

New Jersey SkillsUSA Friday Flash 4/21/23

Message from the Desk of the State Director

Congratulations to all who competed in the NJ SkillsUSA 2023 State Competitions! I am proud of each and every competitor, whether they won or not. Just by competing, is a win for us as a state, and again I am very happy for all those involved. A special thanks and appreciation to the new schools who did great on their first try this year! We definitely see some very driven and competitive new additions coming up in the future.

Troubleshooting With Sheila!

Championship Results

In order to view student rankings, log into the registration system using your login information, click on Advisor Tools, Click on Contest Results- select 2023.

The breakdown of each student's culinary scores were loaded into the scoring system by the Culinary Cluster Coordinator and are available to the one advisor that was listed next to the student's name on your chapter's contest registration list by clicking My Students Contest Results. (You can check to see which person was listed by clicking on Registration, then Contest Registration). Advisors are welcome to make an appointment to visit our office to review their other students' scoring breakdowns.

Officer Elections

Officer Elections applications are due in our office by May 3rd. Please read the application and notice what you need to prepare for such as: the Virtual Campaign Poster, the Campaign Speech, and what to include in the speech. Advisors: please encourage your students to run! We saw some very strong candidates at the competitions, who we think would be perfect to represent our state.

Kickoff to Atlanta

We are looking forward to our annual Kickoff to Atlanta on May 18th at Forest Lodge. The registration applications are on the website, so please encourage everyone traveling to Atlanta to attend. It will be a fun-filled day, with many team building experiences for our students. Link: https://www.nj-skillsusa.org/files/ugd/9fa9c9_39349c564f25470eac9f52ef02a8981e.pdf

Problems/Issues Which Arose During the Competitions

I want to assure all of you that our office is working hard to alleviate some of the problems that we encountered this year, and we have taken note of everything that needs to be changed and/or reevaluated for the future. It was very unfortunate that these things happened, and I sincerely apologize for any inconvenience that was caused, and any distress on the part of the students. We will work diligently on a plan to ensure that we do not repeat the same mistakes twice. Thank you to everyone who has been so understanding during this transitional year.

Travel Scholarships to Help With Atlanta Costs

Please check the SkillsUSA national website for travel scholarships to help your students pay for the trip to Atlanta. There are many available every week, and to our dismay, nobody is applying for them. Here is one example: <https://mailchi.mp/hftforschools/april2023toolkit?e=34db9bf951>

Advisor Shirts

Advisor shirts are now available online!

https://www.nj-skillsusa.org/_files/ugd/de360a_09c94c63e35e4b8d88ff70da60f574e7.pdf

T-Shirts for Next Year

We value your input! What color t-shirts would you like to see next year? Fill out this quick Google Form and give us your input on the color choice that you would like for next year. Please cast your vote here: <https://forms.gle/4pud95CfcNOGV8LV7>

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

Aerotek Scholarship Opportunity Available Only Until 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 planning to enroll in — or a college/postsecondary student already enrolled in — a community college, technical college, certificate program or apprenticeship 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. For questions, email Megan Flinn.

Last Chance to Enter the CareerSafe Youth Safety Video Contest

The CareerSafe Youth Safety Video Contest challenges students to create a two-minute video demonstrating workplace safety. Send submissions to CareerSafe by April 30. The winning students will receive a SkillsUSA prize pack and a scholarship of up to \$2,500, and the winning school will receive a prize of up to \$5,000. For more information and to submit your entry, [visit the CareerSafe website](#).

SkillsUSA Activate Registration Now Open for Student Leaders

SkillsUSA instructors and advisors can now [register for SkillsUSA Activate](#), a two-and-a-half-day, high-energy leadership conference that is open to all middle school and high school SkillsUSA student leaders. The conference focuses on developing these SkillsUSA Framework skills for use in achieving the SkillsUSA Program of Work: Leadership; Planning, Organizing and Management; and Teamwork. Activate is open to members ready to take their

leadership to the next level. It will be held June 17-19 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, just prior to the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference. The registration deadline is May 16. For questions, contact Taryn Erminio. .

Apply for the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching 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 2023, Harbor Freight will award more than \$1.5 million in cash prizes to 25 skilled trades teachers and their programs. In 2022, the prize recognized 12 SkillsUSA instructors as winners. Applications must be received by May 5. Winners will be announced in October.

Free Coolant, Shipping and Maintenance Workshops Available

Monroe Fluid Technology, an ISO 9001 certified manufacturing facility, is offering free coolant, free shipping and free coolant maintenance workshops to metalworking classrooms in accredited state, community and county colleges. This program allows manufacturing programs to eliminate the costs of metalworking coolants. [Check out the program details](#). For questions, email Monroe Fluid Technology's director of E-Commerce Fred Kane.

Elevating the Skilled Trades: Mason on a Mission

Check out our latest article on the SkillsUSA Champions digital hub, [featuring Matt DiBara](#), a Masonry silver medalist at the SkillsUSA Championships in 2010. The story centers around DiBara's success as a young mason, business owner and entrepreneur. At only 30, he's achieved levels of success most would deem remarkable at retirement age. DiBara credits SkillsUSA with sparking that success and talks about how he followed his passion to study the skill he loved even when he was discouraged to do so by peers and teachers.