

Champion

YOUR FUTURE
2025 - 2026

Conference Guide

2026 State Leadership and Skills Conference (SLSC)
Albuquerque, New Mexico
March 18-21, 2026



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Message from the Secondary State President

Hello SkillsUSA New Mexico Members!

Welcome to the 60th Annual SkillsUSA New Mexico State Leadership and Skills Conference!

It is truly an honor to welcome each of you to this milestone event as we celebrate six decades of excellence, leadership, and career readiness within SkillsUSA New Mexico. This conference represents more than competition, it represents dedication, growth, and the commitment each of you has made to becoming skilled professionals, responsible leaders, and engaged members of your communities.



Over the course of this conference, you will have the opportunity to showcase your technical skills, strengthen your leadership abilities, and connect with peers who share the same passion for excellence. Whether this is your first state conference or your final one, I encourage you to step outside of your comfort zone, take pride in your hard work, and fully embrace every opportunity placed before you.

As members of SkillsUSA, we are united by our mission to empower students to become world-class workers, leaders, and citizens. Each competition, session, and interaction during this conference is designed to prepare you not only for success on stage, but for success beyond the classroom and into your future careers.

Thank you to our advisors, judges, volunteers, industry partners, and supporters who make this conference possible. Most importantly, congratulations to every student who has earned the opportunity to be here, you are the future of New Mexico's workforce, and your potential is limitless.

I wish you all the best of luck and hope this conference is a memorable and meaningful experience for everyone.

Handwritten signature of Karyme Contreras.

Karyme Contreras
SkillsUSA New Mexico State High School President

General Conference Information

SkillsUSA is a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) for skilled trade and technical sciences students. SkillsUSA New Mexico hosts an annual State Leadership and Skills Conference (SLSC) for all of our members across The Land of Enchantment. This conference brings together student members with industry and community leaders in a showcase that recognizes both technical skill and leadership development. This conference includes competitions, leadership training, social events, and a recognition ceremony.

DATES

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 to Saturday, March 21, 2026

MAIN LOCATIONS

Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North

5151 San Francisco Rd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

Central New Mexico Community College Main Campus

525 Buena Vista Dr SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106

Champions' Festival Friday Night: Main Event

4040 Pan American Fwy NE, Albuquerque, NM 87107



THEME

Champion Your Future

Important Dates and Deadlines

Please note that the dates and deadlines below are tentative and subject to change.

If changes are made, they will be highlighted and announced to Chapter Advisors.

Date	Item
Nov 8, 2025	Chapter Excellence Program Application Opens - APPLICATION
Feb 2, 2026	Chapter Funding Awards Announced
Feb 3, 2026	Conference Registration Opens
Feb 3, 2026	State Officer Candidate Application Opens - APPLICATION
Feb 3, 2026	Advisor of the Year & Admin of the Year Application Opens
Feb 10, 2026	Virtual Conference Advisor Meeting (see details below) - MEETING LINK
Feb 11, 2026	Virtual Conference Advisor Meeting (see details below) - MEETING LINK
Feb 13, 2026	Chapter Excellence Program Application Closes
Feb 16, 2026	Conference Hotel Lodging Block Opens
Feb 20, 2026	Membership Registration Deadline to Compete at State Leadership and Skills Conference

Feb 20, 2026	Conference Registration Closes
Feb 25, 2026	Competitor Substitution Deadline
Feb 26, 2026	Conference Hotel Lodging Block Closes
TBD	Conference Hotel Payment Deadline
Mar 1, 2026	State Officer Candidate Application Closes
Mar 1, 2026	Advisor of the Year & Admin of the Year Application Closes
Mar 2, 2026	Competitor Testing Window Opens
Mar 6, 2026	Virtual State Officer Candidate Meeting (4:30pm) - MEETING LINK COMING SOON
Mar 15, 2026	Competitor Testing Window Closes
Mar 18, 2026	Conference Payment Due
Mar 18-21, 2026	New Mexico State Leadership and Skills Conference
Mar 18, 2026	Registration, State Officer Candidate Interviews On-Site ABQ Marriott Pyramid North
Mar 19, 2026	Opening Ceremony, Leadership and Occupationally Related Competitions , Professional Development, Meet the State Officer Candidates, Advisor Meeting, and House of Delegates On-Site ABQ Marriott Pyramid North
Mar 20, 2026	Skilled and Technical Competitions at CNM Main Campus and Off-site Locations
Mar 20, 2026	Champions' Festival at Main Event (\$25.00 Registration Add-on)
Mar 21, 2026	Closing Ceremony at ABQ Marriott Pyramid North
Mar 24, 2026	Virtual Gold Medalist Meeting
May 30-June 1, 2026	Leverage (State Officer Professional Development) in Atlanta, GA
June 1-5, 2026	SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta, GA

Opening Ceremony

Thursday, March 19, 2026 from 8:00 am to 10:00 am - The Opening Ceremony will kickoff SLSC, led by the NM State Officer Team, keynote speaker, Jonathan Sarmiento, and SLSC updates and news.

- Attire: SkillsUSA Official Dress, Competition Attire or Competition Similar Attire

Closing Ceremony

Saturday, March 21, 2026 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am - The Closing Ceremony is the culmination of all the hard work of the conference and where we recognize students in each competition. First, second, and third place in each competition and division will be announced along with the 2026-27 State Officer Team!

- Students are required to be in attendance in order to receive medals and prizes
 - [Closing Ceremony Absence Justification Request Form](#)
- Attire: SkillsUSA Official Dress, Competition Attire or Competition Similar Attire

Advisor Meetings

As a SkillsUSA Advisor you are responsible for the students attending this event.

Meetings

SkillsUSA NM will host two virtual meetings for Advisors prior to the conference. Bring all of your questions!

- February 10, 2026: 7:30 am to 8:30 am OR 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm - [Zoom Link](#)
 - Conference Guide & Registration Review
- February 11, 2026: 7:00 am to 8:00 am OR 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm - [Zoom Link](#)
 - Conference, Competition and Updates Q & A
- During Conference: Thursday, March 20, 2026 from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Open Office Hours

- February 19, 2026: 7:00 am to 9:00 am & 3:00 to 4:00 pm - [Zoom Link](#)
- March 2, 2026: 7:00 am to 9:00 am & 4:00 to 5:00 pm - [Zoom Link](#)

Advisor Conference Checklist

Please confer with your administrators for any school district or school-specific procedures.

