



SEPT. 26-30, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OPEN TO ALL SKILLSUSA MEMBERS

CONFERENCE GUIDE



SkillsUSA offers advanced training for students and advisors that focuses on communication, leadership and professionalism. This training is held in Washington, D.C., and allows members the opportunity to share their SkillsUSA and career and technical experiences with elected officials, policymakers and partners.

WLTI activities will include:

- Advocacy visits.
- Tours of Washington D.C., including monuments.
- Laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
- Immersive learning sessions.

SkillsUSA FRAMEWORK ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

SkillsUSA's Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTI) focuses on developing the following Essential Elements from the SkillsUSA Framework:

COMMUNICATION

Sending and receiving clear messages.

LEADERSHIP

Influencing the hearts, minds and actions of others.

PROFESSIONALISM

Meeting the behavioral expectations of others.

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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

This schedule is tentative and could change at any time.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26, 2026

Attire: SkillsUSA business casual

4:30 p.m.	Conference Registration
5:15 p.m.	Doors open for Opening Session
5:30 p.m.	Opening Session and Dinner
7:30 p.m.	Students: Learning Sessions Welcome
8:30 p.m.	Students: Statesman Summit
8:45 p.m.	Advisors and State Staff: Orientation Meeting
11 p.m.	Curfew

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27, 2026

Attire: SkillsUSA business casual and casual for Twilight Tour

8 a.m.	Breakfast
8:45 a.m.	General Session
9:30 a.m.	Learning Sessions
10:30 a.m.	Advocacy Panel
11:45 a.m.	Learning Sessions
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Learning Sessions
4:30 p.m.	Dinner
6 p.m.	Buses depart for Twilight Tour
10:15 p.m.	Buses depart for hotel
11 p.m.	Curfew

MONDAY, SEPT. 28, 2026

Attire: SkillsUSA conference T-shirt

8 a.m.	Breakfast
8:45 a.m.	General Session
9:30 a.m.	Statesman Interviews
11:30 a.m.	Exploring Washington, D.C. <i>Touring, lunch and dinner on your own</i>
11 p.m.	Curfew

TUESDAY, SEPT. 29, 2026

Attire: SkillsUSA official attire

Morning	Advocacy Visits <i>Capitol Hill Visits, breakfast and lunch on your own</i>
1:30 p.m.	Group Photo on Capitol Hill <i>Photo location announced in conference app</i>
2 p.m.	Buses depart for Arlington National Cemetery <i>Pickup location announced in conference app</i>
3:15 p.m.	Wreath Laying Ceremony <i>Tomb of the Unknown Soldier</i>
4:15 p.m.	Buses depart for Hotel
6:30 p.m.	Recognition Session and Dinner
8:30 p.m.	WLTl Celebration
8:30 p.m.	College/Postsecondary Social
11 p.m.	Curfew

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 30, 2026

Attire: School appropriate casual

Travel home safely!



HOTEL INFORMATION

CRYSTAL GATEWAY MARRIOTT

1700 Richmond Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202



RESERVATION DEADLINE

Hotel reservation deadline is Sept. 2 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

HOTEL ROOM RATES

Rooms are subject to availability in the SkillsUSA WLT block. Once the confirmed conference room block is full, room rates may increase.

\$242/Night*

**Hotel room rates are per room per night, plus applicable tax, which is currently 14.25%. Tax subject to change.*

RESERVATION PROCESS

[Click Here to Make Reservations](#)

PAYMENT

If paying by credit card, please use the Passkey site or contact the hotel directly using the contact below. If paying by check, guest pre-payment by check must be received by the hotel 10 business days prior to arrival. Any reservations without receipt of payment will be canceled.

RESERVATION SUPPORT

The Passkey site will allow up to 20 room reservations at a time. For further assistance with reservations or payment, please contact Lydia Nure, Group Housing Coordinator at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, at lydia.nure@marriott.com.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION DATES

Registration opens Aug. 1 and closes on Sept. 2 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

REGISTRATION FEE

The conference registration fee of \$550 applies to SkillsUSA members, advisors and chaperones and includes six meals, a seven-day Metro pass and busing to conference activities, conference T-shirt and training materials. States may charge an additional state fee for participation.

ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

If a registrant requires an accommodation complete the appropriate section(s) in the registration system. Accommodations provided to all attendees may include accessibility accommodations (e.g., ADA), educational accommodations (e.g., 504, IEP) and dietary accommodations.

PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION FEE

There will be no refunds for cancellations after Sept. 2.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Access SkillsUSA Register at register.skillsusa.org.

Adding Registrants

- Click tab; Conference>My Registrations
- Select Washington Leadership Training Institute in the Filter Event if not the default.
- Click button "Lookup Previous Regs" to quickly locate and register names that have attended past events or click "Add New Registrant" to register new attendees.
- Be sure to add a T-shirt size for every attendee. Only attendees with T-shirt sizes will receive one at WLT.

State Staff Registrant Type

Remember to register all state staff attending! Use the State Staff registrant type to register these attendees.

Conference Liability and Release Form

- On the My Registrations screen, click button "Batch Print" for the automated forms created from the records.
- For a blank form click tab, Conference>Conference Liability and Release Form.



TRAVEL DISCOUNTS

WLT attendees can take advantage of exclusive flight discounts when traveling to Washington, D.C. We’ve partnered with select airlines to help make your travel easier and more affordable.

Follow the instructions below to book your flight and save on travel to WLT!

DELTA

[Book Here](#) or call the Delta Meeting Network: 1.800.328.1111 * | Mon-Fri | 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (est.)
Meeting Event Code: NY4J4

SOUTHWEST

[Book Here](#) for all Southwest flights.

