

Constitution of the New Jersey Association of SkillsUSA

ARTICLE I – NAME

The official name of this organization shall be New Jersey SkillsUSA

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES

The Purposes of this Association are:

- *To provide leadership in a common bond, without regard to race, creed, or national origin, full time students enrolled in classes with vocational trade and industrial objectives.*
- *To provide leadership for local clubs.*
- *To provide a clearing house for information and activities.*
- *To provide recognition and prestige through association of local clubs.*
- *To provide leadership abilities through participation in educational, vocational, civic, recreational, and social activities.*
- *To foster a deep respect for the DIGNITY OF WORK.*
- *To assist students in establishing realistic vocational goals.*
- *To help students attain a purposeful life.*
- *To create enthusiasm for learning.*
- *To promote high standards in trade ethics, workmanship, scholarship, and safety.*
- *To develop the ability of students to plan together, organize and carry out worthy activities and projects through the use of the democratic progress.*
- *To foster a wholesome understanding of the functions of labor and management organizations and a recognition of their mutual interdependence.*
- *To create among students, faculty members, patrons of the school and persons in industry a sincere interest in and esteem for trade and industrial education.*
- *To develop patriotism through a knowledge of our Nation's heritage and the practice of DEMOCRACY.*

ARTICLE III

SYMBOLISM, MOTTO, PLEDGE, COLORS AND CREED

Section 1. THE SYMBOLISM OF THE SKILLSUSA EMBLEM:

THE SHIELD REPRESENTS PARTIOTISM.

The shield denotes belief in democracy, liberty and the American way of life.

THE TORCH REPRESENTS KNOWLEDGE.

The flaming torch reflects the light of knowledge, which dispels the darkness of ignorance. In the light of the torch, progress will be made toward the vocational goals of the individual.

THE ORBITAL CIRCLES REPRESENT TECHNOLOGY.

The circles represent the challenge of modern technology and the training needed to accept and master new technical frontiers and the need for continuous education.

THE GEAR REPRESENTS THE INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY.

The gear, symbolic of the industrial society, denotes the interdependence and cooperation of the individual working together with labor and management for the betterment of mankind.

THE HANDS REPRESENT THE INDIVIDUAL.

The hands portray a search for knowledge and the desire to acquire a skill. In the process of attaining knowledge and skill, we will develop a respect for the dignity of work and become productive and responsible citizens.

Section 2.

MOTO

Preparing for Leadership in the World of Work.

Section 3.

THE PLEDGE

UPON MY HONOR, I PLEDGE

- *To prepare myself by diligent study and ardent practice to become a worker whose services will be recognized as honorable by my employer and fellow workers.*
- *To base my expectations of reward upon the solid foundation of service.*
- *To honor and respect my vocation in such a way as to bring repute to myself.*
- *And further, to spare no effort in upholding the ideals of the SkillsUSA*

Section 4.

COLORS

The colors, red, white, blue and gold represent the National organization of SkillsUSA. Red and White represent the individual states and the clubs; blue represents the common union of the states and the clubs; gold represents the individual, the most important element of the organization.

Section 5.

CREED

I BELIEVE IN THE DIGNITY OF WORK.

I hold that society has advanced to its present culture through the intelligent use of the workers hands and mind. I will maintain a feeling of humbleness for the knowledge and skills that I receive from professionals, and I will conduct myself with dignity in the work I do.

I BELIEVE IN THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE.

I know our culture of today is the result of freedom of action and opportunities won by the founders of our American republic, and I will uphold their ideals.

I BELIEVE IN EDUCATION.

I will endeavor to make the best use of knowledge, skills and experience that I learn in school in order that I may be a better worker in my chosen occupation and a better citizen in my community. To this end, I will continue my learning now and in the future.

I BELIEVE IN FAIR PLAY.

I will, through honesty and fair play, respect the rights of others. I will always conduct myself in the manner of the best professionals in my occupation, and treat those with whom I work, as I would like to be treated.

I BELIEVE SATISFACTION IS ACHIEVED BY GOOD WORK.

I feel that compensation and personal satisfaction received for my work and services will be in proportion to my creative and productive ability.

ARTICLE IV – ORGANIZATION

Section 1. *The New Jersey Association of SkillsUSA is an Association of local chapters of the State of New Jersey operation in accordance with a charter granted by National SkillsUSA*

Section 2. *The Administration of New Jersey SkillsUSA shall be vested in the State Executive Council composed of State Association Officers and the State Advisor. Officers shall be elected for a term of one year.*

Section 3. *Charters shall be issued to local clubs by the Executive Council of New Jersey Association of SkillsUSA*

Section 4. A State Advisory Council composed of leaders from education, Business, and Labor shall be appointed by the State Advisor to provide counsel, advice, and assistance to the State Association in carrying out its functions. Equal representation shall be given to Business and Labor

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership of the New Jersey Association of the SkillsUSA shall consist of the total eligible members of the chartered local chapters and members shall hold the same membership status as in their respective local club.

Section 2. A local club must have at least 10 members and all members of the State Association members must be members of the National Organization to qualify for a charter.

Section 3. Each local club and the State Association shall be open for membership to all students regardless of race, color, creed, sex, or national origin.

