

Dear SkillsUSA Advisor, (SkillsUSA 2022-2023 #14)

Item #1: Time to Register For State Competitions!

Happy New Year and welcome to 2023 and SkillsUSA Maryland's 50th Annual State Championship, March 24-25! For students planning to compete in a variety of SkillsUSA Leadership and Occupationally-related state competitions (regional competitions not required) **registration is now open**. Use the SkillsUSA Conference Management System (CMS) to register you and your students. CMS is the same online registration system used for membership and the Fall Leadership Conference. Here's the login page: <https://www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/join/>

Carefully review the "2023 State Championship Competition List (revised 1/11/23)" posted on the SkillsUSA Maryland website, State Conference page, to see all "Straight to States" competitions. If a contest is not identified with "[\(x students or teams per chapter\)](#)" label a regional competition may need to be facilitated to determine which students/teams advance to their respective state competitions. Regional competitions determine the top three (3) students or teams per contest/per region.

Important: if you have not already registered your students/teams for 2023 regional competitions it may be too late to participate. Contact your regional conference host ASAP for more information: <https://www.new.mdskillsusa.org/regionals/>

Here's the link to the "2023 State Championship Competition List": <https://www.new.mdskillsusa.org/state-conference/>

Item #2: SkillsUSA Maryland Program of Work (POW) Calendar

Be sure to review the SkillsUSA Maryland POW revised calendar as it includes important registration dates and deadlines. Here is the calendar, assessable via the SkillsUSA Maryland website homepage, "Resources" drop-down menu: <https://www.new.mdskillsusa.org/>

Item #3: Plan Now for SkillsUSA Week

SkillsUSA Week is Feb. 6-10, and you can participate by honoring your community supporters, connecting with local business and industry professionals, or making a presentation about your program and SkillsUSA chapter at a school board meeting. Your chapter can plan activities using the [SkillsUSA Week Chapter Guide](#). A student designed SkillsUSA Week T-shirt is now available in the [SkillsUSA Store](#) to outfit officers and members for your celebration. The T-shirt features the art of Clara Brown from Upper Valley Career Center in Piqua, Ohio.

Item #4: New Report Highlights "The SkillsUSA Advantage"

A new report from the Student Research Foundation affirms what more than 14 million members served since 1965 already know: SkillsUSA involvement better prepares students for personal and professional success. "The SkillsUSA Advantage" report shows that SkillsUSA members consistently outperform peers not enrolled in a career and technical student organization (CTSO) in seven key areas, including meeting potential employers, being excited

about their chosen career path, gaining work experience, being excited about school and more. Among the more than 27,000 high school students surveyed, this SkillsUSA advantage **hold** true regardless of gender, race/ethnicity or socioeconomic status. The report clearly underscores the importance of removing **barrier** to ensure that all potential members have an opportunity to join. Share this validating new report with administrators, partners, parents and more to help spotlight SkillsUSA's life-changing, career-shaping effect. [Download "The SkillsUSA Advantage."](#)

Item #5: SkillsUSA National Officer Candidates Sought

Becoming a SkillsUSA national officer is the ultimate personal growth and student leadership experience within SkillsUSA, and the [2023-24 National Officer Program Guide and application](#) are now available. Before filling out that application, though, make sure you fully review the guide; it contains a wealth of information on what certifications and Career Essentials coursework candidates need to complete before applying. SkillsUSA provides no-cost access to these certifications to national officer candidates, but you'll need to apply for those by Jan. 16. See the guide for more details. All national officer applications must be submitted by June 1 at 6 p.m. ET.

Item #6: Framework Integration ToolKit: Framework Foundations Lesson Plans

The SkillsUSA Framework Integration Toolkit offers everything advisors need to ensure career readiness in their classroom, training program and chapter. Teaching students about the Framework is a breeze with the Framework Foundations Lesson Plans. The lesson plans are divided into four chapters and are a great resource for diving into each Essential Element. Through the lessons, your students will begin to develop a language to talk about the career readiness skills they are learning. Professional members can access the Toolkit in [SkillsUSA Absorb](#).

