

# FAQS

## OVERVIEW Q&A

**Q:** *What is the Connect to My Future Career Conference?*

**A:** SkillsUSA's Connect to My Future Career Conference is designed to bring relevant career information and opportunities to students through meaningful experiences to explore various career clusters, understand the options within career pathways and connect to their future careers and employers. The Connect to My Future conference has been divided into three core tracks, targeted specifically to meet the needs of each age group. Each track provides students with a highly interactive experience designed to engage them with national partners offering exciting career opportunities in their fields.

**Q:** *What are the tracks and who attends:*

**A:** The **Explore track** of the Connect to My Future conference is a half-day virtual professional development event hosted by the national SkillsUSA organization. During the event, **middle school students** will explore career clusters and plant the seeds for their future. Students will engage in a moderated discussion with industry professionals to learn more about in-demand careers and build upon occupational identities. Students will create an academic plan for their high school career according to their identified interests.

The **Aspire track** of the Connect to My Future conference is a half-day virtual professional event hosted by the national SkillsUSA organization. During the event, **high school students** will examine career priorities, interact with business and industry professionals in small group settings, distinguish between different career options within a field of interest and create a personal action plan to achieve future career goals.

The **Connect track** of the Connect to My Future conference is a virtual professional development event hosted by the national SkillsUSA organization. Designed for **high school seniors** and **college/postsecondary students**, the program incorporates résumé review and mock interviews as well as workshops designed to launch each student's career search journey. Students who are prepared to begin employment will have the opportunity to interview with national and regional partners for potential full-time or part-time internships and positions.

**Q:** *When does the conference take place?*

**A:** **The dates for the conference tracks are:**

- **Explore** on May 5 from 11:30 a.m.–2:45 p.m. for middle school students.
- **Aspire** on May 5 at 8:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m. or 12:45 p.m.–4:30 p.m. for high school students.
- **Connect** on May 6 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for seniors and college/postsecondary students.

**Q:** *Can high school students attend both the Aspire and Connect tracks, schedule permitting?*

**A:** Absolutely. High school students may register for both events. The chapter fee will only apply once.

**Q:** *How do I get a conference T-shirt or completion certificate?*

**A:** Completers of a conference track will receive:

- **Explore** — Completers of the Explore track will receive a T-shirt and certificate. Students are considered completers by participating in all conference activities culminating in a career exploration plan. Submission of the career exploration plan will be tracked by SkillsUSA staff.
- **Aspire** — Completers of the Aspire track will receive a T-shirt and certificate. Students will be considered completers by participating in all sessions of the conference. Throughout the conference students will have pit stops where they will share their work and reflect on their experience. Completion of each of these pit stops will be tracked by SkillsUSA staff and reported back to participants' advisors.
- **Connect** — Completers of the Connect track will receive a T-shirt and certificate. Students will be considered completers by participating in all three components of the program: pre-conference résumé review, completion of two mock interviews and attendance at each of the three conference workshops. Completion of each of these components will be tracked by SkillsUSA staff and reported back to participants' advisors.

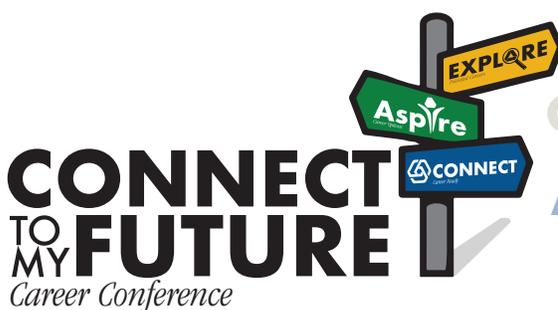
**Q:** *I'm an advisor, can I get a T-shirt too?*

**A:** SkillsUSA is offering these incentives for SkillsUSA instructors who register their students:

- Teachers who register 10 students will receive a T-shirt.
- Teachers who sign up 50 students will also receive a Member Handbook.
- Teachers who sign up 100 or more students will receive a T-shirt, Member Handbook and a bundle of educational resources.

**Q:** *Is this conference in-person or virtual?*

**A:** **Connect to My Future is an entirely virtual conference.**



**REGISTRATION Q&A****Q:** *When is registration?***A:** Registration is from March 15 through April 16, 2021.**Q:** *How much does it cost to attend?***A:** A one-time \$25 fee per school or chapter covers all three tracks and all attendees.**Q:** *How do I register?***A:** To register, log on to: [register.skillsusa.org](https://register.skillsusa.org). Access the Registration Guide [here](#).**Q:** *What if my school doesn't currently have a SkillsUSA chapter, can we still register?***A:** All schools are invited to participate in Connect to My Future. If your school doesn't currently have a SkillsUSA chapter, contact the Customer Care Team so that they can assist in registering students for the conference ([customercare@skillsusa.org](mailto:customercare@skillsusa.org) or 844-875-4557).**Q:** *Do advisors register for this conference?***A:** Advisors do not register for the conference. Only student registrations are entered into the registration system. The advisor's contact information is collected and connected to each individual student registration.**Q:** *How do I receive an invoice?***A:** An automated invoice will be issued once the first participant from your school is registered. A drop of a school after the registration deadline is not eligible for a refund or credit.**Q:** *Who receives payment for the conference?***A:** All payments should be made to the SkillsUSA national headquarters.

