

New Jersey SkillsUSA Friday Flash 12/1/23

Message from the Desk of the State Director

Good afternoon! I hope you all had a great week.

Awards Ceremony Announcement

We've decided that we will be releasing the top three finalists for our SkillsUSA competitions because of some concerns. I know there were also some schools concerned about the Awards Ceremony taking place on April 28th. Due to the fact that deposits have already been made, it is too late to change or cancel the Ceremony. I hope that all advisors encourage their students to attend, especially because of the Career Fair that will also take place at the Cure Arena that Day. There will be some changes to next year's award ceremony, which will be announced at a later date.

Chapters of Excellence and Advisors

Please continue to do the CEP program. We also need applications for Advisor of the year. Please consider nominating an advisor who goes above and beyond for their students. SkillsUSA has posted a lot of resources that paid membership is entitled to use I encourage you to utilize them, they are all very helpful

Important Dates

Remember the Membership due date is coming up on December 15, 2023.

I would like to thank everyone who has already posted membership, as we are now at 3,725. We have a way to go to surpass last year's membership of 7,700 but I am confident there is NO LIMIT to what we can accomplish together.

Scholarship and Contest Opportunities

For a chance to earn major scholarships for your students, please visit this link:

<https://horatioalger.org/>

Veterinary Technician Scholarship

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://TogetherWeRise.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u%3D323c3e991f1db7a239a88b42d%26id%3D859ddaab15%26e%3D5a9a98b5e3&source=gmail&ust=1701537023275000&usg=AOvVaw26b99wo2klmILecj2raB0H>

Castle USA Woodworking Contest:

<https://castleusa.com/pages/resources/education-program.html>

Middle School Chapters

Advisors: I am in need of at least one Middle School contact from your area, so that I can reach out about starting middle schools SkillsUSA chapters. You only have to send me the contact name, and our office will do the rest. Thank you for your help!

Have a great weekend!

Troubleshooting With Sheila!

Guidelines for NJ State Only Contests & Contest Updates

NJ conducts a number of contests that are not offered at the national level. We refer to these contests as "NJ State Only Contests." Since these contests have no national level competition, there are no national technical standards to refer to. In the past, we have listed the general guidelines for the *State Only* Contests under a separate State Contest tab, and then listed specific details under the Contest Updates tab. Advisors have told us that listing info in two places was confusing. The contest details for the 2024 NJ State Only Contests will only be listed under the Contest Update tab of the website, and will be designated as 2024 State-Only Contest Details. We are currently working to get them posted.

NJ Contests that have a national competition component will be based on the National SkillsUSA Technical Standards. (These guidelines are a benefit of professional membership and information can be found by contacting 844 875-4557) Many of the NJ Contest Coordinators do offer specific info on tool lists, equipment needed or details on the particular scope of the NJ contest. If there is additional info to share, this info will also be posted on the Contest Update tab. If there is no Update, then refer to the National Technical Standards.

Corrections to the Registration Information Booklet

Page 20: Graphic Arts: A chapter may register up to 3 contestants.

If you have downloaded the booklet, please make this correction in your copy. Once registration opens, the site will allow 3 individual students from your chapter to compete.

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

Vote for SkillsUSA to Help Us Win!

SkillsUSA has been nominated as one of 10 nonprofits competing for a share of \$1,000,000 being donated by the LKQ Community Foundation this holiday season. (LKQ Corporation is the largest nationwide provider of aftermarket collision replacement products.) The nonprofits that receive the most votes will receive the largest donation amounts! [Help SkillsUSA by voting each day between now and Friday, Dec. 8!](#) Please share the link with your students, SkillsUSA supporters and your entire social network to show the nation our SkillsUSA pride!

New Skills Jam Advisor Resources for Your Classroom and Beyond

Haven't seen Skills Jam yet? Why? It's only one of the [best new shows on YouTube](#), and it chronicles YOU, our SkillsUSA students and advisors! The Skills Jam folks have created some new materials for advisors to incorporate into their classrooms to facilitate watching each of the three inspiring episodes as a class. In this [Skills Jam Resources folder](#), you'll find a promotional flyer for the show and a discussion guide to be used after a screening of any or all the episodes! Download these resources today and watch our students and advisors shine on Skills Jam!

