SkillsUSA’s 56th annual National Leadership and Skills Conference — including the SkillsUSA Championships, a showcase of career and technical education students — will be held in Louisville, Ky., June 22-26, 2020. More than 19,000 people — including students, teachers and business partners — participate in the weeklong event.

The SkillsUSA Championships will be held June 24-25, 2020, at the Kentucky Exposition Center. Contests begin locally and continue through the state and national levels. More than 6,500 outstanding career and technical education students — all state contest winners — will compete hands-on in 104 different trade, technical and leadership competitions. Contests are run with the help of industry, trade associations and labor organizations, and test competencies are set by industry. The championships is a multi-million-dollar event that occupies space equivalent to more than 20 football fields. Leadership contestants will demonstrate skills including extemporaneous speaking and conducting meetings by parliamentary procedure.

In special delegate sessions, hundreds of high-school, middle-school and college/postsecondary student leaders will vote on issues affecting SkillsUSA. Others campaign and will be elected to either high school or college/postsecondary teams of national officers who represent SkillsUSA members nationwide.
How to Qualify for the SkillsUSA Championships

Official rules for each contest are found in the current SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards. Before a student is registered for national competition, a thorough review of the General Regulations section of the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards is imperative, as well as a review of the individual contest standards.

Any changes or additions to published contest standards are posted by April 15 at the SkillsUSA Championships Updates website at: updates.skillsusa.org. The website also includes contests that are offered as demonstrations and contests that are too new for inclusion in the technical standards.

The following represents an overview of the steps necessary to participate in the SkillsUSA Championships:

- Participants must be active SkillsUSA members in their respective middle-school, high-school and college/postsecondary divisions whose dues have been paid and postmarked by midnight, March 1.

- Participants in national contests must be first-place medalists selected on a competitive basis at the state level. If the first-place winner is unable to participate, the alternate must be the next-highest-placing contestant at the state level who is able to participate. All contestants must qualify through state SkillsUSA approved contests. States may be disqualified from participation in a specific contest if they approve contestants who have not competed in a state contest. Participation must be approved by contestants’ state associations. The ability of the contestants to meet the standards of national competition must be considered before they are certified by their state association.

- Attending the mandatory contest orientation meeting. This meeting is held at the NLSC site in advance of the competition as published in the conference app. For information on how to register, including changes to contestant registration, substitutes and alternates, refer to the General Regulations section of the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards.

Delegates and National Officers

As with SkillsUSA Championships competitors, student delegates and national officer candidates must be registered by their state association directors. Delegates are chosen by their state members, and representation is based on state membership figures. Candidates for national office must be endorsed by a majority vote of their state association’s house of delegates or executive council. For details, contact your state association director and visit: www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/students/become-an-officer/.

How to Register

Only properly registered participants may enter SkillsUSA Championships contests. Proper registration requires:

- Contacting your state SkillsUSA director for details on how to register for the National Leadership and Skills Conference: www.skillsusa.org/about/state-directors/

- 1-800-321-8422  www.skillsusa.org/competitions/skillusa-championships
**Clothing**

Participants must meet clothing requirements for the individual contests. For specific requirements and details on where to purchase clothing, refer to the SkillsUSA Clothing and Tools app (http://apple.co/2dilb8d or http://bit.ly/2e5jRec), or the individual contest regulations in the latest SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards, and at the SkillsUSA Championships Updates webpage: updates.skillsusa.org.

- The penalty for contestants who do not satisfy the dress requirements will be a maximum of 5 percent of the total possible contest points.

- All contestants are required to wear their official contest uniforms or official SkillsUSA attire to the awards ceremony when the medalists are announced and the industry awards are presented. Inappropriately dressed contestants will be denied access to the awards platform.

**Where to Find the 2020 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards**

The 2020 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards is the official competition guide for the SkillsUSA Championships and is newly revised. It contains rules for all national events, including an overview, lists of technical skills and knowledge required, clothing and eligibility requirements and equipment lists. It also lists the embedded academic skills in math, English and science. Rules for state and local events may vary from the national guidelines, but most competitive events are modeled after the national technical standards.

As a free member benefit, SkillsUSA professional members receive the 2020 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards when they have submitted a current and accurate email address with their membership details. The 2020 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards is available online to professional members as part of the paid membership.

SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference
Anyone who is a member of SkillsUSA can register and attend the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference — including the SkillsUSA Championships — in Louisville, Ky., June 22-26, 2020. Contact your state association director to register. To locate your state director, visit: www.skillsusa.org/about/state-directors/.

ACTIVATE, LEVERAGE AND ENGAGE CONFERENCES
Offered just prior to the National Leadership and Skills Conference, Activate, Leverage and Engage conferences are opportunities for students and advisors to focus on leadership development.

Activate helps SkillsUSA members find their “start button” through action-oriented, high-energy and motivational programming. The conference focuses on students assuming leadership roles and taking action, whether at school, at home or in their communities. Activate is open to all SkillsUSA members.

Leverage equips state officers with the skills to lead their states while in office. Leverage provides officers with high-energy and motivational training that not only hones their own leadership skills, but empowers them to teach these skills to the members they serve.

Engage, designed for SkillsUSA advisors, focuses on tools to nurture new leaders. The training brings together educators to share practical strategies on engaging students in the classroom and SkillsUSA chapters. Participants receive newly launched SkillsUSA educational resources that reinforce the implementation of the SkillsUSA program of work.

Events will be held June 20-22, 2020, at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, Ky. Find learning objectives and registration details at: www.skillsusa.org/events-training/national-leadership-and-skills-conference/training-opportunities/.

SkillsUSA UNIVERSITY
SkillsUSA University is an opportunity for students and educators to attend educational sessions. These free sessions may include professional development, legislative updates, occupational and technical career trends and program overviews.

Teachers can stay updated on equipment, software, employment trends and other aspects of their training field. Students can learn new skills or find out what business and industry are looking for in new employees. SkillsUSA University will be held at or near the Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, Ky., June 24-26, 2020.

SkillsUSA TECHSPO
SkillsUSA TECHSPO is held in the midst of the SkillsUSA Championships. TECHSPO, short for technical exposition, is the largest trade show in America for technical education. Exhibitors and visitors include key decision-makers in career and technical education and leaders from business and industry. SkillsUSA TECHSPO will be held at the Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, Ky., June 23-25, 2020.