AMERICA’S HIGHLY SKILLED WORKFORCE MEETS IN LOUISVILLE

SkillsUSA will come to Louisville June 19-23 for its 53rd annual National Leadership and Skills Conference, the world’s largest showcase of skilled trades. Quality career and technical education will be the centerpiece of the conference. More than 15,000 students, teachers, education leaders, and representatives from 600 national corporations, trade associations, businesses and labor unions will participate in the event. The highlight event will be the annual SkillsUSA Championships June 21 and 22 with 100 hands-on skill and leadership competitions.

Dates and Locations:
June 19-23
Kentucky Exposition Center, Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport and Kentucky Regional Fire Training Academy

SkillsUSA Media Room:
June 18-23
Kentucky Exposition Center, Room E-3 (North Lobby)
Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Phone: 502-815-6716

Conference Attendance:
Total attendance: 15,000+
Student contestants: 6,000+
Voting delegates: 550+
Registered observers: 1,200+
SkillsUSA advisors (instructors): 2,600+
National education team members: 318
Contest technical committee members: 654
Conference management team members: 72
Contest judges: 1,100
SkillsUSA TECHSPO Trade Show: more than 125 booths
VIP Guests: 300
National Courtesy Corps: 150
Alumni volunteers: 60
Family and friends: 1,150; general public: 500

Opening Ceremony:
Date: June 20 at 7 p.m.
Location: Freedom Hall, Kentucky Exposition Center
Speaker: Nick Tokman, “Deadliest Catch” star
Attendance: 12,000 students, teachers and supporters
Sponsors: Snap-on Inc. and Toyota Motor Sales

SkillsUSA Championships:
Date: June 21-22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Location: Kentucky Exposition Center, Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport and Kentucky Regional Fire Training Academy
Expected attendance: 15,000
Contests are open to the public and free of charge

SkillsUSA University Seminars
Dates: June 21-23
Location: Kentucky Exposition Center
Sponsor: Safelite

Student Community Service Projects
Build-A-Table Community Event: June 20–22
Location: West Wing, Kentucky Exposition Center
Sponsor: Lowe’s Companies

Blood Drive: June 22, 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Location: bloodmobile at SkillsUSA TECHSPO outdoors
Sponsor: Kentucky Blood Center

Community Service Events: June 23, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: various sites around Louisville community

Awards Ceremony
Date: June 23 at 5 p.m.
Location: Freedom Hall, Kentucky Exposition Center
Expected attendance: more than 12,500
Sponsor: Lowe’s Companies Inc.
June 19-23, 2017

SkillsUSA Contacts:
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SKILLSUSA CHAMPIONSHIPS MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

The SkillsUSA Championships is the national competition for middle-school, high-school and college/postsecondary students enrolled in public career and technical education programs. Each SkillsUSA Championships contestant is a state gold medalist. Begun in 1967, the SkillsUSA Championships has 6,000 competitors in 100 hands-on skill and leadership contests. SkillsUSA organizes this event, which is considered the largest skill contest in the world and the single greatest day of industry volunteerism in America, annually at an estimated cost of more than $36 million. SkillsUSA adds contests to the SkillsUSA Championships each year to meet the demands of new and expanding occupations. SkillsUSA instructional programs represent 130 different occupational areas.

The SkillsUSA Championships requires a massive amount of equipment and materials: 1,000 computers, 50 trucks, 9,500 bricks and 1,500 blocks, 60 stoves, and complete laboratories for machining, welding, auto repair and painting. The cost of electricity usage for the 2016 event totaled over $150,000 (combined electric bill and in-kind services). More than 7,000 lunches are served to competitors and judges.

Dates and Locations
The SkillsUSA Championships is open to the public 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21, and Thursday, June 22, 2017. The SkillsUSA Championships are held at the Kentucky Exposition Center, the Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport and the Firefighting Regional Fire Training Academy. The best photo opportunities are from 10 a.m. to noon or 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday.

