



LifeSmarts
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SmartStart



March SmartStart

Second-Hand Fashion and Teens

A surging trend amongst today's teens is thrifting. Whether browsing the racks of a thrift store for clothing or other intriguing finds, Generation Z has become more and more interested in second-hand fashion.

Thrifting has gained popularity due to convenience and affordability. Second-hand retailers provide a huge inventory of pieces to choose from, allowing teens to shop depending on their preferred style. Typically, several thrift stores are in any given area, making shopping for vintage clothing more accessible than traveling to other retail stores.

Since most teenagers have no steady income, buying second-hand is much more affordable than firsthand clothing. Teens can find quality second-hand items that they like and want to wear at a fraction of the cost.

Today's teenagers are environmentally conscious. The fashion industry is responsible for 10% of global carbon emissions and one-fifth of the 300 million tons of plastic produced globally each year. Clothing is rarely recycled, and most purchased clothing eventually ends up in a landfill. Concerned with the condition of the environment, teens make a point of purchasing used clothing to avoid contributing to the cycle.

Teens find thrifting exciting because they get to take home unique items that have a history behind them. When they purchase an item of clothing from a thrift store, they can find one-of-a-kind fashion that no one else will have. This proves ideal for those who want to express their individuality and identity through their clothing preferences.

Thrifting has quickly made a comeback within the current generation of teenagers. Whether it has to do with convenience, affordability, environmental concerns, uniqueness, sociality, or simply as a means by which to fill time, buying second hand is a trend that continues to grow. Be sure to check out our new [StudySmart Guide](#) on second-hand fashion for more information on this important trend.



Pre-order our NEW LifeSmarts Quest Game

Embark on a quest to win with the new LifeSmarts Quest board game! The new, fun, and educational game, LifeSmarts Quest, will jump-start your LifeSmarts experience by providing a fun atmosphere complete with gameboard, game pieces, and hundreds of LifeSmarts questions to complement the curriculum and enhance classroom instruction. LifeSmarts Quest provides teens with the skills and knowledge they need to evaluate risks and opportunities and make informed decisions in the marketplace in five core topics: Health & Safety, Personal Finance, Consumer Rights & Responsibilities, Technology & Workforce Development, and Environment. *LifeSmarts Quest* provides a useful, engaging tool that educators can use to implement LifeSmarts with their teams

and classrooms.

The game includes critical thinking questions, LifeSmarts competition questions, and team and individual questions.

Don't miss out! To reserve your **free** copy of LifeSmarts Quest, first be sure you are registered as a coach at LifeSmarts.org. Then, fill out the form [here](#). Games will be mailed to you in May or early June.

Thanks to the Sears Consumer Protection and Education Fund for underwriting the LifeSmarts Quest game.

LifeSparks Award Applications Due Soon

Put all your LifeSmarts accomplishments to work by applying for the new LifeSmarts LifeSparks awards. The LifeSmarts LifeSparks Award recognizes exemplary LifeSmarts Teams. All LifeSmarts teams are invited to participate in this annual recognition program. Teams will be honored for robust participation, demonstrating exceptional knowledge in all LifeSmarts topics, and going above and beyond in the community. All LifeSmarts teams that have gained 35 credits throughout the 2024-25 program year will be recognized with this year's LifeSmarts LifeSparks Awards. And a few lucky teams will win special prizes! Teams do not have to compete in either the Varsity or Junior Varsity National LifeSmarts Championships to earn this honor. Teams will use the LifeSparks scorecard to map out their winning strategy to reach 30 credits by **March 31, 2025**, and apply for the award by the **April 11, 2025**, deadline. Visit this [link](#) for additional information, the points scorecard, and the official application. We can't wait for your team to shine and earn their LifeSparks Award!



COMPETE

Win recognition, prizes, and
the opportunity to advance

Congratulations to these Varsity State, Wild Card, and Sweepstakes LifeSmarts Champions!

Alabama - Francis Marion School 1 FBLA

Arizona - Altitude 10.0

Arkansas - Benton County 4-H, Arkansas 4-H

Colorado - Larimer County 4-H Varsity, Colorado 4-H

Connecticut - Crosby Bulldogs, Crosby High School

DC - SWW 1, School Without Walls

Delaware - Country Clovers Varsity Team, Delaware 4-H

Florida - Northview 4-H Varsity Team, Florida 4-H

Georgia - Floyd County 4-H, Georgia 4-H

Hawaii - Iolani Raiders, Iolani High School

Idaho - Tater Titans,

Illinois - West Chicago High School

Indiana - Franklin County High School

Kansas - HHS Cardinals, Hoisington High School

Kentucky - Garrard County 4-H Varsity Team, Kentucky 4-H

Louisiana - West Feliciana High School

Michigan - Fenton High School

Minnesota - LCWM Blue, Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial

Mississippi - 2024 Puckett High School FCCLA Team 1

Missouri - Valley Park FCCLA

Nebraska - Elmwood Murdock Varsity

New Jersey - S&P 5 Knights FBLA

North Carolina - Southern Alamance FCCLA

North Dakota - Jamestown High School Blue

Ohio - Pirate's Booty, Ohio Hi-Point BPA

Oklahoma - Pryor Tigers Varsity FCCLA

Pennsylvania - Cumberland Valley High School Varsity

Rhode Island - Barrington High School

South Carolina - Irmo Stingers

Tennessee - Madison County 4-H Team A

Texas - Bartlett FCCLA Varsity

Utah - The Utah Quizards, Utah 4-H

Virginia - Econoponax, Massaponax High School

Washington - Columbia Blue, West Valley High School

West Virginia - LifeSmarts for Life

Wisconsin - Pewaukee Pirates

Varsity Wild Card 1 - Tift County 4-H, Georgia 4-H

Varsity Wild Card 2 - North East High School - Pennsylvania

Varsity Wild Card 3 - Hill Country Wagon Wheels 4-H, Texas 4-H

Varsity Wild Card 4 - Cobb County 4-H Varsity Bananas, Georgia 4-H

Varsity Wild Card 5 - Lamb County 4-H Varsity, Texas 4-H

Varsity Wild Card 6 - Acadiana High School, Louisiana

Varsity Wild Card 7 - Oconto High School, Wisconsin

Varsity Wild Card 8 - Pikes Peak Online School & Colorado Preparatory Academy FBLA, CO

