

New Jersey SkillsUSA Friday Flash 4/28/23

Message from the Desk of the State Director

Good afternoon. I would like to thank everyone for doing a great job in bringing NJ SkillsUSA back to where it belongs: ON TOP! Thank you for helping make this happen! Advisors: we are in need of candidates to run for State Office positions, so please encourage your student leaders to submit their applications by Monday, May 8th. We also need your Kickoff registrations submitted ASAP. These documents can be found on our website, or below:

State Officer Application link:

https://www.nj-skillsusa.org/_files/ugd/de360a_15fc5844f465405a818abef8e8070327.pdf

Kickoff to Atlanta link:

https://www.nj-skillsusa.org/_files/ugd/9fa9c9_39349c564f25470eac9f52ef02a8981e.pdf

We are working on our schedule for next year and we are almost done. There will be some changes and I assure you, all changes are for the good of New Jersey SkillsUSA. Have a great weekend!

Ralph Starace

Troubleshooting With Sheila!

Important Info for the First Time National Conference Advisor

- **National Technical Standards**
Prepare your National Competitors for their Atlanta experience by giving them a copy of the 2022-23 National Technical Standards for their contest. Procedures and Contest Details that were in effect for the NJ State Event may not be the same for the national contests. Contact our office if you need help finding that info for your students.
- **National Contest Updates**
Some of the National Events offer additional contest info to the Technical Standards. Be sure your students and instructors are checking the posted updates for their contests. They can be found at : <https://www.skillsusa.org/competitions/skillsusa-championships/contest-updates/>
- **Clothing Requirements**
Each of the National Technical Standards specify the clothing requirement for each event. The requirements are very specific and in many cases require purchase of official SkillsUSA logo apparel. Scoring Point deductions will result for competitors who do not follow the specified apparel. Clothing can be ordered in advance at <https://skillsusastore.org/> There will also be a pop-up SkillsUSA store at the conference site if you need items once you get to Atlanta.
- **Professional Development Test Study Guide**
National competitors that are required to take the professional development test, will complete the test online prior to the National Leadership and Skills Conference. Dates for the online testing window will be published here by May 1. They can prepare for the state and national Professional Development tests with this study guide. [Download the guide.](#)

- **Resume Requirement**

All national competitors must create a one-page resume to submit online unless otherwise specified in their competition's technical standards. On May 1, 2023, the link for resume submission will be published. At that point, SkillsUSA national competitors should submit their resume by June 1, 2023. Failure to do so will result in a 10-point penalty. Resume must be saved as a PDF file type using file name format of "Last Name_First Name." For example, "Amanda Smith" would save her resume as Smith_Amanda. If you need assistance with saving your file as a PDF, visit [the Adobe website](#) for more information.

- **Competition Scorecards**

Previously used national contest scorecards are available to view as a *reference only* with the understanding that this year's current scorecards will likely have changes. [They are available here as a download.](#)

- **Questions? Call our office 908 526-8900 X 7249**

News from the National Office (*Check out some of these new and exciting opportunities for your students!*)

Aerotek Scholarship Opportunity Closes April 30

SkillsUSA has partnered with [Aerotek](#) to create the "Make Your Mark" scholarship, which will deliver multiple awards of up to \$5,000 to qualified applicants. SkillsUSA members must be high school seniors or college/postsecondary students planning to attend a community college, technical college, certificate program or apprenticeship next year in one of these career pathways: Arts, A/V and Communications (Telecommunications Cabling only); Architecture & Construction; Information Technology; Manufacturing; STEM (Electronics Technology or Industrial Engineering Technology only); and Transportation. [Learn more online](#) and apply by April 30. Questions? email Megan Flinn.

Data Dive: Understanding "The SkillsUSA Advantage"

Everyone is welcome! Join other SkillsUSA partners and supporters on May 10 at 3 p.m. ET for a webinar on ["The SkillsUSA Advantage"](#) report and learn how SkillsUSA experiences help create purpose, passion and skill in every student. SkillsUSA Executive Director Chelle Travis and Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Ricardo Romanillos will review data from "The SkillsUSA Advantage" report recently released by the Student Research Foundation and discuss how SkillsUSA members across all groups consistently outperform peers who are not enrolled in career and technical student organizations (CTSOs). SkillsUSA national officer Lili Valencia will also share her personal perspective on how participation in SkillsUSA and work-based experiences have informed her future. [Register now](#), and we encourage you to share this invitation with your school and state partners and supporters. For questions, contact Ricardo Romanillos.

Contest to Promote the "Water Workforce"

To celebrate the 2023 Earth Day on April 22 and Water Week on April 23-29, the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs (IWGYP) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are partnering on a digital activation/contest to raise awareness of water use and water careers among youth ages 13-24. To enter, students need to explain the ways they rely on water on a daily basis OR why they would consider a career in the "water workforce." Submissions — accepted until May 8 — can be in the form of a video,

essay, photos or other artwork. Three winners will each receive a \$100 Amazon gift card. [Visit the Youth Engaged 4 Change website](#) for full information.

The SkillsUSA Store — Official SkillsUSA Competition Apparel

With SkillsUSA competition season in full swing, visit the SkillsUSA Store and set yourself up for success! We have all of your SkillsUSA competition attire needs, from the newly redesigned SkillsUSA blazer and official white polo to work uniforms, safety goggles and everything else your event requires

SkillsUSA Activate Registration Now Open for Student Leaders

Registration is now open [for SkillsUSA Activate](#), a two-and-a-half-day, high-energy leadership conference offered to all middle school and high school SkillsUSA student members ready to take their leadership to the next level. The conference focuses on developing SkillsUSA Framework skills for use in achieving the SkillsUSA Program of Work, including Leadership; Planning, Organizing and Management; and Teamwork. Activate will be held June 17-19 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta prior to the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference, and advisors should register their members now. The registration deadline is May 16. For questions, contact Taryn Erminio.

Applications Open for Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Travel Scholarships

In partnership with Harbor Freight Tools for Schools, SkillsUSA has a travel scholarship opportunity for SkillsUSA high school members in select trades who are competing in the 2023 SkillsUSA Championships. Eligible members can apply to receive up to \$1,500 to assist in attending the 2023 National Leadership & Skills Conference. [Applications will be accepted](#) through May 22. Recipients will be announced on May 25.

Press Release Template for State Conference Participants

The [SkillsUSA Advocacy site](#) has a press release template to help highlight state conference competition results with your local or state media. Parents, instructors or students can send these emails to newspapers or TV stations in your area and is a great assignment for school or state reporters. For questions, email Jane Short.