Get Recognized for a Successful SkillsUSA Chapter

If you're having a great year in SkillsUSA, why not be recognized for it? Did you elect officers, hold chapter meetings and engage in chapter activities? Take it to the next level by completing the Chapter Excellence Program (CEP) Quality Chapter application and receive the recognition your chapter has earned.

The online CEP application is on the main page of the membership registration site. Once you log into your school account, follow these [directions for accessing the application](#). See the "[Build a Successful SkillsUSA Chapter Teacher's Guide 2.0](#)" for easy steps to follow to complete the application, engage students in the process and infuse the SkillsUSA Framework into chapter activities.

For questions or help with your CEP application, contact the SkillsUSA Customer Care at 844-875-4557 or by [email](#). You can also utilize a one-on-one coaching session with our CEP and Program of Work (PoW) coach, Kelli Engelbrecht. [Schedule your 30-minute Zoom coaching appointment here](#). During the coaching session, learn how to integrate the SkillsUSA Framework, articulate your SMART goals and select and evaluate SkillsUSA Framework Essential Elements within your CEP application.

SkillsUSA Membership Incentive Information

Advisors who met the criteria to receive the SkillsUSA membership incentive can anticipate receiving an email from SkillsUSA on Dec. 4. This email will include a promo code and a form link that must be completed no later than Dec. 12 to secure the resource. To qualify for the membership incentive, SkillsUSA advisors needed to register 15 student members (along with one or more professionals) per training program by the Nov. 15 deadline. For assistance, contact our [Customer Care Team](#) at 844-875-4557.

SkillsUSA Career Essentials Technical Assessments

As a reminder to our previous announcement, effective Dec. 15, the following are the only SkillsUSA Career Essentials Technical Assessments available to order through SkillsUSA:

- Career Ready
- Customer Service
- Digital File Preparation/Digital File Output*
- Digital Production Printing*
- Graphic Design*

- Introduction to Graphic Communications*
- Offset Press Operations/Binding & Finishing*
- Screen Printing*

* Print [ED] assessments

The [39 currently offered assessments](#) can be ordered until Dec. 15 and SkillsUSA will honor the one-year expiration date of all assessment purchases. Once the assessments are disabled, teachers and students will still have access to performance data, certificates and transcripts. No refunds for previous purchases will be made. For assistance, contact our [Customer Care Team](#) at 844-875-4557.

Career Essentials Offered at No Cost for Potential National Officers

SkillsUSA state officers and students planning to apply for a national officer position are granted complimentary access to the SkillsUSA Career Essentials [advanced curriculum](#) or [adult learner curriculum](#). Successful completion of the course culminates in achieving the industry-validated [SkillsUSA Career Essentials Credential](#). SkillsUSA state officers and those applying to run for national office who wish to take the course should [submit this registration form](#) no later than Jan. 10, 2024. Course implementation begins Jan. 12 through May 17. Students will have access to their course 24/7, and all coursework will take place outside of school hours. [See the course syllabus and general course implementation schedule](#). The total time commitment is approximately 21.5 hours. For questions, contact [Megan Flinn](#).

Honorary Life and Outstanding Career and Technical Educator Nominations Open

If you would like to nominate an individual for recognition by SkillsUSA as an Honorary Life Member or Outstanding Career and Technical Educator, please [complete the online applications](#). The deadline is Feb. 14. If you have questions, contact [Laura Rauch](#).

Advisors: Print Membership Cards Instantly

The SkillsUSA registration site allows advisors to print student and professional membership cards as members join. This website feature provides each member with a printed membership card. Each school or organization can print individual cards, either one per page or multiple professional cards to a single page using the batch print option. The card printing option is available when advisors log on to the [membership registration website](#).

SkillsUSA College/Postsecondary Scholarships Open Jan. 2!

Did you know that SkillsUSA students can apply for college/postsecondary scholarships available exclusively to members? On Jan. 2, registered SkillsUSA members anticipating tuition expenses for the Fall 2024 academic term (or the term immediately following high school graduation) can apply for scholarships made available through SkillsUSA and our generous industry partners. This year, SkillsUSA will be using the scholarship platform Kaleidoscope for a streamlined application experience. Although the application links will not be live until Jan. 2, students are encouraged to visit the [scholarships page](#) on the SkillsUSA website now to preview

scholarship opportunities and award amounts. For questions about a particular scholarship, or for help connecting students with scholarship opportunities, contact [Megan Flinn](#).