



SkillsUSA Tennessee We Grow Wednesday

March 20, 2024

NEW Web Address Please Update: <https://skillsusatnps.org/>

[Register to Volunteer/Judge/Tech Chair for State Conference](#)

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What's new this week?

From SkillsUSA Tennessee:

1. [New! Middle School Leadership and Skills Conference](#)
2. [New! SLSC Online Testing!](#)
3. [New! SLSC Opening Session Changes!](#)
4. [State Leadership and Skills Conference Reminders!](#)
5. [SkillsUSA Tennessee SLSC Safety](#)
6. [Day on the Hill](#)
7. [Upcoming Dates and Deadlines](#)

From National SkillsUSA:

1. [New! Spotlight Your Students to the Nation on Signing Day!](#)
2. [Presidential Honors for Selfless Service](#)
3. [Seeking Musical Talent to Sing National Anthem at NLSC](#)
4. [SkillsUSA Post-Secondary Scholarship Applications Open](#)

Tip of the Week 💡

If you need accommodations for students please reach out for an accommodation letter.

New! Middle School State Leadership and Skills Conference



Congratulations to all Middle School students who competed today at the first annual Middle School Leadership and Skills Conference! Governor Bill Lee welcomed all attendees during the opening session. Students competed in middle level contests, attended leadership workshops led by the state officer teams, and interacted with industry partners in the Be Pro, Be Proud truck. If your chapter attended, be on the lookout for a post-conference recap email with links to pictures and information about Gold winners attending the 2024 National Leadership and Skills Conference in June!

[Click Video To Play](#)



New! SLSC Online Testing

The SkillsUSA Tennessee State Leadership and Skills Conference testing window will be held online from **March 20** to **March 31**. All competitors will take the **Professional Development Test**. All competitors whose competition includes a **Written Knowledge Test** ([see Technical Standards](#)) will also take that test online during the testing window.

SkillsUSA will facilitate the online testing through an online testing portal. Students who are registered to compete at the State Leadership and Skills Conference will receive an email from "Contests&Skills-Register.org" to the email address associated with their conference registration prior to the State Leadership and Skills Conference with details on how to access their test(s). **Each chapter should provide a proctor for online testing.**

[Advisor Online Testing Information Letter](#)

[Proctor Online Testing Information Letter](#)
[Student Online Testing Information Testing Guide](#)

What do I do if my student can't access their test(s)?

The SkillsUSA Customer Care Team is here to assist advisors and students with gaining access to testing accounts. The Customer Care Team can be contacted by email at customer care@skillsusa.org or by phone at (844) 875-4557.

What if I have a substitution or missing student?

Fill out this form: [Test Update Form](#)

Will I as an advisor have my own account?

No. There is no action for advisors to complete, therefore there will be no account provided for advisors to access competition testing materials. Doing so also ensures the security of testing materials.

Prepare for the state and national Professional Development tests with [this](#) study guide. **As a reminder, Action Skills, Building Maintenance, Community Action Project, Employment Application Process, and all middle school competitors are NOT required to complete the SkillsUSA Professional Development Test.**

New! State Leadership and Skills Conference Opening Session Changes!

The Secondary and Postsecondary State Officer teams are excited to share that we are moving back to a full opening session! We will release more information next week, but please plan to attend on **April 16th at 6:30 p.m. ET at Finley Stadium!** Rain or shine, we will kick off the conference with an exciting session at the stadium! We do plan to bring back the parade of schools with school banners and flags etc! We will let you know the time that you can arrive to begin.



State Leadership and Skills Conference Reminders!

AGENDA

Conference Agenda

- There will be a ***Mandatory Advisor Meeting*** on **April 15 at 10:30 a.m. ET**. Please plan to attend as we will review all conference information and you will receive your advisor gift!
- On-site Conference Check-In for all Registered schools/attendees will occur:
 - **Sunday, April 14 at 5 - 7 p.m. ET or Monday, April 15 at 8 - 10 a.m. ET**

CONTESTS

Resumes

- All contestants will turn in a resume. We are working on an online option to turn these in. More information to be sent soon!

Contest Updates

- [National Contest Updates can be found here.](#)
- [Tennessee SLSC Contest Updates](#) are updated as we receive information from Tech Chairs. Tech Chairs are finalizing these plans over the next few weeks.

Contest Prizes

- As we gear up for our SLSC, we'd like to highlight the invaluable support we receive from our tech chairs and industry partners. Their generosity in providing contests and/or prizes adds an extra layer of excitement to our conference, enhancing the experience for all participants.
- However, it's important to note that these prizes are **not** guaranteed, nor is their value. While we strive to offer enticing rewards, their availability and specifics may vary based on numerous factors.
- If you know any industry partners who would like to donate any contest prizes, please reach out to SkillsUSA.Tennessee@tn.gov

Coming Soon!