- Complete membership registration for all members, advisors, and support staff by February 20
- Advertise the conference to your chapter members
- Submit school district field trip paperwork
- Determine the cost to attend with your chapter including registration, lodging, meals, etc.
- Set up money collection with your school's bookkeeper
- Set chapter deadlines for registration and payment
- Put together permission slips with conference information including cost and required forms
- Register all members, advisors, and support staff for conference (Liability Form included) by Feb 20
- Print the emailed invoice and check, double-check, and triple-check for accuracy
- Collect member payment before the registration deadline
- Submit invoice to your school's bookkeeper for payment
- Mail check payment to SkillsUSA New Mexico by the payment deadline
- Review the tentative agenda with attending members
- Host a chapter meeting with parents to discuss expectations and responsibilities
- Ensure each attendee has signed a release form and it is kept with the chapter advisor
- Have all members follow and like SkillsUSA New Mexico on social media sites
- Discuss National Leadership and Skills Conference with members, so they are prepared if they qualify

Best Practices from Veteran Advisors

Please confer with your administrators before putting any of these into practice, to ensure compliance with school district and school policies:

- Hold a parent meeting prior to the conference to lay out expectations and consequences
- Create a behavioral contract for members and parents to sign
- Collect parent phone numbers and emergency contacts just in case
- Collect a deposit from those who commit to attend, especially if members are still fundraising
- Help students determine their own individual schedules so they feel prepared
- Determine your schedule as an advisor and communicate the schedule to attendees
- Have a group chat (e.g. GroupMe or Remind) set up with all attendees to communicate quickly
- Hold a daily chapter meeting to check in with students and provide updates
- Make sure students have plenty to do - require general session and workshop attendance
- Set clear behavioral expectations ahead of time
- Make sure the students can access an advisor at all times
- Use chapter officers and leaders to help with and delegate responsibilities

Student Eligibility and Guidelines

An Eligible Student is:

- In the current school year, enrolled in or graduated at mid-year from a NM CTE program
- Registered as a SkillsUSA State and National member of an active chapter as shown on the current SkillsUSA New Mexico membership roster (exceptions to this policy may be made on a case-by-case basis and require additional documentation)
- Currently meets local school eligibility requirements
- Properly registered for the conference and competition
- Trade appropriate professional attire required for competitions. Please reference technical standards as reference
- Appropriate conference attire required at all times. No attire with student or school name
- High School Students must also meet all requirements of the New Mexico Activities Association for State sanctioned activities: [NMAA Handbook](#)
- High school students enrolled in a career-technical program through dual enrollment at a College/Postsecondary institution are considered High School members
- Dual enrollment chapters may submit entries in both the High School division and the College/Postsecondary division at the state conference

Note: Members entering individual Occupationally Related or Skilled and Technical Competitions can only complete in the areas for which they are training and are outlined by a course of study or training plan ***ALL student members are welcome to compete in any Leadership Competition. In order to provide the best student experience, substitutions will ONLY be allowed with written approval by the State Director until February 25, 2026.***

Registration

REGISTER ONLINE

<https://www.skillsusa-register.org/Login.aspx>

Registration opens on **Tuesday, February 3, 2026** - Please review the **Conference Registration Guide** so that you do not miss anything important in the registration process!

- [Conference Registration Guide](#)

DEADLINE

Registration closes on **Friday, February 20, 2026**. You can edit, delete and make any changes through February 20.

- **Competitor Substitution Deadline: February 25, 2026**

ELIGIBILITY

ALL ATTENDEES including students, advisors, chaperones, guests, and accessibility support staff attending the conference are REQUIRED to register. All chapters are required to have a school-approved adult chaperone on-site for the duration of the conference. Only affiliated chapters and members will be able to register for competitive events at the State Leadership and Skills Conference.

COST

Registration Type	Description	Cost
Advisors/Admin	Teachers serving as Chapter Advisors	\$100
Competitors	Student members competing in competitions (Substitution Deadline: 2/25)	\$100
Observers	Professionals, chaperones, guests, students not competing in competitions	\$100

REGISTRATION INCLUDES

- Conference/Competition participation, supplies, & optional meals **Thurs: Lunch & Dinner, Fri: Lunch**
- Conference t-shirt, state pin, and professional development

INFORMATION NEEDED TO REGISTER

- Name, Registration Type, Email Address, and T-Shirt Size
 - We encourage participants to supply a **personal email address** as opposed to a school email address because of security restrictions on incoming emails, which can prevent students and advisors from receiving important information from us
- Competition Selections for Competitors

REGISTRATION ADD-ONS

- Additional State Pins: \$1.50 - \$3.00 per additional state pin (more information below)
- Ticket to Champions' Festival: Price \$25.00 per participant

Payment

DEADLINE

All conference payments must be **received by March 18, 2026**. If your chapter has any concerns meeting this deadline please reach out to the State Office, info@skillsusanm.org. W9: [SkillsUSA New Mexico W9](#)

INVOICE

Upon submission of registration, you will receive an email confirmation that will serve as an invoice.

PAYING BY CHECK

Please make checks out to **SkillsUSA New Mexico** and include a copy of the registration invoice with your check.

Remit to:

SkillsUSA New Mexico % CNM
525 Buena Vista Dr SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

PAYING BY CREDIT CARD

You can pay by credit card online by [clicking here](#).

POLICIES

- By registering, you agree to all conference policies and guidelines outlined in this Conference Guide
- No late registrations will be accepted; You can edit, delete and make any changes through February 20
- Substitutions will ONLY be allowed with written approval by the State Director until February 25
- No registration refunds will be granted after the registration deadline for those who do not attend
- Only paid registrants may participate in conference events

Dress Code

All conference attendees must be registered for the conference and comply with the following dress code policy. All registrants must wear official conference identification name badges at all times.

