

# What is SkillsUSA?

In-person lesson plan **Student Leaders**



## Pre-Work

### Objective:

Identify one aspect of SkillsUSA that interests you.

### Length:

25 minutes

### Supplies:

- Whiteboard or flip-chart
- Paper and writing utensils
- Video Link: [What is SkillsUSA?](#)

## Opening *5 minutes*

(Before the start of the workshop, on the whiteboard or flip-chart, write down the phrase: “A skilled member of the workforce is...”)

When I say go, grab a marker and write your answer to the prompt on the board somewhere around it. Ready, go!

Answers may include items such as “on time, responsible, hardworking, or good at what they do.” Once students have finished adding their answers and have taken a seat, highlight a few and ask who would like to share what they wrote. Remember to affirm responses!

Skilled workers are in a high demand in many different trades and industries, and all of the traits you wrote on the board are what employers are looking for in employees.

By a show of hands, who has heard of SkillsUSA before? SkillsUSA is a student-led organization that helps develop students’ skills and abilities so that we can be skilled members of the workforce. Let’s take a more in-depth look at what SkillsUSA is!

## Content *10 minutes*

Play the [What is SkillsUSA?](#) video.

As shown in the video, SkillsUSA happens in the classroom, our chapter, and the workplace. There are a lot of different activities, conferences, and competitions we can participate in as SkillsUSA members. My favorite SkillUSA activity is \_\_\_\_\_. Ask other officers or student leaders to share their favorite activity.



Provide a personal story of your favorite SkillsUSA activity to participate in. Make sure to include what it is, what you do in it, what skills you use and learn, and why you like it so much.

Our chapter also has other events, meetings, and activities throughout the year. (Consider listing a few examples or showing a calendar of upcoming events for your chapter.)

## **Closing** *10 minutes*

Now that we've learned a little bit about SkillsUSA, it's time to have some fun!

When I say go, you will have one minute to grab a piece of paper and a writing utensil and jot down one question you have about SkillsUSA. It can be anything you are curious about! For example, you might write, "how do I become involved in the SkillsUSA chapter?" or "what kinds of competitions are there?" Ready, go!

Allow students one minute to formulate their question(s).

Then have everyone line up around the room in a circle. Now, take that piece of paper and crumple it into a ball. When the music starts, we are going to have a snowball fight! When the music stops, as quick as you can, pick up the snowball closest to you and then look to me for the next directions.

Start the music and let students have a snowball fight for awhile. When you stop the music, wait for students to locate a snowball and for the room to become quiet.

Have students pair or group up with someone near them and uncrumple their snowballs. Read the questions written on both pieces of paper, and see if you can answer them within your group. If you are unsure, give your best guess!

After 2-3 minutes, grab the attention of the room again. Ask each pair or group to share what their questions were and what they think the answers are. Make sure to affirm correct and incorrect answers! For incorrect answers, share the correct answer with the group. You can say something like "that's super close, but it's actually..."

Encourage students to throw away or recycle their snowballs before leaving for the day.