UNITED

[Book Here](#) or call the United Meeting Reservation Desk: 1.800.426.1122 * | Mon-Fri | 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. (CST.)
Discount Code: ZRHN852872

WLT SCHOLARSHIPS

ROBERT FLINT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP

The SkillsUSA Student Leadership Development Scholarship was established with financial support from Robert L. Flint, former Caterpillar executive and SkillsUSA board president. The scholarship provides financial support for a total of four students who are recognized for having strong leadership potential and who would greatly benefit from national leadership training but do not have the sufficient resources to participate in the Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLT).

State SkillsUSA directors should solicit the lead chapter advisor for nominations, and then choose one nominee’s application to submit to the SkillsUSA headquarters. Once nomination applications are received, a panel of SkillsUSA staff and leadership trainers will evaluate the applications and select the top candidates. Each WLT scholarship is for \$800 and is provided to cover expenses for attendees.

The application will open on July 15 and close on Aug. 15.



SKILLSUSA NATIONAL STATESMAN AWARD

ALL STATESMAN ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY SEPT. 23

The SkillsUSA National Statesman Award recognizes members who demonstrate strong SkillsUSA knowledge, civic awareness and the ability to articulate their career and technical education (CTE) experiences. Students, advisors and state staff may all seek to achieve the award. Only members attending the Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLT) are eligible. Award recipients will be recognized during the WLT Recognition Session. To earn the National Statesman Award, participants must complete all pre-conference requirements by Wednesday, Sept. 23 through SkillsUSA Pathful (pathful.skillsusa.org).

PRE-CONFERENCE REQUIREMENTS

Complete via SkillsUSA Pathful. Attendees will receive access to the course after the WLT registration deadline.

SKILLSUSA FRAMEWORK CERTIFICATION

Explore how SkillsUSA develops skilled professionals, career-ready leaders and responsible community members through the SkillsUSA Framework. Completion earns the SkillsUSA Framework Certification.

SKILLSUSA CTE KNOWLEDGE CERTIFICATION

Gain a deeper understanding of how career and technical education (CTE) and SkillsUSA provide solutions to the growing skills gap in today's workforce. Completion earns the SkillsUSA CTE Knowledge Certification.

SKILLSUSA KNOWLEDGE & CIVIC AWARENESS TEST

Understanding SkillsUSA is essential to being an effective leader and advocate during this conference and beyond. Complete a knowledge assessment to test your understanding of SkillsUSA and civic awareness.

INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEW - CTE & PERKINS FUNDING

To understand the impact of CTE and Perkins funding in your school, schedule a 20-minute meeting with a school administrator or another knowledgeable staff member. Your SkillsUSA advisor can help identify the right person. If multiple students from your school are attending WLT, plan to conduct the interview together.

Begin the conversation by introducing yourself, your training program and explaining that you're attending the SkillsUSA Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLT) to develop personal and workplace skills while preparing to advocate for CTE and SkillsUSA. Walk through the provided interview questions, take notes and thank your interviewee for their time. Afterward, summarize the key points from your conversation—this will be submitted as part of your pre-conference requirements.

All pre-conference requirements are due by Wednesday, Sept. 23 through SkillsUSA Pathful.

Confirmation will be provided in SkillsUSA Pathful upon completion.

ON-SITE REQUIREMENTS AT WLT

Complete on-site at WLT

STATESMAN SUMMIT

The Statesman Summit is an interactive session designed to test your SkillsUSA knowledge, learn about CTE policy and prepare for advocacy visits. Through games, activities and reflective exercises, you'll gain valuable insights and build confidence as you advocate for SkillsUSA and CTE.

PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Preparing for advocacy visits is essential to ensure that all members effectively represent SkillsUSA and CTE. During WLT, you'll participate in a personal interview with a SkillsUSA staff member, state director, chapter advisor or another key individual. The interview will cover topics such as CTE, the skills gap, SkillsUSA and your personal experiences, and will be evaluated based on a rubric.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What if we decide to cancel our registration and hotel rooms?

You have until Sept. 2 at 11:59 p.m. ET to cancel your conference registration and any hotel reservations to receive a refund. Unfortunately, refunds after this date are not possible due to expenses that will be incurred immediately upon the conclusion of the registration period.

Can three or four members room together?

This is left to the discretion of the state association, school district and participant discretion. There are no occupancy restrictions in place by the hotel.

Is the schedule finalized?

The schedule posted in this guide is tentative and subject to change. There are several factors that may affect a scheduling decision, including the availability of monuments and congressional offices as well as permitting.

Do I have to complete any pre-work before going to WLT?

Pre-work is not required for attending the conference, but to secure your National Statesman Award, participants must complete certain requirements beforehand. These include content on SkillsUSA Pathful and an informational interview.

How should I prepare for the on-site Statesman interview?

At WLT, you'll have the opportunity to practice your interview skills. Be prepared to discuss topics such as SkillsUSA, career and technical education (CTE), Perkins funding and your own experiences.

Will professional development be offered for advisors and state staff?

Yes, professional development will be offered for both advisors and state directors, including an emphasized focus on what your students are experiencing to ensure success during advocacy meetings.

When should advocacy visits be scheduled for?

Advocacy visits should be scheduled for the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 29, before our group photo at 1:30 p.m. (allow at least 30 minutes to transition and navigate congressional buildings). Please request your advocacy appointments early.

How will attendees receive their 7 day Metro Pass?

Depending on when you arrive, your Metro pass will be given to you upon your arrival to the DCA airport or to the conference hotel. Further instructions will be sent closer to the event.



Customer Care
844-875-4557
customercare@skillsusa.org

In keeping with a tradition of respect for the individuality of our members and our role in workforce development, SkillsUSA strives to ensure inclusive participation in all of our programs, partnerships and employment opportunities.