Occasion	Appropriate Attire
Opening Ceremony	SkillsUSA Official Dress, Competition Attire, Competition Similar Attire, or Business Professional
Professional Development	Conference T-Shirt, Business Casual, Competition Attire, or SkillsUSA Official Dress
Competitions	Competition Attire or Competition Similar Attire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Clothing Requirements in the Technical Standards of each competition • All 2025-2026 Clothing Classifications with photos can be found here • NOTE: Due to difficulties with the new National clothing vendor HALO,

	judges will make an exception and assess students on the basis that students are dressed in appropriate attire for their line of work. Students MUST follow all safety apparel needed.
Closing Ceremony	SkillsUSA Official Dress, Competition Attire or Competition Similar Attire

Dress Code Definitions

SkillsUSA Official Dress (Class A)

- Official SkillsUSA red blazer or official SkillsUSA red jacket
- Button-up, collared, white dress shirt (accompanied by a plain, solid black tie or SkillsUSA black tie), white shirt (collarless or small-collared) or white turtleneck, with any collar not to extend into the lapel area of the blazer, sweater, windbreaker, or jacket
- Black dress slacks or black dress skirt (knee-length at minimum)
- Black closed-toe dress shoes



Competition Attire (Class B - Class I)

- Please refer to the [SkillsUSA Championships Clothing Classification, 2025-26](#)



Similar Competition Attire

- Attire that is similar to Competition Attire that is not Official SkillsUSA Clothing
 - Work shirts, pants or uniforms that are similar in style but not color
 - Industry professional: Attire that would be worn in the field

Business Casual

- Collar shirts, polo shirts, blouses, dress pants, slacks, khakis, shirts (knee-length or longer), dress shoes, flats, heels, or similar attire

Conference T-Shirt

- T-shirt provided to each conference registrant - will be provided with Chapter packet at Registration
- T-shirt to be worn with business casual bottoms, such as dress pants, slacks, khakis, shirts, or similar

Note: Competitors who DO NOT follow the dress code for Closing Ceremony **WILL NOT** be allowed on stage during award recognition. No attire allowed with student or school name and **NO HATS** of any kind will be permitted at the conference.

Lodging

LODGING REQUIREMENT

For safety, security, liability, and cost-efficiency reasons, it is required that all conference attendees stay in the hotel blocks acquired by SkillsUSA New Mexico for the duration of the conference. If your Chapter is within 35 miles from Albuquerque, you are eligible for commuting to and from the conference. **All Chapters are required to stay both Thursday and Friday night, unless you meet the 35 mile radius requirement or have written approval from the State Director.** If you meet the requirement, please complete the required documentation and receive written approval to be eligible for commuting. Chapters not adhering to these guidelines by not staying at the approved conference hotel block or completing the eligibility requirement will be removed from all conference activities including competitions. **It is HIGHLY recommended that schools arrive on Wednesday evening so that students have time to prepare for competitions and schools can experience the opening ceremony on Thursday morning. Registration for Chapters will be limited on Thursday, so please plan accordingly.**

CONFERENCE HOTEL VENUE - SOLD OUT

Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North

5151 San Francisco Rd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

HOTEL RATE

Room rate **\$165** (plus [applicable taxes](#) - \$25.78)

\$190.78/per room per night

Included in room rate:

- Hot Grab & Go breakfast for up to four guests per room; provided on Thursday, Friday and Saturday
- Check-in time is 4:00 pm and Check-out time is 11:00 am
- Complimentary self-parking
- Complimentary basic Wi-Fi in guest rooms and meeting space
- Complimentary luggage storage pre/post conference
- Group rate is offered 3 days pre/post conference, based on availability, March 15-March 24, 2026

RESERVATIONS

The lodging room block is now open **February 16, 2026** and will close on **February 26, 2026**.

- [ABQ Marriott Rooming List Form](#)
- [35 Mile Radius Requirement Form](#)

Please complete the ABQ Marriott Rooming List Form and send it in an email to **Heather Kingsbury** at heather.kingsbury@marriott.com

- Download a copy of the form: Click File > Download > Microsoft Excel (.xlsx)
- Please make sure all highlighted cells (*) are completed - additional room guests are optional
- Providing the method of payment is extremely important – please note if rooms will be paid by CREDIT CARD / CHECK . *** DO NOT*** put a credit card number on the spreadsheet – just indicate “CC”, and

LINK FOR 2026 COMPETITION UPDATES - AVAILABLE NOW

we will send you a secure credit card authorization link via "Sertifi" to complete via Docu-Sign for the hotel reservations

- Once your form of payment and rooming list is received, the hotel will reply to your email address with a list of your confirmation numbers
- If you need a quote/invoice to get a purchase order created or to cut a check, please email Heather and she will have the hotel send you a separate estimate for the rooms based on your room count
- If you have more than one guest in a room, please add the additional room guest names where indicated after the arrival and departure dates (maximum 4 guests total per room)
- The hotel will place all reservations with more than one guest name in rooms with 2 double beds *(NOTE: Once doubles are sold out, rooms with one king or one queen and a sofa bed will be substituted and you will be notified if this happens)*
- If you have a room listed with only one name, but need 2 beds, please indicate this in the "notes" column at the very end
- Please note any and all special requests in the "notes" column at the very end of the spreadsheet, and the hotel will do their best to accommodate to the best of their ability

HOTEL PAYMENT

Hotel payments are due directly to the hotel

- Form of Payment: Credit Card or Check - details provided above for information about payment
- [Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North W-9](#)

Note: The Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North has requested that any participants bringing in outside food are requested to take food directly to their guest rooms. Outside food is frowned upon in public areas.

Conference Approved Overflow Lodging

HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON ALBUQUERQUE-JOURNAL CENTER

5400 San Antonio DR NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

HOTEL RATE

Room Rate \$149.00 (plus applicable taxes) per room per night

Included in room rate:

- Complimentary self-parking
- Complimentary internet in guest rooms
- Complimentary breakfast daily
- Check-in time is 3:00 pm and Check-out time is 12:00 pm

RESERVATIONS

The lodging room block will open **March 1, 2026**

LINK FOR 2026 COMPETITION UPDATES - AVAILABLE NOW

- Use the provided booking link and group code to make reservations
 - Reservation Contact: Aaron Dees Molina
 - Email: aaron.deesmolina@hilton.com
 - Group Code: SKL
- Booking Link: [SkillsUSA NM 2026 - Homewood Suites Albuquerque Journal Center](#)
- Reservation Phone Number: 505-998-4663
- Should you have any questions please contact Aaron Dees Molina, aaron.deesmolina@hilton.com

HOTEL PAYMENT

Hotel payments are due directly to the hotel

- Form of Payment: Credit Card

COMFORT SUITES ALBUQUERQUE NORTH JOURNAL CENTER

5151 San Antonio Drive NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

HOTEL RATE

Room Rate \$129.00 (plus applicable taxes) per room per night

Included in room rate:

- Complimentary self-parking
- Complimentary internet in guest rooms
- Complimentary breakfast daily
- Check-in time is 3:00 pm and Check-out time is 12:00 pm

RESERVATIONS

The lodging room block will open **March 1, 2026**

- Use the provided booking link and group code to make reservations
 - Reservation Contact: Aaron Dees Molina
 - Email: aaron.deesmolina@hilton.com
 - Group Code: 5285445
 - Booking Link: [2026 SkillsUSA New Mexico - Comfort Suites Albuquerque North Journal Center](#)
 - Reservation Phone Number: 575-513-1663
- Should you have any questions please contact Aaron Dees Molina, aaron.deesmolina@hilton.com