- Resume upload site
- Conference App Information (we will be using a conference app this year!)

New this year! SkillsUSA Tennessee SLSC Safety: Name Badges & Raptor ID System

ALL ATTENDEES including students, advisors, chaperones, guests, and accessibility support staff attending the conference are REQUIRED to register for the conference. All chapters are required to have a school-approved adult chaperone on-site for the duration of the conference. All attendees must wear the name badge for the duration of the conference. This year, an external company will be printing our conference name badges, and we are unable to print name badges onsite. Please ensure any observers, chaperones, guests, etc. are all registered for the conference while registration is open. Name badges must be worn at all times during the conference.

Beginning this year ALL attendees at State Leadership Conference that are not school system employees and over the age of 18 will be required to submit to a background check through Raptor Systems.

Attendees will need to have a state-issued ID ready at the registration area when arriving at the convention center. This will apply to attendees, judges, and vendors alike. This system is much like the ones used in your schools to screen visitors entering your buildings. We feel this move will allow us yet another layer of security to keep our members safe while they are at the conference.

Be on the lookout for further updates regarding new safety practices in upcoming newsletters!

Day on the Hill

- o The Officer Team and the Executive Committee will be arriving on March 26th. We will be meeting at 7:30 am CST at the system office for shuttles. We can't wait to see you there!
- o Questions? Please contact our Kristina Krau-Waymire kristina.waymire@tbr.edu or Daphne Brown daphne.brown@tbr.edu
- o [Day on the Hill Flyer](#)

National SkillsUSA Updates

New! Spotlight Your Student to the Nation on Signing Day!

CALLING ALL CHAPTERS! [SkillsUSA National Signing Day](#) (NSD) registration is NOW OPEN! Register online by **March 29** to receive chapter grant and scholarship opportunities, free Signing Day T-shirts, hats and more! Visit the [Signing Day Resources Hub](#) to download an event planning toolkit, social media toolkit and many other resources to help you plan a powerful celebration your school and community won't forget! Also, make sure you take part in the "[Trades Stars](#)" campaign from the Lowe's Foundation — held in conjunction with NSD — to celebrate your students even further! Get all the info at signingday.skillsusa.org. With your help, we'll show the nation the future is in good hands ... because it's in SKILLED hands! Early bird registration opened **March 13** and runs through **March 29**. Registration closes **April 23**. Signing Day is sponsored by the Lowe's Foundation, State Farm® and Constellation.

National Signing Day chapter opportunities

- Signing Day supply bundles valued at \$500 will be awarded to 10 chapters (schools must register five or more students and complete the [supply bundle application](#) by March 29 to be eligible).
- Signing Day [school grants](#) of \$250 will be awarded to 25 schools to enhance their event (schools must register five or more students and apply by March 29 to be eligible).

Early registrant opportunities

- Signing Day Starter Kit: Signing Day table runner, pack of 10 certificates, 10 pens, while supplies last (schools must register five or more students).
- Signing Day T-shirts: The first 2,000 student registrants receive a National Signing Day T-shirt.
- Signing Day Baseball Caps: The first 1,000 student registrants receive a National Signing Day cap.
- Lowe's Gift Cards: The first 100 advisors receive a Lowe's gift card (schools must register five or more students).

Presidential Honors for Selfless Service

At the 2024 National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC), SkillsUSA will recognize advisors, students, and registered alumni for their community service through the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA). To qualify, SkillsUSA members must submit a record of their service hours. With SkillsUSA's focus on community service, you may have already met the requirements. For details on how to apply, [visit the website](#). Applications must be received by **March 31**, for recognition at the 2024 NLSC.

Seeking Musical Talent to Perform National Anthem at NLSC

Do you have a musical gift to share with the SkillsUSA community? If so, apply to perform the national anthem at the opening session of SkillsUSA's National Leadership & Skills Conference this June. The chosen performer will be offered complimentary conference registration if their sole purpose of attendance is to perform the national anthem. [Apply here](#) by 5 p.m. ET on **Tuesday, April 2**.

SkillsUSA College/Post-Secondary Scholarships Applications Open!