Varsity Wild Card 9 - Calhan High School FCCLA, Colorado

Varsity Wild Card 10 - Sunshine Christian Academy, Kansas

Sweepstakes 1 - Gordon County 4-H, Georgia 4-H

Sweepstakes 2 - The Money Hounds, Litchville-Marion High School, ND

Junior Varsity State LifeSmarts Champions

Junior Varsity State Champions will be competing in our 2nd Virtual Junior Varsity National LifeSmarts Championship in May! Teams are currently completing their state competitions. There is still time to compete if your state does not yet have a State Junior Varsity Champion. Contact [LifeSmarts](#) if you have any questions or would like additional information.

February TeamSmarts Capstone Quiz Winners

Thanks to all the participants in the February TeamSmarts Capstone Quiz! Congrats to these TeamSmarts Challenge winners! Each winning team receives a \$100 cash prize.

Varsity: Oconto LifeSmarts, Oconto High School, WI

4-H: Northview Varsity Team 1, Northview 4-H Club, Pensacola, FL, Florida 4-H

BPA: LT BPA Team 3, Lebanon Trails High School BPA, Frisco, TX

FCCLA: Pryor Tigers FCCLA, Pryor High School, Oklahoma

SkillsUSA: Monmouth Wall, Communications High School, New Jersey



Congratulations to the BPA Personal Finance Challenge Winner!

Kudos to the 50 BPA Teams who completed the LifeSmarts BPA Personal Finance

Challenge during the month of February!

Congratulations to our high-scoring team, which earns a \$100 cash prize,

Team *Darsh Zibbu from Lebanon Trails High School BPA, Frisco, Texas!*

Want to find out more about how BPA teams can participate in LifeSmarts? Visit the [LifeSmarts BPA page](#).

LifeSmarts FBLA Spring Challenge results

Thanks to all the terrific FBLA teams who competed in the LifeSmarts FBLA Spring Challenge! We are pleased to share the twelve qualifying teams:

New Jersey: Montgomery_FBLA_Panchal_Mohan

Georgia: AAI_AkarshM_Arn timerM

Illinois: Normal_Beeram_Parsi

North Carolina: Anna Nisbett and Zofia Silver

Arkansas: WRMS FBLA

Virginia: Robinson FBLA: Batman & Robin(son)

Tennessee: Innovation Academy - Finance

South Carolina: Berkeley High FBLA Team 3_Cami_Yuxi

California: SharksFBLA

Missouri: RepMo FBLA Spring 25

North Dakota: The Flaming Marshmallows

Wisconsin: Warriors 2025

Winners from Fall and Spring Challenges and the two winners from the FBLA Fall Conference are invited to compete in the LifeSmarts FBLA Challenge finals at NLC in Anaheim on June 30th. Reach out to [us](#) with questions. We look forward to meeting all the teams in the LifeSmarts FBLA Challenge finals and wish good luck to each of the teams and their fantastic FBLA advisers!



COMMUNICATE

Use service-learning projects to share consumer knowledge in schools, clubs, and communities

The Deadline is March 15 for the LifeSmarts community service senior scholarship

Coaches, please nominate a stand-out graduating LifeSmarts senior for the [Sarah Weinberg LifeSmarts Memorial Scholarship](#). This scholarship is awarded annually to a LifeSmarts participant who demonstrates a commitment to volunteer service work as Sarah did. Scholarship applications are due March 15. The winner does not have to be competing in the National LifeSmarts Championship. One \$750 scholarship will be awarded. Nominate a student [here](#).

NEW! LifeSmarts Merch

You don't have to be competing in a state or national LifeSmarts Championship to get your LifeSmarts merch! Visit our new [LifeSmarts](#) online store! All items will be mailed directly to you. Help promote LifeSmarts and reward your LifeSmarts teams by purchasing a t-shirt, tote bag, or more!

Volunteer at the National LifeSmarts Championship in Chicago

We need volunteers on April 25th and 26th for the National LifeSmarts Championship in Chicago. We encourage LifeSmarts alumni, supporters, members, former coaches, and current and former state coordinators to make plans to join us. Parents of competitors are not able to serve in this role. Have friends and colleagues in the Chicago area who would like to help? Please share this information with them. To sign up, visit [here](#).

Dates to remember this month:

Teams attending Nationals should adhere to deadlines in the National Championship Coach memo and the weekly Chicago ChitChat e-news.

March 15: [Sarah Weinberg Scholarship nominations are due](#)

March 15: National LifeSmarts Championship Team [registrations are due](#)

March 17: National LifeSmarts Championship [Volunteer registration is due](#)

Have a great month, everyone! Stay up to date with the latest by following us on social media.

Until next month

The LifeSmarts Team

[Contact us with any questions!](#)



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