HOTEL PAYMENT

Hotel payments are due directly to the hotel

- Form of Payment: Credit Card

HOLIDAY INN & SUITES - ROOMS WITH BREAKFAST ARE SOLD OUT

5050 Jefferson St NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

HOTEL RATE

Room Rate \$159.00 (plus applicable taxes) per room per night

Included in room rate:

- Complimentary self-parking
- Complimentary internet in guest rooms
- Complimentary breakfast daily
- Check-in time is 3:00 pm and Check-out time is 11:00 am

RESERVATIONS

The lodging room block will open **March 1, 2026**

- Reservation Contact: Julie Gonzalez-Najar, DIRECTOR OF SALES
- Email: SALES@PEAKHOTELS.COM
- Group Code: SKI
- Booking Link: ([preferred booking method](#))
- Reservation Phone Number: 505-944-2222

HOTEL PAYMENT

Hotel payments are due directly to the hotel

- Form of Payment: Credit Card Authorization is required Prior to arrival. Please coordinate with the hotel to send Credit Card Authorization through a secure service portal. If paying by PO or School Check, we will need to receive this prior to arrival.

LA QUINTA INN INN & SUITES BY WYNDHAM ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

7439 Pan American Freeway NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

HOTEL RATE

Room Rate \$65.00 (plus applicable taxes) per room per night

Included in room rate:

- Complimentary self-parking
- Complimentary internet in guest rooms
- Complimentary breakfast daily
- Check-in time is 3:00 pm and Check-out time is 11:00 am

RESERVATIONS

The lodging room block will open **March 1, 2026**

- Reservation Contact: Front Desk
- Email: lq52946gm@gmail.com
- Group Code: 031826SKI
- Booking Link: [La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Albuquerque Journal Ctr NW | Albuquerque, NM Hotels](#)
- Reservation Phone Number: 505-345-7500

Food

- **Thursday, March 19**
 - Breakfast (included with Marriott fees for Marriott guests only)
 - Lunch at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North - ALL REGISTRANTS
 - Dinner at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North - ALL REGISTRANTS
- **Friday, March 20**
 - Breakfast (included with Marriott fees for Marriott guests only)
 - Lunch at CNM Main Campus and Off-site Competition Locations - ALL REGISTRANTS
 - Dinner provided with Champions' Festival Add-on Option (\$25 per participant)
- **Saturday, March 21**
 - Breakfast (included with Marriott fees for Marriott guests only)

Note: Breakfast is ONLY included with the ABQ Marriott hotel blocks provided. During Competitions on Thursday & Friday, Technical Chairs will determine when lunch will take place for each competition. A 11:00 am to 1:00 pm lunch time has been suggested. All competitions taking place at off-site locations will be provided meals on Thursday, March 19 and Friday, March 20 - delivery of meals is anticipated between 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Registration Add-ons

SkillsUSA's pin trading is a long standing tradition of students trading their state pins with other states at the National Leadership & Skills Conference. Pin trading offers students the opportunity to network with other SkillsUSA members from across the country. Additionally, Pin Design is a competition that students at the local level can compete in to submit designs for the official New Mexico Trading Pin (Pin Design submission deadline occurs in the Fall). One pin is included with every registration and will be the division you are in.

Advisors can purchase additional pins as part of SLSC registration or on site at SLSC with a credit card.

REGISTRATION ADD-ONS

- **Additional Postsecondary State Pins: \$1.50 per additional state pin**
 - \$15.00 for 10 state pins
 - \$70.00 for 50 state pins
 - \$130.00 for 100 state pins
- **Additional Secondary State Pins: \$3.00 per additional state pin**
 - \$30.00 for 10 state pins
 - \$130.00 for 50 state pins
 - \$260.00 for 100 state pins
- **Middle School State Pin Sticker: \$1.00**
 - \$10.00 for 10 middle school stickers state pin stickers
 - \$40.00 for 50 middle school stickers state pin stickers
 - \$75.00 for 100 middle school stickers state pin stickers

- **Champions' Festival Friday Night: \$25.00 per person**
 - All You Can Play 5:30p-9:30p - Bowling, Laser Tag, Billiards, Gravity Ropes, Games
 - All You Can Play 5:30p-9:30p - Arcade
 - 2 Slices of Pizza & Drink

Conference Schedule

Please note the schedule is **tentative** and subject to change.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

4:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Chapter and Technical Chair Registration	ABQ Marriott Pyramid: Omega
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm	State Officer Candidate Interviews	ABQ Marriott Pyramid: Magdalena
10:00 pm	Hotel Curfew	ALL LOCATIONS

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

6:00 am - 7:30 am	Breakfast (hotel guests)	ABQ Marriott Pyramid: TBD
6:00 am - 5:00 pm	Chapter and Technical Chair Registration	ABQ Marriott Pyramid: Omega
8:00 am to 10:00 am	Opening Ceremony	ABQ Marriott Pyramid: Pyramid Ballroom
11:00 am to 5:00 pm	TECHSPO	ABQ Marriott Pyramid: West Lot
10:30 am - 7:00 pm	Leadership and Occupationally Related Competitions	ABQ Marriott Pyramid: Various
10:30 am - 7:00 pm	Skilled and Technical Competitions (Day 1)	CNM Main Campus & Off-site Locations
11:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch	ABQ Marriott Pyramid: Pavilion Outside
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Advisor Professional Development	ABQ Marriott Pyramid Red Lanyard: La Cienega
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm	Professional Development	ABQ Marriott Pyramid Black Lanyard: Chama Blue Lanyard: Cimarron
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	Dinner	ABQ Marriott Pyramid: Pavilion Outside
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Meet the State Officer Candidates	ABQ Marriott Pyramid: Pavilion Outside
8:30 pm to 9:30 pm	Advisor Meeting	ABQ Marriott Pyramid: Chama
8:30 pm to 9:30 pm	House of Delegates Meeting and DESERT social	ABQ Marriott Pyramid: Cimarron
10:00 pm	Hotel Curfew	ALL LOCATIONS

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026

6:00 am - 7:30 am	Breakfast (hotel guests)	ABQ Marriott Pyramid: TBD
6:00 am - 7:30 am	Technical Chair and Competition Judges Registration	CNM Main Campus Headquarters: New TTC Building
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Skilled and Technical Competitions (Day 2)	CNM Main Campus & Off-site Locations
11:00 am - 3:00 pm	TECHSPO	CNM Main Campus: TTC Commons
11:30 am - 1:30 pm	Lunch	CNM Main Campus & Off-site Locations

