SkillsUSA’s 58th annual National Leadership and Skills Conference — including the SkillsUSA Championships, a showcase of the nation’s top career and technical education students — will be held June 20–24, 2022. More than 12,000 people — including students, teachers and business partners — will participate in the weeklong event.

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 108 different trade, technical and leadership competitions. Contests are run — and test competencies are set — with the help of industry, trade associations and labor organizations. The Championships is a multi-million-dollar event that occupies space equivalent to more than 31 football fields. Leadership contestants demonstrate extemporaneous speaking, how to conduct a meeting through parliamentary procedure and more.

In special delegate sessions, hundreds of high-school, middle-school and college/postsecondary student leaders will vote on issues affecting SkillsUSA, including the election of a new national officer team that will 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 or college/postsecondary divisions whose dues have been paid and postmarked by 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 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 SkillsUSA director and visit: www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/students/become-an-officer/.

Clothing
Participants must meet clothing requirements for the individual contests. For specific requirements and details on where to purchase clothing, refer to 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% of the total possible contest points.

- All contestants are required to wear their official contest uniforms or official SkillsUSA attire to the Awards Ceremony, where 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 2022 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards
The 2022 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 standards.

As a free member benefit, SkillsUSA professional members receive the 2022 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards when they have submitted a current and accurate email address with their membership details. The 2022 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards is available online to professional members as part of the paid membership.

ACTIVATE, LEVERAGE AND ENGAGE CONFERENCES

Offered just prior to the National Leadership & Skills Conference, SkillsUSA 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.

These events will be held June 18-20, 2022, at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. 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 June 21-23, 2022, at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

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 June 21-24, 2022, at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.