's Who (refer to AR FBLA website) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Seal materials (refer AR FBLA website) | |
| (one PDF with both resume and cover Letter) | (ZIP Folder) |
| (ZIP Folder) | (ZIP Folder) |

PLEASE NOTE:

The following events are offered at the state and national levels only:

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Banking & Financial Systems | International Business |
| Broadcast Journalism | Introduction to Programming |
| Business Plan | Local Chapter Annual Business Report |
| Coding and Programming | Management Information Systems |
| Community Service Project | Mobile Application Development |
| Computer Applications | Network Design |
| Computer Game & Simulation Programming | Parliamentary Procedure |
| Data Analysis | Supply Chain Management |
| Digital Animation | Technology Support & Services |
| Digital Video Production | Website Coding & Development |
| Financial Statement Analysis | |

School-Site Skill Events

Contestants in Computer Applications are required to take two different exams: skills test and online objective.

- Failure to take both parts of the exam will disqualify the competitor.**
- The skills portion of the exam will be administered at the competitor's home school during the testing window.
- Students will save, upload, and follow the proctor's instructions.

REMINDER: Test proctors must be school employees. Advisers must furnish proctor name, email address, and phone number when registering.

- Proctors cannot be FBLA advisers, business education faculty members (senior or junior high), or student teachers.**
- Tests will be emailed directly to test proctors at the email provided. Advisers and/or members of the business education faculty are not allowed to view the test. **Advisers, make sure your test proctors receive the tests and understand that they must read and carefully follow the instructions that are sent with the tests.**

Tentative Schedule

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

FBLA Headquarters – Toltec

(Headquarters only accessible to state staff)

| | |
|---|--|
| 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Registration | Governor's Hall III, Statehouse |
| 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Candidate Rehearsal | Governor's Hall I, Statehouse |
| 8:00 a.m. - Officer Candidates Briefing | Rotunda, Statehouse |
| 8:15 a.m. - Doors Open for Opening Session | Governor's Hall I, II, & III, Statehouse |
| 9:00 a.m. - Opening Session | Governor's Hall I, II, & III, Statehouse |
| 9:30 a.m. - Judges Briefing | Wally Allen Ballroom, Statehouse |
| 8:45 a.m. - Adviser Briefing for 10:15 Events | Governor's Hall III/IV, Statehouse |
| 10:15 a.m. - Competitive Event Prelims | Governor's Hall IV, Statehouse |

******ALL COMPETITORS REPORT NO MORE THAN 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO YOUR CHECK-IN TIME!******

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Adviser Hospitality | Statehouse |
| 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Campaign Area Open | Rotunda, Statehouse |
| 10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Workshops | See schedule for locations |
| 1:15 p.m. - Judges Briefing | Wally Allen Ballroom, Statehouse |
| 1:15 p.m. - Adviser Briefing for 1:45 Events | Governor's Hall III/IV, Statehouse |
| 1:45 p.m. - Competitive Event Finals | Governor's Hall IV, Statehouse |

******ALL COMPETITORS REPORT NO MORE THAN 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO YOUR CHECK-IN TIME!******

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. Workshops | See schedule for locations |
| 2:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Workshops | See schedule for locations |
| 2:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Officer Candidate Q&A - Voting Delegates Only - Voting Session | Marriott |
| 4:15 p.m. - Judges' Briefing | Wally Allen Ballroom, Statehouse |
| 4:15 p.m. - Adviser Briefing for 4:45 Events | Governor's Hall III/IV, Statehouse |
| 4:45 p.m. - Competitive Event Finals | Governor's Hall IV, Statehouse |

******ALL COMPETITORS REPORT NO MORE THAN 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO YOUR CHECK-IN TIME!******

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| 3:30 p.m. - Heather Stocks Scholarship Interviews | Toltec, Statehouse |
| 5:00 p.m. - FBLA Foundation Meeting | Quapaw, Statehouse |
| 11:00 p.m. - Curfew for all Participants | |

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

| | |
|---|--|
| 7:30 a.m. - State Officer Rehearsal | Governor's Hall I, II, & III, Statehouse |
| **Outgoing officers and new officers | |
| 9:00 a.m. - Doors Open for Awards Session | Governor's Hall I, II, & III, Statehouse |
| 9:30 a.m. - Awards Session | Governor's Hall I, II, & III, Statehouse |

Arkansas FBLA-PBL Dress Code

Arkansas FBLA-PBL members and advisers should develop an awareness of the image one's appearance projects. The purpose of the dress code is to uphold the professional image of the association and its members and to prepare students for the business world.

Appropriate attire is **required** for all attendees—advisers, members, and guests—at all general sessions, competitive events, regional meetings, workshops, and other activities unless otherwise stated in the conference program. Conference name badges are part of this dress code and must be worn for all conference functions. For safety reasons, do not wear name badges when touring. Professional attire acceptable for official FBLA-PBL activities includes:

[Official Dress Link with Examples](#)

Males

- Business suit with collar dress shirt, and necktie or
- Sport coat, dress slacks, collar shirt, and necktie or
- Dress slacks, collar shirt, and necktie
- Banded collar shirt may be worn only if sport coat or business suit is worn
- Dress shoes and socks

Females

- Business suit with blouse or
 - Business pantsuit with blouse or
 - Skirt or dress slacks with blouse or sweater or
 - Business dress
 - Dress shoes
- Inappropriate attire, for both men and women, includes:
- Jewelry in visible body piercing, other than ears
 - Leggings with short tops/dresses (can be worn with an appropriate length dress)
 - Denim or chambray fabric clothing of any kind, overalls, shorts, skorts, stretch or stirrup pants, exercise or bike shorts
 - Backless, see-through, tight-fitting, spaghetti straps, strapless, extremely short, or low-cut blouses/tops/dresses/skirts
 - T-shirts, Lycra™, spandex, midriff tops, tank tops, bathing suits
 - Sandals, athletic shoes, industrial work shoes, hiking boots, bare feet, or over-the-knee-boots, Ugg like boots, lace-up loafers (including Sperry type shoes), canvas shoes of any type, work boots
 - Athletic wear
 - Hats or flannel fabric clothing
 - Bolo ties
 - Visible foundation garments

CLARIFICATION—Many women's two-piece suits are currently designed so that they do not require a blouse. Therefore, this will be accepted. In addition, sling-back shoes, open-toe shoes, and sleeveless dresses are accepted.