[LINK FOR 2026 COMPETITION UPDATES - AVAILABLE NOW](#)


		CNM: TTC Commons Area Off-site: Delivery
5:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Champions' Festival	Main Event
10:00 pm	Hotel Curfew	ALL LOCATIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026

7:00 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast	ABQ Marriott Pyramid: TBD
9:00 am - 11:30 am	Closing Ceremony	ABQ Marriott Pyramid: Pyramid Ballroom
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	NM Women in Trades Summit: FREE EVENT	CNM Main Campus

New Mexico Women in Trades Summit

CNM's fourth-annual Women in Trades Summit is planning to take place Saturday, March 21, and features an exciting lineup of industry experts, guest speakers, and activities. Students, staff, faculty, and community members are all invited to join the event to learn more about the many different career pathways for women in the trades. This event is FREE and open to ALL!

 **Date:** Saturday, March 21, 2026

 **Time:** 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

 **Location:** CNM Main Campus, TBD

Event Highlights:

- ✓ Meet employers & explore job opportunities
- ✓ Hands-on activities in industrial automation, HVAC, plumbing, culinary, and more
- ✓ Learn about education & training programs, financial aid & career resources available
- ✓ Family-friendly fun with games, food, and giveaways



Championships/Competitions

The SkillsUSA Championships are career competition events showcasing the best career and technical education students in the state. The philosophy of the Championships is to reward students for excellence, to involve industry in directly evaluating student performance, and to keep training relevant to employers' needs.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

The SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards are the official competition guide for the SkillsUSA Championships. They contain rules for all national events, including an overview, lists of technical skills and knowledge required, clothing requirements, eligibility, and equipment lists. The Technical Standards can be accessed with a SkillsUSA Membership via [Pathful](#).

- [Watch](#) "How to Access Professional Membership Benefits"





COMPETITIONS AT SLSC

Provided is a list of competitions we are offering at the 2026 SkillsUSA New Mexico State Leadership and Skills Conference. The 2026 NM SLSC WILL NOT offer all National competitions available. All National Championships Competitions can be found [HERE](#). All competitions should have a minimum of two (2) competitors to run. If only one (1) competitor registers for a competition it will be at the discretion of the Technical Chair to run the competition.

Competition Guidelines

- A competitor may participate in **one** Leadership Development or Occupationally Related competition (Thursday) AND **one** Skilled and Technical Competition (Friday) as long as schedules do not conflict
- On Friday, once a competitor has completed their competition they need to report to the TTC building and contact their Advisor - Students are discouraged from being on campus unattended
- Judges are not obligated to award a first, second or third place winner if, in their opinion, the performances are below acceptable standards
- The decisions of the judges will be final - The SkillsUSA New Mexico State Director and State Conference Grievance Committee will make final interpretations of any disputes
- **Grievance forms** are available on the SkillsUSA NM website and are due no later than 8:00 pm on Thursday and 6:00 pm on Friday - on the day of the competitors competition
- All competition rules shall be as stated in the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards, unless an exception has been made in the **Competition Updates - [Link to Competition Updates](#)**
- Competitors shall not have any identification showing name, school, or any indication of where they are from - Including tools and clothing that might be identifiable - Identifying material is considered grounds for disqualification
- Printed resumes are required for each competition in which a student is competing - Please review the Technical Standards for the number of copies needed
- The Competition schedule will be strictly enforced - Please allow time in your planning
- In the event of a competition tie, the Technical Chair(s)/Judges are encouraged to consider the following to determine the winner(s):
 - Leadership Competitions: SkillsUSA Professional Development Test scores
 - Occupationally Related and Skilled and Technical Competitions: Overall competition participation including project

LINK FOR 2026 COMPETITION UPDATES - AVAILABLE NOW

- Clothing penalties will be assessed during the state level competitions - Competitors should wear Competition Attire matching the competition Technical Standards or Competition Similar Attire - Identifying items (name, school, etc.) **SHOULD NOT** be worn - All safety requirements outlined within the Technical Standards must be met
 - The Technical Standards can be accessed with SkillsUSA Membership via [Pathful](#).
 - **NOTE: Due to difficulties with the new National clothing vendor, judges will make an exception for those without official SkillsUSA attire. Students will be assessed on the basis that they are dressed in appropriate attire for their line of work. Students MUST follow all safety apparel needed.**
- SkillsUSA New Mexico will make every effort to provide accommodations as appropriate to create equal opportunities for all competitors - No assistance will be provided that could be interpreted as an unfair advantage - Advanced identification of the competitors and their special needs must be provided in the registration website and to the State Director by February 25, info@skillsusanm.org.

Location

Leadership and Occupationally Related Competitions will be held **Thursday, March 19** and Skilled and Technical Competitions will be held on **Friday, March 20**, with the exception of a few that run both days**. All Leadership and Occupationally Related Competitions will take place at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North, and the majority of Skilled and Technical Competitions will take place at the [CNM Main Campus](#), exceptions will be indicated otherwise.

- Conference Schedule - *Will be available after conference registration closes*

Parking at CNM Main Campus

CNM will be accommodating large vehicles such as school buses. *Parking will be located in the CNM X, X, and X lots* - please look for signage. Student drop off and pick up for ANY STUDENT is designated on the map below. For the safety of our students, drop off and pick up will not be permitted in any other locations. To access this location, access is on University northbound between Basehart and Coal Avenue.

- **CNM Main Campus MAP COMING SOON**

Competition Updates

- **National Competition Updates:** Click [HERE](#) to access the National Competition Updates. Please be aware of these Competition Updates as well as the SkillsUSA New Mexico Competition Updates below.
- **SkillsUSA New Mexico Competition Updates:** Click [HERE](#) to access the State Competition Updates. Please bookmark and check this website often for updates.

