

New Jersey SkillsUSA Friday Flash 5/3/24

Message from the Desk of the State Director

Hope you all had a great week!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all who attended Sunday's award ceremony. I was very happy with the awards, but unfortunately because of the no-shows we are unable to continue at Cure, as it was a costly endeavor on my part. Next year's awards will be announced as soon as I find a suitable location. I have two meetings this week with possible locations, and I will keep you informed.

Tentative Competitions for Next Year

Fall Leadership Advisor Meeting at NJPSA October 23, 2024: 9am-2pm
Construction Cluster at NJPSA November 14, 2024 and Officer Meeting: 9am-2pm
Advisor Meeting and Officer Meeting January 15, 2025: 9am-2pm
Atlanta City Boat Show Feb 26, 27or, 28th (If Yamaha is willing to sponsor again)
March 22: SCVTS, Carpenters Center confirmed
March 29: GCIT and Sicklerville confirmed
April 3: Mercedes Benz confirmed
April 5: Passaic Tech, Payne Tech, Universal Tech Institute
Heavy equipment TBA

I know the ideal situation would be to have the contests in one location. Unfortunately NJ SkillsUSA does not have the staff that could handle that, nor do we have the finances. It is easy for people to say let's have it in one location because there are so many travel days. Until we can find a location that we can afford and the date is open, we will continue to host contests at the different schools. I assure you that this office is constantly looking for new locations. Remember, we still have to travel for Auto, Culinary, Diesel and the Carpenters Center. NJ Skills Should be a two day affair, but years ago everyone said it was too expensive for hotels and bussing, it was an issue then and still is...so for now we will continue as is.

The Awards Ceremony will be in April either on the 10th or 11th or 12th
Easter is the 19th and the 26th, which is to close to registration time for the Nationals.

Lunches

Lunches next year will only be provided only for judges and contest coordinators. Lunch will be provided at Mercedes Benz all other competitions are "brown bag" bring your own lunches. GCIT will be brown bag locations, along with Sicklerville, SCVTS, Payne and Passaic Tech, and

UTI. It is up to each individual school if they want to provide lunches so you will have to deal with them directly as NJ Skills will not be involved in lunches.

Fees Next Year

Due to the increases in materials and food costs, the fees have gone up slightly, as NJ Skills is unable to absorb the increases and meet our budget:

Registration Fees for 2024-2025 school year

Early Bird: \$95.00

Late: \$100.00

All trade competitions: \$120.00

Fall Leadership & Kickoff to Atlanta: 40.00 per person

State Officer Applications

Advisors, please send me names of students who are running for State Office. Applications are due May 15th to our office.

Have a good weekend!

Ralph Starace

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

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 chapters 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.

EXTENSION: Skills Jam Casting Call Submissions!

The 2023 Skills Jam cast and docu-series were amazing! Now, we're ready to do it again, bigger and even better, with Skills Jam 2024! Skills Jam needs your help to find the best stories around the country, regardless of if your students are on the road to NLSC or not. Skills Jam is now offering two grants of \$2,500 each to two randomly selected chapters. Even if your students

aren't cast, just entering your program gives you the chance to win the grant. Find the details in the [Skills Jam Casting Overview](#) and the [student flyer](#) and [presentation slide](#). If you missed the 2023 docu-series, you can still [catch last season's Skills Jam episodes on YouTube](#). The tide is turning when it comes to the perception of skilled trades across the nation. Don't miss this great opportunity to build that momentum for your program and your students! For questions, contact Maria@SkilledCareers.org.

2024 EPA Water Contest

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is again sponsoring a [2024 EPA Water Contest/Youth Engaged 4 Change](#) contest about the importance of water in our lives from student voices. To enter, students choose a question path and explain either "why is water important in your community?" or "why would you consider a career in water?" The top three will receive a \$100 gift card prize. The deadline for submissions is May 12.

End-of-Year Chapter Celebration Ideas

The end of the school year provides the perfect occasion to celebrate and reflect on the growth that has taken place over the year. Celebrating gives students a strong sense of individual and team accomplishment and builds enthusiasm to continue the great work next year. Here are a few ideas for your celebration.

- Host a banquet for the chapter, as well as friends and family. Recognize student members their leadership roles, demonstrated teamwork, and completed projects.
- Hold an appreciation circle. Individually, each student takes the chair at the "head" of the circle, and everyone recognizes that person for their contributions to the chapter or specific projects.
- Plan a fun activity at a local bowling alley, miniature golf course or park.
- Post photos and names of students on a bulletin board in the classroom or around campus.
- Put recognition in the school newsletter, website or on social media.
- Recognize students at a school assembly, faculty meeting or school board meeting.
- Place a jar and note cards in the classroom where students can write notes of appreciation to each other for peer recognition.

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 take advantage of these incredible scholarships!

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

Marsha Daves Memorial Scholarship Winner

SkillsUSA offers one annual merit-based \$1,500 scholarship to a state officer for college/postsecondary education in memory of Marsha Daves, a former SkillsUSA state and

national leader. The scholarship honors Marsha's legacy by recognizing how student leaders are empowered by the skills they have gained through SkillsUSA, and how the skills they develop help them become better team members, leaders, employees, and community members. This year's winner is Sylvia Dobbe, The Center for Advanced Technical Studies, Chapin, S.C.

2024 WorldSkills USA Team Prepares to Compete

The WorldSkills USA Team has now been finalized to represent the United States at the 2024 WorldSkills Competition, Sept. 10-15, 2024 in Lyon, France. For the latest on the team, check out the [WorldSkills microsite](#). The team members, their trade areas and their technical experts are:

- Automobile Technology: Nathan Bulthuis, Ill. (Expert: Mike Elder)
- Car Painting: Lily Williams, Ark. (Expert: Jamie Redd)
- CNC Milling: Kaden Stanczyk, Wis. (Expert: Alden "JR" Colvin)
- Cooking: Novirah Lone, Mich. (Expert: Greg Beachey)
- Heavy Vehicle: Cale Mouser, Kan. (Expert: Tom Wozniak)
- Mechatronics: Gabriel Eady and Derek Summers, Tenn. (Expert: Josh Whittington)
- Plumbing and Heating: Brady Kroll, Minn. (Expert: Bob Hahn)
- Welding: Wyatt Hansen, Utah (Expert: Ray Connolly)

The SkillsUSA Store – Chapter Champion Rockers

Take competition pins to a whole new level by adding a Chapter Champion Rocker. Rockers signify that the wearer has earned a bronze, silver or gold medal at the local level, and this is a great way to personalize any competition pin. Shop the [Chapter Champion Rocker](#) and personalize your [Competition Pins](#) today!