Key Statistics
Expected contestants: more than 6,000
Total contests: 100
Skilled and technical sciences contests: 68; Leadership development contests: 19
Occupationally related contests: 11; Demonstration contests: 2
Contest judges: 1,100 from business and labor; Contest technical committee members: 654
Conference management team and national education team members: 410
Contest area covered: 1.4 million square feet (equivalent to 20 football fields or 25 acres)
Awards: 1,080 gold, silver and bronze medals and more than 480 recognition awards
Prizes: tools of the trade, scholarships and other awards provided by industry
SkillsUSA University educational seminars: more than 50
Total in-kind industry and education contributions: $36+ million*
Total volunteer hours during the week: approximately 58,840 hours**

*donated time, equipment and materials
** technical committee members, courtesy corps, national education team, judges and alumni
SKILLED AND TECHNICAL SCIENCES CONTESTS (68)

3-D Visualization and Animation
Additive Manufacturing
Advertising Design
Architectural Drafting
Audio-Radio Production
Automated Manufacturing Technology
Automotive Refinishing Technology
Automotive Service Technology
Aviation Maintenance Technology
Basic Health Care Skills (HS only)
Broadcast News Production
Building Maintenance
Cabinetmaking
Carpentry
CNC Milling Specialist
CNC Technician
CNC Turning Specialist
Collision Repair Technology
Commercial Baking
Computer Programming
Cosmetology
Crime Scene Investigation
Criminal Justice
Culinary Arts
Dental Assisting
Diesel Equipment Technology
Digital Cinema Production
Early Childhood Education
Electrical Construction Wiring
Electronics Technology
Esthetics
Firefighting
Graphic Communications
Graphics Imaging – Sublimation

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONTESTS (19)

Action Skills
American Spirit
Chapter Business Procedure
Chapter Display
Community Action Project
Community Service
Employment Application Process
Extemporaneous Speaking
Job Interview

OCCUPATIONALLY RELATED CONTESTS (11)

Career Pathways Showcase
Customer Service
Engineering Technology/Design
Entrepreneurship
First Aid/CPR
Health Knowledge Bowl

DEMONSTRATION CONTESTS (2)

Team Engineering Challenge (middle-school)
Humanoid Robotics

Short contest descriptions are available at www.skillsusa.org/competitions/skillsusa-championships/contest-descriptions/
June 19-23, 2017

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The media room is located in Room E-3  
Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville

**SUGGESTED PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES**

**SKILLSUSA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SKILLS CONFERENCE**

The SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference showcase the talents of thousands of students in career and technical education. In addition to the interactive exhibits and large displays, a number of events during the SkillsUSA Championships provide the media with exceptional photo opportunities. Stop by the following contests for the best photo opportunities from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., and from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 22.

Automated Manufacturing  
Automotive Service  
Cabinetmaking  
Collision Repair  
Commercial Baking  
Cosmetology  
Culinary Arts  
Firefighting  
Masonry  
Plumbing  
Robotics and Automation  
Welding

We also encourage visits to the six off-site contests. The Firefighting competitions will take place at the Kentucky Regional Fire Training Academy located at 11605 Fairmont Road, in southeastern Jefferson County. The high-school competition will take place on Wednesday, June 21, and the postsecondary/college competition will take place on Thursday, June 22.

The leadership competitions Action Skills, Chapter Business Procedure, Community Action Project, Community Service and Employment Application Process contests will be held at the Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport Expo Center on Wednesday and Thursday, June 21 and 22.

**SkillsUSA Media Room:** June 18-23  
Location: Kentucky Exposition Center, Room E-3  
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Please note: Flash photography is not permitted, and news media must stay behind the boundaries of the contests unless they have permission from the technical committee chair. Speaking with competitors during the contests is prohibited.
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AMERICA’S HIGHLY SKILLED STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS FROM SKILLSUSA

SkillsUSA awards numerous scholarships to America’s best CTE students in conjunction with the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. For a list of all scholarship winners for 2017, see the SkillsUSA Awards and Recognition Book. It is distributed at the National Leadership and Skills Conference to registered attendees and is posted at www.skillsusa.org following the conference.

Fine Homebuilding Scholarship Offered in Construction Fields
Fine Homebuilding is offering a scholarship opportunity for SkillsUSA high-school, college/postsecondary and alumni members studying in construction-related fields who plan to continue their education in community colleges, undergraduate programs or industry certifications. Fine Homebuilding will award five $5,000 scholarships — a total of $25,000 — to students in fields such as architectural drafting, carpentry, cabinetmaking, electrical and residential wiring, HVACR, masonry, woodworking and plumbing for the 2017-18 academic year. During the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference winners will be acknowledged at a special reception on June 22 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville.

