

Jersey SkillsUSA Friday Flash 4/19/24

Message from the Desk of the State Director

I hope you all had a great week! We are starting to get the results of the competitions that already took place. When reading them, please keep in mind that they are done in alphabetical order by school.

Invoices

March 15th has come and gone, and we still have many schools who have not paid their invoices. Please get them in asap, as we have many upcoming bills to pay soon.

Membership

Congratulations to NJ SkillsUSA! We have officially surpassed last year's membership by 44 members. Please welcome Trenton Central High School as our newest TPP member.

Schedule for Next Year

I am working on next year's schedule and there will be a few changes. We will be starting competitions in mid March next year. We only have two weekends in April. Easter falls on the 20th so we will have competitions on April 5th and the 26th which will also be the date for the Awards Ceremony. This is all tentative and could possibly change, but we will keep you informed of any updates.

WLTI

WLTI information will be forthcoming in the upcoming weeks.

State Officer Applications

NJ State Office Applications are due to our office by May 8th. Please let our office know of any students who are interested!

National Delegates

If you have any student interested in being a National Delegate please send their names to our office.

We would like to say thank you to the judges of Welding Fabrication who are taking care of lunches for all participants of the Welding Fab competition. Also thank you to Cumberland for letting us hold this contest with such short notice. Thank you to everyone for all that you do!

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

Last Chance to Register for Signing Day!

Are you ready to celebrate SkillsUSA National Signing Day (NSD) on May 7 along with thousands of others across America? If your chapter hasn't registered yet, [watch this video from SkillsUSA Executive Director Chelle Travis](#) for some last-minute inspiration. Hurry, though: Registration closes on April 23! Learn more about Signing Day and register at signingday.skillsusa.org. Remember, all registered students will receive a personal letter of congratulations from Chelle Travis and SkillsUSA Board President Maureen Tholen, vice president of sustainability at 3M. It will be a great addition to a student's portfolio! Make sure your chapter takes its rightful place under this national spotlight on the skilled trades and our future skilled professionals. National Signing Day is sponsored by the Lowe's Foundation, State Farm and Constellation Energy. For Signing Day shirts, baseball caps and event items, visit the SkillsUSA Store for the exclusive [National Signing Day collection](#).

Get Ready for Skills Jam 2024!

The 2023 Skills Jam cast and docu-series was amazing! Now, we're ready to do it again, bigger and even better, with Skills Jam 2024! The new cast? That could be you! In fact, your skills are your audition for the show. Advisors, [please share this flyer](#) with your students, providing them with all the info they'll need to submit great content of their own that could land them on the next season of Skills Jam! If you missed them, you can still [catch last season's Skills Jam episodes on YouTube](#). The tide is turning when it comes to the perception of the skilled trades across the nation. Don't miss this great opportunity to build that momentum for your program and your students!

SkillsUSA Scholarship Application Deadlines Coming Soon

Exploring and applying for SkillsUSA scholarships is an easy process. SkillsUSA student members can review eligibility criteria, scholarship amounts and applications in one location: [SkillsUSA Scholarship Application Hub](#). Please encourage your SkillsUSA students to apply and take advantage of these incredible scholarships!

Scholarship closing on May 6:

2024 Robert Flint Student Leadership Development Scholarship for Leverage Conference

NLSC travel scholarship closing on May 22:

Harbor Freight Tools for Schools (applicants can receive up to \$1,500 to attend the 2024 National Leadership & Skills Conference)

Closing May 31:

The Bob Westphal Memorial Scholarship

To learn more about these scholarships and learn tips on how to submit a quality application, visit the [SkillsUSA Scholarships and Grants webpage](#). If you have questions, contact Jordan Sewell.

Spotlight Your Community During SkillsUSA National Week of Service

SkillsUSA invites chapters to conduct and promote a local community service project during the SkillsUSA [National Week of Service](#), May 5-11. This event commemorates the founding of SkillsUSA on May 8, 1965. Connect with SkillsUSA via social media by posting photos of your activities online. Chapter advisors or officers can also provide a brief description of local chapter events [using this form](#). In return, we'll send a SkillsUSA logo gift item valued at \$15 to say thanks (while supplies last).

We encourage participants to publicize their projects locally. To locate contact information for your local newspapers, [use our SkillsUSA Advocacy Site](#). On the site, click on "Media," enter your ZIP code, and choose up to six outlets at a time. Then, click on "Send a Message." At "Compose Your Own Message," fill in your contact information and your message and click send. To see the full contact information for each outlet, click on the name of the newspaper.

Press Release Template for State Conference Participants

The [SkillsUSA Advocacy site](#) has a press release template for state conference participants and their advisors to share participation, competition results and personal or chapter recognition with your hometown media. Parents, instructors, students or anyone can send these emails. Please spread the word about SkillsUSA in your community and share this advocacy resource link at your school and at your state conferences. For questions, email Jane Short.

Join the NLSC 2024 Courtesy Corps!

SkillsUSA encourages all potential National Courtesy Corps (NCC) members to apply early to support the 2024 National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC). This much-appreciated group supports the technical committees and the overall conference experience, and it's a great way for students to network with industry partners and meet other SkillsUSA students from across the nation. NCC members receive free housing, local transportation, meals and free conference registration. NCC participants are housed at the Georgia Tech Woodruff Residence Hall in Atlanta. An advisor must also join the Courtesy Corps team and serve as a chaperone for their participating students. NCC candidates must also obtain the approval of their [state SkillsUSA director](#). For eligibility and timeline requirements, visit the [National Courtesy Corps webpage](#). For questions, contact Boyd Hestand. The deadline for [nominations](#) is May 1.

Candidate status notifications will be sent to NCC nominees by May 9. Along with NLSC attendee information, this email will include an acceptance form if a position on Courtesy Corps is available. If you want to not just experience the national conference but to contribute to its success, this is a great and affordable way to participate in SkillsUSA's biggest event of the year!

Apply for the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teacher Excellence

Applications are now open for the [Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence awards](#). The prize recognizes outstanding instruction in the skilled trades in U.S. public high schools and the teachers who inspire students to learn skills to prepare for life after graduation. In 2024, Harbor Freight will award \$1.5 million in cash prizes to 25 skilled trades teachers and their programs. In 2023, the prize recognized 16 SkillsUSA instructors as winners. Applications must be received by May 3. Finalists will be announced June 11 and winners will be announced this fall.