Leadership and Occupationally Related Competitions

Competition Name	Individual / Team	Eligibility per Chapter at 2026 SLSC	Competition Specific Written Test	SkillsUSA Professional Development Test
Action Skills*	Individual	3 Individuals	NA	YES
American Spirit *	Team of 3	2 Teams	NA	YES
Career Pathways Showcase - Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources	Team of 3	1 Team	NA	YES

LINK FOR 2026 COMPETITION UPDATES - AVAILABLE NOW

Career Pathways Showcase - Arts and Communication	Team of 3	1 Team	NA	YES
Career Pathways Showcase - Business Management	Team of 3	1 Team	NA	YES
Career Pathways Showcase - Health Science	Team of 3	1 Team	NA	YES
Career Pathways Showcase - Human Services	Team of 3	1 Team	NA	YES
Career Pathways Showcase - Industrial and Engineering Technology	Team of 3	1 Team	NA	YES
Chapter Business Procedure	Team of 6	1 Team	YES	YES
Chapter Display*	Team of 3	1 Team	NA	YES
Community Service*	Team of 3	1 Team	NA	YES
Customer Service	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Employment Application Process	Individual	3 Individuals	NA	YES
Entrepreneurship	Team of 4	1 Team	NA	YES
Extemporaneous Speaking*	Individual	3 Individuals	NA	YES
First Aid - CPR	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Job Interview*	Individual	2 Individuals	NA	YES
Job Skill Demonstration A*	Individual	2 Individuals	NA	YES
Job Skill Demonstration Open*	Individual	2 Individuals	NA	YES
Medical Math	Individual	3 Individuals	YES - Onsite	YES
Medical Terminology	Individual	3 Individuals	YES - Onsite	YES
Opening and Closing Ceremonies*	Team of 7	1 Team	NA	YES
Outstanding Chapter*	Teams of 3	2 teams	NA	YES
Pin Design*	Individual	Competition took place at 2025 FLC	NA	YES
Prepared Speech*	Individual	3 Individuals	NA	YES
Promotional Bulletin Board*	Team of 3	1 Team	NA	YES
Quiz Bowl*	Team of 5 up to 7	1 Team	YES	YES
Related Technical Math	Individual	3 Individuals	YES - Onsite	YES
T-Shirt Design*	Individual	Competition took place January 2026	NA	YES

Skilled and Technical Competitions

Competition Name	Individual / Team	Eligibility per Chapter at 2026 SLSC	Competition Specific Written Test	SkillsUSA Professional Development Test
3D Visualization and Animation*	Team of 2	3 Teams	YES	YES

LINK FOR 2026 COMPETITION UPDATES - AVAILABLE NOW

Additive Manufacturing*	Team of 2	2 Teams	YES	YES
Advertising Design	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Architectural Drafting	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Audio Production	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Automotive Service Technology	Individual	2 Individuals per Auto Program OR 3 Individuals with Only One Auto Program	YES - Onsite	YES
Automotive Service Technology (First Year) Note: First year auto students only This competition does not qualify students for the National Leadership and Skills Conference - State ONLY competition	Individual	3 Individuals	YES - Onsite	YES
Aviation Maintenance Technology	Individual	CNM Open	YES	YES
Baking and Pastry Arts**	Individual	HS: 2 Individuals PS: 3 Individuals	YES	YES
Basic Health Care Skills (High School Only)	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Building Maintenance	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Cabinetmaking	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Carpentry	Individual	2 Individuals	YES	YES
CNC 3 - Axis Milling Programmer	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
CNC Programmer	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Collision Repair Technology** Note: Event NOT at CNM Main Campus	Individual	6 Individuals	YES	YES
Commercial sUAS Drone*	Team of 2	2 Teams	YES	YES
Computer Programming	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Crime Scene Investigation	Team of 3	2 Teams	YES	YES
Criminal Justice	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Culinary Arts**	Individual	HS: 2 Individuals PS: 3 Individuals	YES	YES
Cyber Security	Team of 2	3 Teams	YES	YES
Diesel Equipment Technology	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Digital Cinema Production	Team of 2	3 Teams	YES	YES
Early Childhood Education	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Electrical Construction Wiring	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Firefighting Note: Event NOT at CNM Main Campus	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Information Technology Services	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES

LINK FOR 2026 COMPETITION UPDATES - AVAILABLE NOW

Interactive Application and Video Game Development*	Team of 2	2 Teams	YES	YES
Internetworking	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Mechatronics	Team of 2	3 Teams	YES	YES
Nail Care	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Nurse Assisting	Individual	2 Individuals	YES	YES
Photography	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Plumbing	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Restaurant Service	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Robotics Automation Technology	Team of 2	2 Teams	YES	YES
Robotics - Urban Search and Rescue*	Team of 2	2 Teams	YES	YES
Screen Printing Technology	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Sheet Metal	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
TeamWorks**	Team of 4	1 Team	YES	YES
Technical Computer Applications	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Technical Drafting	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES
Television (Video) Production	Team of 2	3 Teams	YES	YES
Video News Production Note: Event NOT at CNM Main Campus	Team of 4	3 Teams	YES	YES
Welding	Individual	2 Individuals	YES	YES
Welding Fabrication	Team of 3	2 Teams	YES	YES
Welding Sculpture	Individual	3 Individuals	YES	YES

*Competitions available for middle school students to advance to NLSC

**Competition will take place on BOTH Thursday, March 19 and Friday, March 20

RESUME

All Competitors must provide a **PRINTED COPY** of their resume for each competition in which they compete. It is advised that students have their resumes printed **BEFORE** arriving at SLSC. **Resumes do not get uploaded or emailed before SLSC.**

TESTING

The SkillsUSA New Mexico State Leadership and Skills Conference testing window will be held online from **Monday, March 2 to Sunday, March 15. ALL MASTER COPIES FOR YOUR ONLINE TESTERS (COMPETITORS) AND LOGINS WILL BE EMAILED TO ADVISOR EMAILS USED FOR CONFERENCE REGISTRATION ON MARCH 2, 2026 - IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE THIS, PLEASE REACH OUT ASAP WITH YOUR SCHOOL'S NAME, info@skillsusanm.org**

- [Testing NOCTI Testing Website](#)
- [Testing NOCTI Proctor Guide](#)

All competitors are required to take the **SkillsUSA Professional Development Test**.

- [SkillsUSA Professional Development Test Study Guide](#)
- Scores may be used in the event of a competition tie
- **All State Officer Candidates are required to take the SkillsUSA Professional Development Test**
- Refer to the Competition Chart for required testing

Most competitors participating in SkillsUSA competitions will also complete an **Online Skill Test** (Competition Specific Written Test) ([see Technical Standards](#)) during the testing window.

- Refer to the Competition Chart for required testing

How will this be facilitated?

SkillsUSA New Mexico will administer online testing through SkillsUSA's NOCTI online test center login page. Students registered to compete at the State Leadership and Skills Conference will have their testing content pre-loaded into their online accounts. Usernames and passwords will be provided by the state director to test proctors to schedule and oversee the testing process.

Are there testing accommodations?