Section 4. Classes of membership, which will be recognized by the New Jersey Association of SkillsUSA, are:

- a. Active Membership: Full-time preparatory students enrolled in secondary or post-secondary vocational courses in trade, industrial and technical education programs meeting the requirements of the State Plan for Vocational Education. ONLY ACTIVE MEMBERS as defined in Article V may participate as Voting Delegates to State and /or National Leadership Conferences. ONLY ACTIVE MEMBERS are eligible to compete in the New Jersey SkillsUSA or the SkillsUSA Championships Program.*

- b. Professional membership: Persons associated with or participating in the professional development of SkillsUSA as approved by the State Association. Such members shall include Club Advisors, Teachers-Educators and Supervisors. Professional members will pay dues as established by SkillsUSA, but professional members will be ineligible to: serve as National Voting Delegates, hold nation office, or otherwise represent the State Association in National SkillsUSA.*

- c. *Associate membership: Cooperative employers and/or training station sponsors, advisory council members and lay person associated with and contributing to the improvement and development of the organization and vocational trade and industrial education. They are not eligible to hold office or vote.*
- d. *Associate Membership: Cooperative employers and/or training station sponsors, advisory council members and lay person associated with and contributing to the improvement and development of the organization and vocational trade and industrial education. They are not eligible to hold office or vote.*
- e. *Alumni Members: Former active members who have legitimately separated from the local schools, in good standing with their chapter and who have paid their State and Nation Membership dues may maintain their membership in SkillsUSA. Alumni members have all the rights and privileges of active members except the right to vote, to hold elective offices, and to participate in regional, state and national SkillsUSA contests. Auxiliary Alumni membership is offered to interested others.*
- f. *Honorary Life Members: Individuals who have made significant contributions to the development of SKILLSUSA and vocational trade and industrial education whose membership has been approved by the Executive Council of the State Association. Such members shall not require payment of national dues.*

Section 5. A membership year shall be from September 1 through August 31 inclusive.

ARTICLE VI – VOTING DELEGATES

Section 1. The Active SkillsUSA member shall exercise his/her franchise through Voting Delegates at State and National meetings.

Section 2. Each club shall elect delegates who shall be considered Voting Delegates at the State Leadership Conference. The number of delegates shall be determined as provided in the Bylaws.

Section 3. The number of national Voting Delegates shall be variable with the directives of the National SkillsUSA Constitution. The number of Alternate National Voting Delegates shall be the same as the number of delegates. The President of the State Association is automatically a Voting Delegate. The selection National Voting Delegates shall be made according to the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

- Section 1. State Leadership Conference shall be held each year and this shall serve as the official annual meeting of the New Jersey Association of SkillsUSA.*
- Section 2. The State Executive council shall be empowered to call special meetings through the State Advisor.*

ARTIVLE VIII – OFFICERS

- Section 1. The Officers of the New Jersey Association of SkillsUSA shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Historian, Central Regional President, Central Regional Vice President, Northern Regional President, Northern Regional Vice President, Southern Regional President, Southern Regional Vice President, and Reporter. The Officers of the New Jersey Association of SkillsUSA shall be known as the Executive Council.*
- Section 2. The duties of the officers shall be as specified in the Bylaws.*
- Section 3. A candidate for State Office must complete the procedures for candidacy as set forth by the State Executive Council. A candidate for State Office must have one or more years remaining in high school. Must be regularly enrolled a trade, industrial, or technical education program and be an active member in the respective SkillsUSA chapter.*

Executive Council Procedure

- a. Must Submit resume with your application by date specified.*
- b. Complete officer candidate written test with an 85% or above.*
- c. Submit to an interview by a specified Team consisting of no less than (5) individuals, including the immediate past president, current seated president, SkillsUSA Team Managers and two assigned individuals with the approval of the SkillsUSA State Director.*
- d. Sign a form indicating fairness in the procedures above.*
- e. Candidates not meeting Article VIII Section 3 Executive Council Procedures, Section 4, Section 6, and Section 7, will be notified in writing the reason(s) for non-acceptance as a candidate for NJ SkillsUSA State Office.*

- Section 4. Not more than two (2) SkillsUSA members from any one independent school enrolled in the New Jersey Association of SkillsUSA may hold state office for any one school year. A local SkillsUSA Club may run two (2) candidates for election to state office at the annual State Leadership Conference.*
- Section 5. All State Officers shall be election by a majority vote of the voting delegates at the annual State Leadership Conference as set forth in the Bylaws, and shall assume office July, 1 of the same year.*
- Section 6. Officers shall serve for a term of one year.*
- Section 7. An individual may not be permitted to hold both a local and state office, but state officers may serve as ex-officers members of the local club executive council.*
- Section 8. Vacancies in State Office*
- a. A vacancy in the office of state president shall automatically be filled by the state vice president. A vacancy in the office of the state Vice president shall be filled by the regional vice president in the same region from which state vice president was elected.*
 - b. A vacancy in a state officer other than president or vice president shall be filled by appointment by the State Executive Council of member preferably from the same region from which the vacating officer came.*
- Section 9. No individual in the New Jersey Association of SkillsUSA is eligible to serve as the elected State President for more than two consecutive years.*

ARTICLE IX – DUES

- Section 1. State dues shall be determined as set forth in the Bylaws and shall be payable before November 1st. The amount which has been set forth by National SkillsUSA,as National dues shall be forwarded with State dues to National SkillsUSA.*
- Section 2. Compliance with Section 2 constitutes members in the New Jersey Association of SkillsUSA and entitles members to all the rights and privileges of membership.*

ARTICLE X – Audit

The Accounts of the State Association shall be reviewed each year by an auditor paid for by the state association, at the close of the fiscal year, upon approval of the expenditure by the Executive Council.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

- Section 1.** *This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the official voting Delegates present at any annual State Leadership Conference.*
- Section 2.** *Only such amendments shall be made as are in keeping with the purposes in Article II of the Constitution.*

ARTICLE XII – RULES, REGULATION, AND BY-LAWS

- Section 1.** *Such rules, regulations and by-laws as are deemed necessary for the proper conduct of this organization shall be adopted.*
- Section 2.** *No rules, regulations, or by-laws shall be adopted which are contrary to this Constitution.*
- Section 3.** *In all meetings, Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall serve as standard procedure.*