SkillsUSA members anticipating tuition expenses for the summer or fall 2024 academic terms can apply for scholarships from SkillsUSA and our generous industry partners. SkillsUSA uses the Kaleidoscope scholarship platform for a streamlined experience. Scholarship applications require a letter of recommendation from a SkillsUSA advisor or another instructor, a resume and a brief essay. Scholarship winners are notified by email and must submit an acceptance form. Scholarship funds are remitted directly to the recipients' postsecondary institutions and applied to the tuition account balance. These scholarships are competitive and applying for a scholarship does not guarantee your selection. Here are some best-practice tips to help your students as they apply for scholarships:

- Review the available [scholarships](#) to see opportunities and award amounts.
- Have students update their resumes with SkillsUSA leadership positions, competition participation and any medals earned.
- Ask students to write their SkillsUSA Framework story as a tool to help them with essays or interviews, thinking through their strengths and explaining what they can bring to a company/job they are applying for. To learn more, use the Framework Integration Toolkit in [Absorb](#) and scroll down within the toolkit to find the Framework story lesson plan and videos.

These scholarships close on **April 15**:

- Sharon Melton Myers Memorial Scholarship
- The AHRI Clifford "Ted" Rees Memorial Scholarship
- The Fieldpiece #MasteroftheTrade Scholarship
- The Fine Homebuilding #KeepCraftAlive Scholarship
- The Larry Rash Memorial Scholarship
- The Marsha Daves Memorial Scholarship
- The National Technical Honor Society Scholarship

Scholarship closing on **May 6**:

- 2024 Robert Flint Student Leadership Development Scholarship for Leverage Conference

NLSC scholarship open **March to May 22** only:

- Harbor Freight Tools for Schools
SkillsUSA is proud to announce, in partnership with Harbor Freight Tools for Schools, a scholarship opportunity for SkillsUSA high school members. Applicants can receive up to \$1,500 to attend the 2024 National Leadership & Skills Conference.

Closing **May 31**:

- The Bob Westphal Memorial Scholarship

For questions, contact our [Customer Care Team](#).

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

Please note these dates and deadlines are subject to change. MS=Middle School, HS=High School, PS=College

Dec. 11	HS Regional Conferences Registration Open
Dec. 15	HS Regional Conferences Registration Closes
Dec. 31	SLSC Tech Chair RSVP due for January 19th Meeting (located on the Tech Chair Intent Form)
Jan. 12	PS Day on the Hill Registration Opens
Jan. 15	HS Regional Conferences Payment Due
Jan. 15	HS Regional Conferences Chapter Certification Submission Form Due

Jan. 18-20	SkillsUSA State Officer Training Chattanooga (coming in the night of the 18th(optional), hosting the Tech Chair Meeting, Leaving by 3 pm on 20th) Canceled due to weather
Jan. 19	Tech Chair Luncheon Chattanooga TN Convention Center Moved to Virtual
Feb. 1	PS Pin Design Due
Feb. 1	PS T-Shirt Design Due
Feb. 5-9	National SkillsUSA Week
Feb 5	PS Registration opens for the SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference
Feb. 5	West HS Regional Skills Conference at TCAT Memphis
Feb. 5	PS State Leadership and Skills Conference Registration Opens
Feb. 6	Midwest HS Regional Skills Conference at TCAT Nashville
Feb. 7	Middle HS Regional Skills Conference at TCAT Hartsville
Feb. 8	East HS Regional Skills Conference at TCAT Knoxville
Feb. 9	Upper East HS Regional Skills Conference at Northeast State
Feb. 14	HS SkillsUSA Membership Deadline HS Release Form HS Certification Form
Feb. 15	HS State Leadership and Skills Conference Registration Opens
Feb. 23-24	SkillsUSA State Officer Training
March 1	Advisor of the Year Nominations Due
March 1	National Membership Registration Deadline
March 1	State Leadership and Skills Conference Registration Closes
March 1	Chapter of Excellence Program Submission Due
March 4	State Leadership and Skills Conference Housing Opens
March 6	Day on the Hill Registration Due Registration Link

March 8	State Leadership and Skills Conference Housing Closes
March 17-18	State Officer Training Smyrna TN
March 18	MS State Leadership and Skills Conference at TCAT Smyrna
March 20	PS State Leadership and Skills Conference Testing Opens
March 22	State Leadership and Skills Conference Payment Due
March 27	Day on the Hill
March 29	HS State Leadership and Skills Conference Testing Closes
March 31	PS State Leadership and Skills Conference Testing Closes
April 14-17	HS State Leadership and Skills Conference at Chattanooga Convention Center Mandatory Advisor Meeting at 10:30 Monday Morning Convention Center
May 7	SkillsUSA National Signing Day
May 17-18	State Officer Training for Nationals
June 24-28	National Leadership and Skills Conference Atlanta GA

Links

[SkillsUSA Advantage Report](#) Data-Driven Support for Why SkillsUSA is a benefit

[SkillsUSA National's Contest Descriptions](#)

[SkillsUSATNPS State Conference Website](#)

[SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference Updates 2024](#)

[RETURN TO
TOP](#)

RETURN TO TOP

