

New Jersey SkillsUSA Friday Flash 3/17/23

Message from the Desk of the State Director

I would like to congratulate all of the competitors for doing a fantastic job in our recent competitions such as Marine Technology, Cybersecurity, and all of the Cumberland competitions! I would like to extend a special congratulations to the top three contenders in each competition for their well-deserved victories. Best of luck to the advisors and competitors at the Carpentry competitions in Edison this weekend.

With gratitude,
Ralph Starace

Quality Chapters

Advisors working on their Quality Chapters- please be sure that everything is completed and turned in for the March 30th deadline. If you need assistance with this, call our office and we will be happy to help.

Students Running for State Officer Positions

Please work on getting some of your highly motivated students to run for state office. This is a prestigious opportunity for students who are born to lead!

We are looking for schools interested in attending the Washington Leadership Training in September. The dates are to be determined, and I will announce them next week once I receive the information. We need at least 25-30 students to attend, in which case we will get a bus to leave from SCVTS to take us to Washington DC.

Guest Actors Needed for Culinary on April 1st

Jaime Soto is kindly requesting anyone available on April 1st to come and be “guests” for the culinary competitions. We are in need of five to six people to sit as guests in the restaurant. We would simply need for you to sit, be served, and follow a simple script for this competition. If you or anyone you know is willing to help, please reach out to Jaime, Courtney, or Sheila so that we can add you to the list!

Frequently Asked Questions (Sheila’s Troubleshooting Assistance Made Easy!)

One of my students got sick. Can I replace him with another student?

- Be sure you listed the replacement student on your school’s national membership roster that was due by March 01.
- Log into the NJ registration site and create a student account for the replacement.
- Make sure he has prepared a resume and has completed the Student Code of Conduct/Media Release.

- Upon arriving at the contest registration table, pick up the name tag of the registered student.
- See Courtney or Sheila and bring the name tag with you.
- Get a replacement form and bring it with you to the contest so the coordinator knows to change his roster and accurately report the scores.

Some of the contests on April 01 are listed as Virtually at Somerset Co. Vo-Tech. Can my student compete from home or does he have to come to Somerset on that day?

- No students will be permitted to compete from home. They are required to compete at the Somerset Campus.

How much does it cost to attend the April 01 Awards Ceremony at Bridgewater-Raritan HS?

- There is no charge to attend.
- Bleacher seating sections will be assigned to schools.
- Floor seating will be available for parents and guests.
- All are welcome to attend.

News from the National Office

(Check out some of these new and exciting opportunities for your students!)

Final Call to Join “The SkillsUSA Advantage” Report Webinar

Join other advisors and stakeholders on March 21 at 3:30 p.m. ET for a webinar on the [new “SkillsUSA Advantage” report](#), which highlights how SkillsUSA experiences create purpose, passion and skill in every student. SkillsUSA Executive Director Chelle Travis and Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Ricardo Romanillos will discuss the report’s findings that SkillsUSA members consistently outperform peers who are not enrolled in career and technical student organizations (CTSOs). Attendees will receive resources, including two digital reports and a PowerPoint deck to help you share this information with school administrators, community leaders and others as you advocate for SkillsUSA and career and technical education. [Register by March 19](#) and participate in the session to be eligible for door prizes.

College Grants Available from the ECMC Foundation

[Takeoff: Institutional Innovations for College Men of Color](#) is a project funded by ECMC Foundation and led by the USC Race and Equity Center. It invites community colleges nationwide to submit proposals for one of 12 funding and support opportunities. Through this partnership, the USC Race and Equity Center will subgrant and provide technical support to colleges leading innovations that advance postsecondary outcomes for men of color. Each participating college will receive \$75,000 to fund their existing or aspiring efforts to support men of color over the course of two academic years. Applications close April 10 at 11:59 p.m. PT.

Architectural Drafting Scholarship Opportunity

SkillsUSA members in the 11th and 12th grades enrolled in an architectural drafting program are

encouraged to apply for the Larry Rash Memorial Scholarship through SkillsUSA. It is a \$2,500 scholarship award to support the recipient in continuing architectural drafting studies at the college or postsecondary institution of their choice. Eligible SkillsUSA members are encouraged to [apply by April 1](#). For questions, email Megan Flinn.

[Learn more about additional SkillsUSA scholarships.](#)

Focus Students on Safety

The CareerSafe National 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](#).

Earn Recognition and Presidential Honors

SkillsUSA will recognize advisors, students and registered alumni for their community service through the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA). To qualify, SkillsUSA members must submit a record of their service hours. With SkillsUSA's focus on community service, you may have already met the requirements. For details on how to apply, [visit the website](#). Applications must be received by April 1. For questions, contact Megan Flinn.

NLSC 2023 Courtesy Corps Members Needed

SkillsUSA needs 120 or more National Courtesy Corps (NCC) members to support the 2023 National Leadership & Skills Conference. 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 SkillsUSA students from across the nation. NCC members receive free registration plus housing, local transportation, meals and entertainment. NCC participants are housed at the Georgia Tech Woodruff North Residence Hall in Atlanta. Advisors must supervise their participating students. NCC candidates should seek approval of their [state SkillsUSA director](#). For eligibility requirements, visit the [National Courtesy Corps](#) web page. For questions, contact Tracy Whitehead. The deadline for [nominations](#) is May 16. Candidate status notification will be sent to each NCC nominee by May 24. This email will include an acceptance form if a position on Courtesy Corps is available along with conference attendee information.