

New Jersey SkillsUSA Friday Flash 10/20/23

Message from the Desk of the State Director

Good morning. I hope you all had another GREAT week!

Advisors

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Fall Leadership Conference on October 25th, as we have a few things to go over and discuss. Here are a few important announcements:

TECHNICAL STANDARDS: PLEASE CHECK THE TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR THIS YEAR, AS THERE HAVE BEEN CHANGES.

NOTE: YOU MUST COMPLETE YOUR PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP BEFORE YOU ARE ABLE TO ACCESS THE TECHNICAL STANDARDS.

Marine Service Technology: The date of the Marine Service Technology Competition has changed. The date and time will be announced as soon as they are confirmed.

Woodworking/Carpentry Opportunity: Castle's 2023-24 "What's Your Angle" high school woodworking competition opened Sept. 1, 2023 and will close May 1, 2024

"What's Your Angle?" Contest Information

Entries are open to high school woodworkers and high school woodworking classes and programs and will be evaluated based on the overall look and presentation of the project as well as the most effective and innovative use of screw pocket joinery.

The use of Castle machinery or products is not required.

Grand Prize*Individual Entry: [Castle 110 Pocket Cutter Professional Bundle](#), MSRP \$1,021.75. This will be awarded to the high school student who submits the winning entry.

Grand Prize*High School Program/Class: [TSM-12 Pocket Cutting Machine](#), MSRP \$1,775.00. This will be awarded to the high school program or class who submits the winning entry.

Entries Open: September 1, 2023

Entries Close: May 1, 2024, at 11:59PM

Winners Announced: May 15, 2024

Go to <https://castleusa.com/pages/resources/education-program.html> for complete details.

Know other Woodworking Programs that may be interested in the competition? We encourage you to reach out and let them know about the great prizes provided by Castle.

Thank you, and have a great weekend.

Ralph Starace

Troubleshooting With Sheila!

Getting This Year's SkillsUSA Year Started

The first step in getting started every year is completing your membership in SkillsUSA. This process is completed on the national SkillsUSA website: www.skillsusa.org. If you need help completing your membership, contact the SkillsUSA Customer Care Line and they can guide you through the process. Your membership fees should be sent to the national office address that will show on the invoice once you complete your membership registration. Membership dues should be sent to the Leesburg, VA address.

Assigning students to contests for the NJ SkillsUSA Championships comes in late December//January. Information about signing up for the state competition will be presented at the Oct. 25 Advisor Meeting that is being held during the Fall Leadership Conference. If you are unable to attend we will help you stay on top of the info you will need. Just let us know.

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News from the National Office

Chapter Challenge: Recruit New Members!

Planning and carrying out new member recruitment events can be daunting, but we've got you covered. Check out SkillsUSA's [member recruitment resources](#) to learn how your chapter leaders can successfully plan a local recruitment effort to engage potential new SkillsUSA members before the full services national membership deadline of **Nov. 15**. There are also advisor resources to help coach chapter leaders on ways to engage new members. After your effort is finished, submit your member recruitment story for the opportunity to be spotlighted in [SkillsUSA Champions](#) magazine. Having a chapter recruitment activity is a [Chapter Excellence Program](#) Level 2 indicator, so utilizing these resources can be one extra step in achieving chapter excellence.

Upcoming SkillsUSA Technical Fridays Workshop

Join us for “Technical Fridays,” SkillsUSA’s virtual workshops led by industry experts helping teachers develop specific technical skills relevant to their career fields of interest. Leave the sessions with a new skill to implement in your classroom. [Learn more about the workshops here.](#) On **Oct. 27**, from 4-5 p.m. ET, we will be joined by Jonathan Payne, director of Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning at Jobs for the Future. Apprenticeships provide an opportunity to accelerate a student’s career trajectory, connect education with industry needs and help employers build their future talent. The session will explore the fundamentals of pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeships, high quality program indicators and examples in the field. Workshops are free of charge. Register for the sessions online (space is limited). If you have questions, contact Karolina Belen.

Show Off Your Construction Projects!

High school career and technical education students and postsecondary construction trainees or apprentices are eligible to enter the NCCER and Build Your Future’s annual “I BUILT THIS!” video contest. The nationwide competition invites construction craft students and trainees to showcase their building projects. [Entries are due by Nov. 12.](#) SkillsUSA Career Essentials Courses for MS, HS and C/PS Schools While many CTE instructors have mastered instruction of their specific trade area, teaching universal career-readiness skills to students is daunting. At the same time, employability skills are critical to the long-term success of students. The SkillsUSA Career Essentials Suite offers a turnkey solution that is online, easy and engaging. Learners in any trade area can access the Career Essentials Suite in [SkillsUSA Absorb](#). Instructors easily monitor student progress via an administrator dashboard. Use the entire course, a course segment or individual units depending on your time and budget. Instructors have control over which (and how many) projects students complete. Learners have access to their course for 365 days after enrollment. [View pricing and purchase options.](#)

[Check out the video overview of the Career Essentials Courses.](#)

For customer support and help placing an order for any SkillsUSA Career Essentials products, email the Customer Care Team or call 844-875-4557.