

## **SkillsUSA Maryland 2022 State Championship Criminal Justice Contest Update**

The State competition will focus on a traffic stop. Challenge will begin as “officer” (contestant) has just stopped a vehicle for failing to come to a complete stop at a stop sign. Vehicle is observed approaching the stop sign, slowing slightly and then proceeding through the stop sign without stopping. Vehicle pulls into a parking lot and comes to a complete stop. Contestant will be using a marked police vehicle as part of the scenario. Police vehicle will be on scene.

Contestants will be critiqued / scored on the following:

- Overall appearance/equipment.
- Proper initial radio communication.
- Initial approach of the vehicle.
- Proper communication with vehicle occupants.
- Proper request of information.
- Proper safety protocols followed for “officer” (contestant) and citizens.
- Processing driver and registration through TTY and NCIC via dispatch.
- Proper radio etiquette - using any phonetics when needed.
- Proper return to the vehicle and completion of the traffic stop.
- Ability to work with citizens with mental illness/special needs while maintaining “officer” (contestant) safety and completing successful traffic stop.

In many Police Departments it is becoming very normal for officers to be trained in mental wellness and awareness. Along with all the normal actions a Police Officer must be trained to do it is now more important than ever to understand people to the best of your ability. Your ability to understand someone is your best chance at maintaining a calm and peaceful outcome. Please review your traffic stop and radio etiquette but also be prepared to calm someone that may be very nervous or scared of you. For the safety of all involved, this will not escalate to a hands-on or chase type scenario.

Best of luck to all competitors!