Item #7: Take Up the Challenge! National Conference Pin and T-shirt Design

SkillsUSA is offering the 2023 National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC) Pin and T-shirt Design Challenge to all dues-paying student members. The winning designs will become the official T-shirt and pin design for the 2023 NLSC. The challenge opens on Jan. 15, entries must be received by March 3 at 12 a.m. ET, and winners will be announced on March 10. [Rules and submission links can be found on the SkillsUSA Website](#).

Item #8: Show Us What You Made ... and What You're Made Of!

SkillsUSA is still showcasing the great accomplishments our students make every day as skilled workers and leaders in the #MadeInSkillsUSA social media campaign. Share photos on social media that highlight something your students made with their hands (a construction project, a hairstyle, a culinary creation, etc.) or a personal achievement earned through SkillsUSA (landing an internship, delivering a speech, leading a meeting, etc.). To participate, simply post a photo with the hashtag #MadeInSkillsUSA. [Learn more here](#). For questions, contact [Hayley Uffelman](#), SkillsUSA's social media manager.

Item #9: New SkillsUSA Scholarship Application Now Open

SkillsUSA students can now apply for multiple scholarships by completing just one SkillsUSA scholarship application. Most scholarships are available to both high school and college/postsecondary members. Eligibility criteria for each scholarship is noted on the application so that students know which ones they are eligible to receive. The SkillsUSA master scholarship application is open until April 1 and is [available here](#). The following scholarships are included under this application:

AHRI Clifford T Rees Scholarship
Bob Westphal Memorial Scholarship
Fieldpiece #MasteroftheTrade Scholarship
#KeepCraftAlive Scholarship
Larry Rash Memorial Scholarship
Marsha Daves Scholarship
NTHS Scholarship

Separately, SkillsUSA students can [apply for the Sharon Melton Myers Scholarship](#) until April 1 or the [Student Research Foundation \(SRF\) Community Contribution Scholarship](#) until July 26. For scholarship resources and tips on how to submit a quality application, visit the [scholarships page on the website](#). If you have questions, contact [Megan Flinn](#).

Item #10: Need Assistance with SkillsUSA?

Call the SkillsUSA Customer Care Team if you need help starting a new chapter, registering members, engaging more students, or discovering strategies to strengthen an existing chapter. If you have questions or need assistance, the team is here to help. Call SkillsUSA Customer Care toll free: 844-875-4557 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. ET Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. ET Tuesday and Thursday. You can also email them anytime: customercare@skillsusa.org.

Item #11: SkillsUSA Technical Fridays Workshops

Join us for “SkillsUSA Technical Fridays,” a series of virtual workshops led by industry experts to help teachers develop specific technical skills relevant to their career fields. Leave the sessions with new knowledge and skills to implement in the classroom. [Learn more about the workshops here](#). On Jan. 20, from 4-5 p.m. ET, Greg Klever of Penske’s technical school and national partnership relationships will lead a “Tires and Brakes” session that will uncover the proper tools, inspection, serviceability and troubleshooting for air disc brakes. The workshop is free but space is limited. [Register here](#). If you have questions, contact [Karolina Belen](#).

Item #12: Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

Please join other SkillsUSA advisors for upcoming Professional Development offerings. Advisors in their first, second or third year can look forward to new advisor **trainings** on Jan. 27 or Feb. 10 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Completion certificates are provided for each session. Learn more on [our online training calendar](#). Advisors can also [access this Google Doc](#) to learn how to use their professional membership benefits. [A PDF of the 2022-23 Professional Development Opportunities is available here](#). For questions, contact [Karolina Belen](#).

Item #13: 2023 Honorary Life Member, Outstanding Educator and Hall of Champions Nominations Now Open

If you would like to nominate an individual for recognition by SkillsUSA as an Honorary Life Member, Outstanding Career and Technical Educator, or for the Hall of Champions Award, please [complete the online applications here](#). The deadline is Feb. 15. If you have questions, contact [Laura Rauch](#).

Item #14: Seeking “Straight-Out-Of-High-School” Success Stories

[SkillsUSA Champions magazine](#) is looking to feature more success stories about members who embarked on successful skilled trades careers directly out of high school or had their postsecondary education paid for as a result of their association with SkillsUSA. If you know SkillsUSA graduates who fit that description, please contact us. If these students went to work for a partner met through SkillsUSA, we’d love to hear about that, too. Please send a description of your graduate to Office of Communications Associate Director [Karen Kitzel](#).



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