



# A Balanced SkillsUSA Program of Work

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A balanced SkillsUSA program means that every member participates in a variety of activities during the school year. There are seven areas in the SkillsUSA Program of Work, and a chapter should try to do at least one activity for each area per year.

If a chapter devotes all its time to community service and not enough to ways and means, money will be scarce. Or, if a chapter spends all its time on social activities, the chapter members will not enjoy the benefits of helping others.

Some activities can be used for dual purposes. A chapter may hold a reception (social), but this is also a good time for public relations (invite potential SkillsUSA members and let them see how fun SkillsUSA is).

Below are some ideas to help your chapter have a balanced program of work. Each chapter is different. You may have some great ideas of your own already in the making.

## Professional Development

Becoming a professional involves more than skill. Be aware of the importance of labor and management in the work force. Plan a chapter project in addition to section workshops.

- Hold a school assembly on SkillsUSA and CTE programs
- Establish an occupational library
- Attend a local government meeting
- Invite guest speakers from industry

## Community Service

Let your community know about your school. Show them what students can do. Promote goodwill by planning activities:

- Help at a hospital or nursing home
- Adopt a grandparent or become a big sister/big brother
- Work to get out the vote at election time
- Hold a beautification/renovation project
- Adopt a needy family at the holidays

## Ways and Means

Fundraising activities allow you the financial means to carry out other projects.

- Have a plant sale or giant rummage sale
- Hold a car wash or a bake sale
- Sell products from an approved fundraiser

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For more information about the SkillsUSA Program of Work, see the *SkillsUSA Leadership Handbook* or *ASK: Advisor's Success Kit*. Both items are available through the *SkillsUSA Educational Resources Catalog* at [www.skillsusa.org/store/](http://www.skillsusa.org/store/)

## SkillsUSA Championships

SkillsUSA competitions give students an opportunity to develop stronger technical skills, gain recognition and meet potential employers

- Invite the public to your local skill contests (industry reps can plan events, judge or donate prizes)
- Develop a chapter scrapbook for the Outstanding Chapter contest
- Get local members to participate in skill or leadership competitions
- Publish contest dates and procedures

## Employment

Increase your chapter's awareness of quality job practices and attitudes. Provide opportunities for student and employer contact.

- Host a job fair
- Involve people from local business and industry in your skill competitions as judges or committee members
- Invite members of the business community to a SkillsUSA open house and tell them about the program and how they can become involved as supporters

## Public Relations

Informing the community about chapter activities and achievements means credit to you and your school. Almost every SkillsUSA activity has public relations value.

- Send news releases to local media
- Submit articles and photographs to local media
- Make a SkillsUSA float for a parade
- Circulate your chapter newsletter to a wider audience
- Ask for an opportunity to speak at a Chamber of Commerce, school board or other community event
- Publicize SkillsUSA on your school's bulletin board or in a hallway display case
- Conduct a membership drive

## Social Activities

Get to know each other better by holding activities outside of the classroom:

- Sponsor a picnic or pizza party
- Stage a school talent show
- Sponsor a school dance
- Host a teacher appreciation reception
- Host a field day for student organizations