

Sulphur Bluff sending 2 FCCLA students to state in STAR events, 9 in FCSA categories

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At least two Sulphur Bluff students placed high enough in STAR events at the Region III Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Conference held earlier this month in Los Colinas to advance their projects to the state contest April 10-12 in Corpus Christi. Nine others will compete in Family and Consumer Sciences Assessments at state.

Students Taking Action with Recognition, or STAR events, are “competitive events in which members are recognized for proficiency and achievement in chapter and individual projects, leadership skills and career preparation, STAR Events offer individual skill development and application of learning” through cooperative, individualized and competitive activities, according to the state FCCLA website (www.texasfccla.org).



Sarah Williams won first place honors Feb. 28-March 1 at region, advancing to state in the Recycle and Redesign STAR event competition for the second consecutive year.

Last year, Williams made an outfit made of comic strips, with several shown overlapping at the bottom to give the a ruffle effect and accessorized with a purple belt with a red buckle with the recycle symbol on it.

This year, Williams won with a “It’s All in the Bag,” a dress she constructed out of recycled materials — trash bags and discarded plastic bottles. She used black with silver trim as the bodice of the dress, plus four layers of green ruffles for the skirt. She used flowers made from plastic bottles as accessories

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This will also mark the second year Casey Gore has qualified for state in the fashion construction contest. Last weekend, Gore won second place honors in with a formal dress with pleated skirt, set-in sleeves, pockets and many other details.

Last year, he advanced to state after winning first place with a formal high-low satin gown he constructed, complete with sweetheart top and hand-sewn crystal beading and crushed velvet cape with hood, inside pockets, a shanked Swarovski crystal clasp and satin lining. Gore's gown last year also captured first place at state, qualifying him to compete at the national level. However, he was unable to attend the national conference because he was selected to participate in FCCLA's Japanese Exchange Program, which started during the national convention.



Gore will also be speaking at the Texas FCCLA Convention in April. He will share with an audience of more than 3,000 FCCLA members his experiences as part of the FCCLA-sponsored Japanese exchange program. He was one of only 14 students selected to spend six weeks with a host family in Japan last summer.

Also competing at the regional convention in STAR Events were Katelyn McDonald, Kadee Anderson and Halie Waid. McDonald competed in the life events competition; she planned her graduation party. Kadee Anderson and Haley Waid competed in the STAR event Illustrated Talk "Lets Start a Revolution" contest, which addresses hunger and feeding the hungry in Texas. Anderson and Waid have donated, collected donations, volunteered multiple times and headed up a local canned food drive. While the girls' projects earned high scores, they did not advance to state.

However, all three girls will be among the nine FCCLA members from the Bluff who will be competing at state in Family and Consumer Sciences Assessments.

"FCSAs are objective tests given to FCCLA members at fall leadership training, regional FCCLA meetings and at the state FCCLA meeting. Students may take the test at all meeting, but may only take one test at each. All participants will receive a participation certificate. Score between 85-100 and receive a gold medal, 84-70 a silver medal and 55-69 a bronze medal," according to the state FCCLA website.

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FCSA test topics include child development, consumer math, creed, mission and purpose, culinary arts, education and training, etiquette, fashion design, hospitality, interior design, job interview, parliamentary procedure and Step One.

At region, Katelyn Allen, Yesenia Castillo and Cheyenne Bryant tested in the FCSA category creed mission purposes; Sydney Evans, Judy Brown and Angie Alvarez tested in job interview; and Kendra Jock and Skylar Evans tested in etiquette at region.

The SB group that will compete in FCSAs at state includes McDonald, Anderson, Waid, Kendra Jock, Yesenia Castillo, Skylar Evans, Angie Alvarez, Judy Brown and Sydney Evans. Cheyenne Bryant received a gold on her FCSA test, but will not compete at state.