



Your Future Starts Here

SkillsUSA Official Educational Resource

Get to Know SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA is the #1 workforce development organization for students.

It empowers students like us to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders and responsible community members. Whether you're in middle school, high school, or college/postsecondary, there's a place for each of us. Here's how to get started and make the most of your experience from the very first week of school.

Watch and react:

What is SkillsUSA all about?

As a group, watch the [SkillsUSA Framework Video](#). Take a few minutes and jot down two or three things from the Framework video that:

- Surprised you
- Made you curious to learn more
- Made you think about your future differently
- Made you think about your current skill set: where you shine and where you could grow

Be ready to talk about what stood out—this is a great chance to hear what your classmates noticed, too.

Set your personal growth goals:

Through the Framework, SkillsUSA focuses on 17 Personal, Workplace and Technical Skills that employers say really matter. These aren't just soft skills or career readiness skills — they're essential skills for life!

Your Framework Challenge

Choose one Essential Element or skill from the SkillsUSA Framework to focus on each week or month this school year. Track your growth and reflect on how you're using it in class, in your clubs or student organizations, at work or in your personal life.

Example skills:

- Responsibility
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Self-Motivation

Your teacher may give you a chart or sheet to track this — but you can keep a list in a notes app on your phone, too.

Look around:

The Framework is Everywhere

You'll probably see the **SkillsUSA Framework poster** on the classroom wall — study it and use it! Try using the language of the Framework Essential Elements when you:

- Reflect on your day
- Set goals
- Describe yourself in interviews or applications

**PRO
TIP**

Employers and teachers love when you can talk about real skills you've practiced — not just grades or awards. As the school year goes on, pay attention to how SkillsUSA connects to real-world experiences:

- Guest speakers
- Job shadows or work-based learning
- Field trips
- Labs and class projects

The more you see these connections, the more prepared you'll be to lead with confidence in any setting.

Your SkillsUSA journey can lead to big things

Some schools offer graduation cords or other recognition for your SkillsUSA involvement. Even if yours doesn't (yet!), being part of SkillsUSA means:

- Making friends
- Taking on new leadership roles
- Gaining real experience in project management
- Building a resume that stands out
- Networking with business and industry
- Competing in your career skill

Your path is yours to shape and this year in SkillsUSA is just the beginning!

Want to do more?

Ask your teacher or a chapter officer how to:

- Run for a chapter office
- Join a committee or team
- Participate in a local service project
- Register to participate in a local, regional or state SkillsUSA career competition

Let's make this year a strong start toward our goals—and have a lot of fun along the way.