Marsha Daves Memorial Scholarship
In memory of this champion’s legacy, SkillsUSA offers one annual merit-based $1,000 scholarship to a state officer for college/postsecondary education, plus a $500 travel stipend to attend SkillsUSA’s national conference. The scholarship recognizes how student leaders use the personal skills they develop to be team members, leaders, employees, citizens and effective individuals that fulfill the SkillsUSA mission.

mikeroweWORKS Foundation Travel Scholarships for Competitors
The mikeroweWORKS Foundation offers travel scholarships for SkillsUSA member students who place first in their state championships and who otherwise would not be able to attend the SkillsUSA Championships for financial reasons. This opportunity is open to all state gold medalists who meet the stated criteria. Scholarships are awarded based on students’ written narratives describing their need for the scholarship, how they have benefited through participation in SkillsUSA and why they chose their particular trade or technical skill. Applicants are also required to provide a recommendation written by their SkillsUSA advisor or the state association director in support of the financial need.
National Technical Honor Society Scholarships
The National Technical Honor Society annually awards four $1,000 scholarships to SkillsUSA members at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. Two scholarships are awarded to high-school members and two to college/postsecondary members. To be eligible, students must be active, dues-paying members of both SkillsUSA and NTHS.

Robert Flint Leadership Development Scholarships
Thanks to a generous contribution from former Caterpillar executive and longtime SkillsUSA supporter Robert L. Flint, four individuals receive a $1,300 scholarship for participation in SkillsUSA Leverage leadership training during the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference.

SCOAR Scholarships
The Southeastern Construction Owners and Associates Roundtable (SCOAR) offers SkillsUSA scholarships of $1,000 to high-school seniors continuing their education in a construction-related program, seeking a degree, diploma or certificate in a college/postsecondary educational institution.

Sharon Melton Myers Memorial Scholarship
Through a donation from the Sharon Melton Myers Memorial Fund, SkillsUSA and the McMinn County Vocational Center in Athens, Tenn., the SkillsUSA Alumni Association offers $500 scholarships to one or more high-school SkillsUSA students in memory of former member Sharon Melton Myers.

SkillsUSA STEM Scholarship
This scholarship, originally established by Air Products, awards $1,000 scholarships to SkillsUSA students who are graduating high school seniors or college/postsecondary students whose area of study will lead them into a STEM-related field. The scholarship program is part of SkillsUSA’s STEM Fund.
SKILLSUSA FACT SHEET

Overview: SkillsUSA is a national membership organization serving middle-school, high-
school and college/postsecondary students who are preparing for careers in trade,
technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations.

Members: More than 335,000 students and advisors join SkillsUSA annually, organized into
18,000 chapters and 52 state and territorial associations. This includes 19,500
instructors who join as professional members. Including alumni, SkillsUSA
membership totals over 394,000. SkillsUSA has served more than 12.5 million
annual members cumulatively since 1965.

Mission: SkillsUSA empowers its members to become world-class workers, leaders and
responsible American citizens. SkillsUSA improves the quality of our nation’s
future skilled workforce through the development of personal, workplace and
technical skills grounded in academics.

Partners: More than 600 business, industry and labor organizations support SkillsUSA at the
national level through financial aid, in-kind contributions and involvement in
SkillsUSA activities. Documented support to the SkillsUSA Championships is
valued at more than $36 million.

Programs: SkillsUSA offers local, state and national programs that allow students to develop
and demonstrate personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics.
These three components comprise the SkillsUSA Framework, which serves as a
blueprint for career readiness. SkillsUSA’s Chapter Excellence Program honors
student and chapter achievement around this framework. Local chapters conduct a
program of work during the school year, and many students attend a district or
state conference. At the SkillsUSA Championships, more than 6,000 students
compete in 100 occupational and leadership skill areas. These competitions
establish industry standards for entry-level workers in many fields. SkillsUSA is
recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and cited as a successful model
of an employer-driven youth development program by the U.S. Department of
Labor.

Resources: *SkillsUSA Career Essentials* is our signature suite of career-readiness materials.
*SkillsUSA Career Essentials: Foundations* helps students understand our
framework. *SkillsUSA Career Essentials: Experiences* provides students with
lessons on personal, workplace and technical skills through self-paced online
modules. *SkillsUSA Career Essentials: Assessments* is for end-of-program student
evaluation. *SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards* is the official
SkillsUSA competition guide, with a full list of competencies and embedded
academic skills.

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