Testing accommodations are available for students with formalized plans (e.g., Individualized Education Plan, 504 Plan). English Language Learner (ELL) accommodations must align with state requirements and guidelines. It is the testing site's responsibility to ensure that learners receive appropriate accommodations in accordance with local, state, and federal standards. Advisors must request accommodation for **extended time** or **text-to-speech** during registration as these must be enabled before the testing session. Most online state knowledge tests will include 50 questions and have a 60-minute time limit. Exceptions (e.g., medical math, medical terminology, related technical math) time limits are outlined in the national technical standards.

How can we prepare students for online testing?

NOCTI offers a demo test to familiarize students and proctors with the testing platform. Visit <https://testing.nocti.org/> and click on the "Try the Testing System" button. No login credentials are required. The demo test consists of nine questions and allows users to explore navigation and built-in accessibility tools. Additionally, proctors and competitors can use the "Get Device Ready for Testing" feature on the same page to check system compatibility before scheduling a test session.

What does the proctor do if they are having issues locating student testing credentials?

If a proctor is having issues locating student testing credentials sent by the state director, they can contact the SkillsUSA Customer Care Team for assistance. The team can help confirm and retrieve testing credentials for registered competitors to ensure the student can access their test.

- **Online Chat:** [SkillsUSA.org/Customer-Care/](https://www.skillsusa.org/customer-care/)
- **Email:** customercare@skillsusa.org
- **Phone:** (844) 875-4557

Encourage the proctor to provide details such as the student's name, state, and competition to expedite the process.

What should a proctor do if a student encounters technical issues?

For technical support, contact NOCTI Technical Assistance at (800) 278-8506, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern. Refer to the [SkillsUSA NOCTI Proctor Guide](#) for additional troubleshooting steps.

Will I, as an advisor, have my own account?

No, advisors will not receive accounts for accessing competition tests. This ensures the security of testing materials. Advisors are not required to take any direct action during the testing process.

We appreciate your support in making this online testing experience seamless for your students. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

SUBSTITUTION TESTING

When the SkillsUSA NM office has confirmed your request we notify the National Office to get your student competitors testing added or changed. Once they have done this it normally takes 24 hours for the information to appear in the testing system, at which point they provide the State Office with the new testing credentials which are then shared with the Advisor who requested the changes.

Voting Delegates

SkillsUSA is a student-run organization, whereby student members are charged with the responsibility of governing the affairs associated with the student constitutions. School chapters are entitled to student voting delegates commensurate with their membership to represent the views of their state association within the structure of the National House of Delegates. Each local chapter shall be entitled to at least one (1) delegate at the State Leadership and Skills Conference. Please determine which student(s) will represent your chapter at this meeting and s'mores social! Delegates must be active members of their local chapter.

Each chapter is REQUIRED to have delegates, and all delegates are REQUIRED to attend the following:

- State Officer Candidate Meet and Greet on **Thursday, March 19 from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm**
- House of Delegates Meeting on **Thursday, March 19 from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm**

Failure to attend will result in the chapter forfeiting their votes for State Officer Candidates. Chapters should elect Voting Delegates prior to the State Leadership and Skills Conference. The delegates are computed on the following active members per chapter:

Active Members per Chapter	Voting Delegates Eligible
8 or less members	One (1) delegate
9 through 50 members	Two (2) delegates
51 through 100 members	Three (3) delegates
101 through 150 members	Four (4) delegates
151 through 200 members	Five (5) delegates
201 through 250 members	Six (6) delegates
251 through 300 members	Seven (7) delegates
301 through 350 members	Eight (8) delegates
351 through 400 members	Nine (9) delegates
401 through 450 members	Ten (10) delegates
451 through 500 members	Eleven (11) delegates
More than 500 members	Add (1) delegate for every 50 additional members

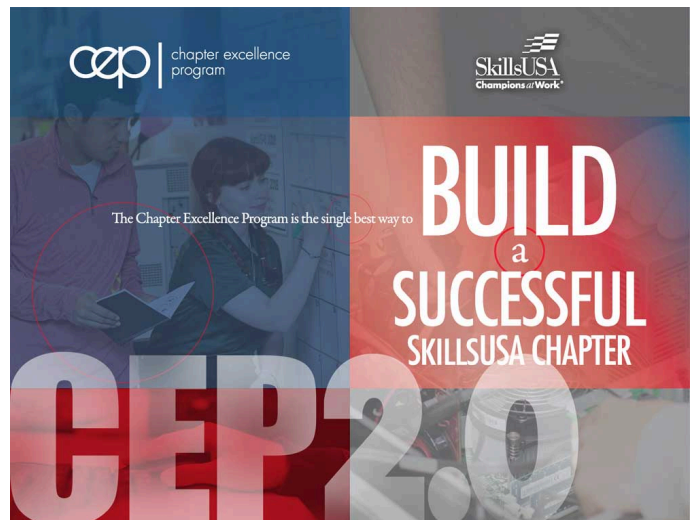
Upon registration check-in, each chapter will receive the House of Delegate information and materials will be provided as part of your chapter's registration packet. Please check the conference and competition schedule before assigning your Voting Delegates to ensure they can attend the Voting Delegate Meeting.

Responsibilities of House of Delegates:

- Enact bylaw rules and regulations necessary for carrying out the affairs and activities of the organization
- Elect officers of the organization
- Act upon items of business as requested by the State Executive Council and Board of Directors

Chapter Excellence Program

The [Chapter Excellence Program](#) (CEP) recognizes achievement as it relates to the integration of the SkillsUSA Framework in the chapter program of work activities. As a chapter's yearly action plan, the program of work is at the heart of student learning and employability development. By using the Framework as a guide, chapters have a blueprint for creating relevant activities that encourage participation and foster an understanding of student learning attained during each activity. The Framework's focus on intentional learning turns the program of work into more than just a planning tool. Using the Framework, the program of work becomes the vital conduit that links students to the application of personal, workplace, and technical skills demanded by industry. The SkillsUSA trifecta for student success!



Every chapter is encouraged to participate in CEP and there are three award levels to recognize program involvement. The first two levels are acknowledged by a chapter's state association and the third level is recognized nationally. Each level is designed to give chapters a benchmark for success and future improvement, leading to stronger chapters and more prepared students. The more a chapter applies the Framework, the greater the chance for CEP honors.

All chapters that submit a CEP application and achieve "Quality Chapter", "Chapter of Distinction" or "Models of Excellence" will be recognized.