We recommend using an electronic payment method. Click the link on the invoice to pay by credit card or eCheck or see other payment options here.

If mailing a check, make payable and mail to:

**SkillsUSA Inc.**

*Attn:* Connect to My Future

14001 SkillsUSA Way  
Leesburg, VA 20176

**TECHNOLOGY Q&A****Q:** *Can we access the conference as a classroom or does each attendee need a personal device?***A:** Students must join the conference using a one-to-one device to ensure that they can attend individualized experiences.**Q:** *What security measures are in place for students participating in this virtual setting?***A:** Most student activities are conducted in a group setting and will be facilitated by adults or national student leaders. Only students over 18 and participating in the mock interviews or employment opportunities will be in a one-to-one setting with business partners. Adult monitors will be present for breakout rooms and interview students will have a direct means to contact the supervising adult at all times.**Q:** *What virtual platform will be used for the Connect to My Future conference?***A:** Connect to My Future will be delivered through a Virtual Conference Center (6Connex) and a video conference platform (Zoom). Visit the links below to test your system to ensure access.  
[Check 6Connex](#)  
[Check Zoom](#)**Q:** *What streaming platforms (Zoom, YouTube, Google, etc.) will be used within the conference platform?***A:** The Connect to My Future Conference will use Zoom as the live-streaming platform in addition to YouTube and EdgeFactor to view on-demand videos.

**MORE INFORMATION**

**Q:** *Where can I find more information about Connect to My Future conference and the individual tracks?*

**A:** Information can be located by visiting [SkillsUSA.org](https://www.skillsusa.org).

**Q:** *If I have additional questions, who should I call?*

**A:** Questions regarding the conference or registration can be directed to our Customer Care Team at [customercare@skillsusa.org](mailto:customercare@skillsusa.org) or 844-875-4557. They are ready to assist!

**CONNECT:**

**Q:** *What if my student cannot attend some of the events on their CONNECT personalized schedule?*

**A:** While we hope that your students are able to join us for the duration of the CONNECT conference, attendance at the workshops is not required to participate. We do ask that participants commit to showing up for their scheduled interview windows since business and industry partners are counting on their appointments.

**Q:** *Can my student change interview times in the CONNECT track?*

**A:** If necessary, efforts will be made to accommodate schedules if a student is unable to join during their scheduled interview times. Accommodations may only be before the start of conference day.

**EXPLORE:**

**Q:** *How do I secure the Lowe's gift cards for buying the required Explore track purchases?*

**A:** On a weekly basis SkillsUSA will mail out the cards based on registration from the previous week.

**Q:** *How do I know how many Lowe's gift cards I will receive?*

**A:** Middle school instructors will receive one \$50 gift card for each 20 students registered. That card will cover the costs of the materials needed to serve those students.

**Q:** *How do I access the Jump into STEM! lesson plans to use with my middle school students?*

**A:** On a weekly basis SkillsUSA will upload advisors into SkillsUSA Absorb, the learning management system that houses SkillsUSA's Jump into STEM! curriculum. Advisors will receive an auto email from myabsorb.com with instructions on how to setup their account. If there are any issues accessing SkillsUSA Absorb, contact the Customer Care Team at (844) 875-4557.

**Q:** *How do I ensure that my students are ready to participate in the conference?*

**A:** Detailed in the advisor guide, advisors should be prepared to do the following:

- Register students for Connect to My Future Conference: Explore track.
- Read the Advisor Guide.
- Register for an advisor orientation session.
- Facilitate the pre-conference session titled "Preparing to Explore" and ensuring students take the career interest survey before arriving to Explore (lesson plan available for in-person or virtually delivery as well as pre-recorded video by SkillsUSA facilitator).
- Decide how you want your students to participate in the "Dive Deeper into a Career" sessions (attending the Jump into STEM! sessions facilitated virtually by facilitators or the advisor facilitating the Jump into STEM! lesson plans in the classroom).
- Purchase any needed supplies utilizing the Lowe's gift card provided by SkillsUSA.
- Attend **Explore!**
- Facilitate the post-conference session titled "Launching Your Plans" (lesson plan available for in-person or virtually delivery as well as pre-recorded video by SkillsUSA facilitator).