- [Chapter Excellence Program Application](#)
 - **State Deadline: February 13, 2026 (to be recognized at the State Conference)**
 - **National Deadline: March 1, 2026**

TECHSPO: Technical Exposition

Attention Graduating High School Seniors and Graduating Postsecondary Students:

TECHSPO is your chance to speak to leading business and industry partners about exciting career opportunities! Employers are ready to meet with students who are prepared to network, show off their interview skills, and present their resumes. Businesses are encouraged to conduct preliminary screenings and interviews with potential candidates.



Do you have questions about services and employment? Come to TECHSPO! Do you want to know what a job would look like at one of the many companies that will be represented? You should come to TECHSPO!

We urge you to come dressed for success with your resume in hand, and bring your A-Game! You never know what might happen.

Questions? Please contact Sarah VanGorden with the SkillsUSA NM State Office at svangorden@cnm.edu.



TECHSPO & CONFERENCE SPONSORS

- NM Public Education Department
- TLC Plumbing Heating Cooling Electrical
- Milwaukee Tools
- Jaynes Corporation
- CNM
- CNM Ingenuity
- Be Pro Be Proud
- EF Tours
- United Rentals
- NMSU Hospitality
- ABC New Mexico
- United Rentals
- Clean Air Industries
- High Country Technology Consultants
- Kenworth
- WyoTech

National Skills and Leadership Conference

WEBSITE

<https://www.nlsc.skillsusa.org/>

DATES

Monday, June 1, 2026 to
Friday, June 5, 2026

LOCATION

Georgia World Congress Center
285 Andrew Young International
Blvd NW, Atlanta, GA 30313

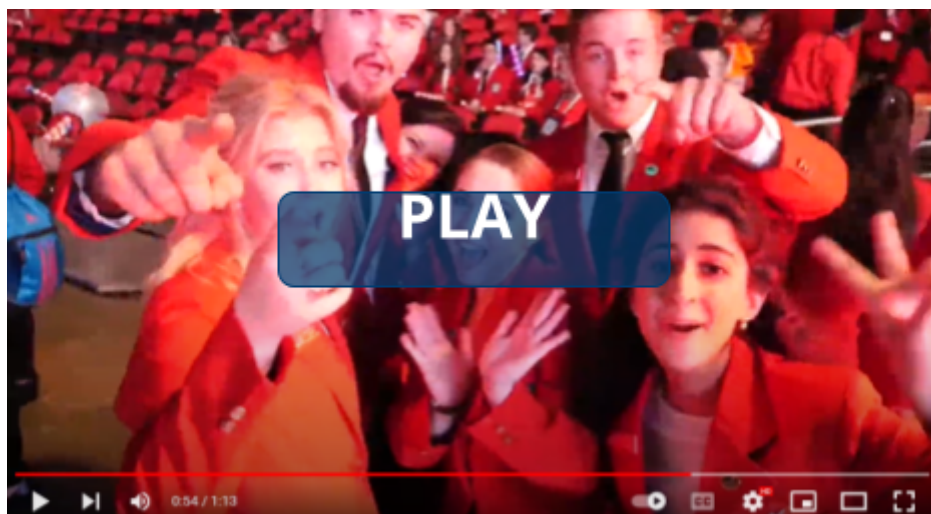


CONFERENCE HOTEL

Omni Atlanta Hotel at Centennial Park

190 Marietta St NW, Atlanta, GA 30303

Room Rate: \$228.00 plus 16.9% tax + \$5 Georgia hotel fee per room per night (single/double & triple/quad occ)



NATIONAL QUALIFIERS

Gold medalists in each competition at SkillsUSA New Mexico State Leadership and Skills Conference qualify to compete at the National Leadership and Skills Conference. Information will be emailed to national qualifiers following the conclusion of 2025 SkillsUSA New Mexico State Leadership and Skills Conference.

- REQUIRED VIRTUAL MEETING for all Gold Medalists and their Advisors: Tuesday, March 24, 2026
- More information and a meeting link will be emailed to the gold medalist and their advisor
- State winners in **Collision Repair** may enter either Collision Repair or Automotive Refinishing at the National Championships. The gold medalist will have first choice to their competition choice and the silver medalist will have the option to enter the other competition available.

Frequently Asked Questions

This list will be updated regularly with frequently asked questions regarding the 2026 SkillsUSA New Mexico State Leadership and Skills Conference.

Q: Who can I contact with questions?

- For general SkillsUSA questions, the [SkillsUSA Customer Care Team](#) is a great resource. They can be reached at CustomerCare@SkillsUSA.org or 844-875-4557.
- For state-specific questions, please contact info@skillsusanm.org.

Q: What does the registration fee cover?

In order to provide a well-organized and comprehensive conference, we must charge a registration fee. Conference costs include, but are not limited to, conference t-shirts, meeting spaces, A/V, conference management system, tabulations, conference and competition supplies, awards, merchandise, technical chair gifts, and food and beverage for conference attendees, and more. If you have any ideas on how to offset the cost of the State Leadership and Skills Conference, please contact Sarah, svangorden@cnm.edu.

Q: Do I need to book a room within the conference hotel block or can I make my own reservations?

Conference attendees are required to stay in the hotel block(s) acquired by SkillsUSA New Mexico for the duration of the conference. Chapters not adhering to these guidelines by not staying at the approved conference hotel block will be removed from all conference activities including competitions unless approved in advance by the State Director.

Q: I need to create a PO to pay for lodging. Can you please provide me with the exact lodging costs?

Room rates are **\$165** plus tax per night depending on the venue. The current estimated total sales tax is 15.625%. Lodging will open on **February 16** and close on **February 26**. If you want to create a PO prior to making the reservation, you or your bookkeeper will have to work directly with the hotel if that PO amount exceeds or does not match the amount you are committed to.

Q: Registration requires a student email address. Should I use their school or personal email address?

We highly recommend using personal email addresses as many school districts block emails from out-of-district email addresses. Communications about conference happenings and competitions will be communicated through either an @Skills-Register.org, @skillsusanm.org, @cnm.edu or @gmail.com email address. In the past, some chapter advisors have used their email addresses for each student, however, we would use caution with that option because then that would put a lot of work on the advisor to forward information out as it comes. If you do not want to use personal email addresses and you are unable to receive outside-of-district emails, we recommend working with your IT department to put @Skills-Register.org, @skillsusanm.org, @cnm.edu and @gmail.com on your district's safe senders list.

Q: I would like to be more involved with SLSC. What can I do to help?

If you are interested in assisting with the State Leadership and Skills Conference (SLSC), please contact info@skillsusanm.org.