

Dear SkillsUSA Advisor, (SkillsUSA 2025-2026 #10)

Item #1: ACTION ITEM! Register Members by the January 31 Deadline!

The SkillsUSA Maryland membership deadline is **January 31, 2026**. Students must be state and national paid members to be eligible to participate in regional, state and national competitions, to serve as voting delegates or to run for state or national office. Visit the [State Association Dues and Deadlines](#) link for more details.

Professional members, join now! Take advantage of 2025-26 membership benefits, including access to these resources:

Ø **SkillsUSA Pathful:** a dynamic digital platform that supports career exploration and connects students with industry professionals through live and on-demand content

Ø SkillsUSA Framework Integration Toolkit

Ø SkillsUSA Program of Work Toolkit

Ø Xplore

Ø SkillsUSA Technical Standards

Ø E-Courses (SkillsUSA Framework Certification, CTE Knowledge Certification and Building Self-Motivation in Student Leaders).

Ø Advisor Professional Development

Item #2: NEW! SkillsUSA Demonstration Contest Available to Maryland Students

You may be aware that SkillsUSA is facilitating a new demonstration contest this summer at the 2026 National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC) called “Career and Technical Educator,” (CTE). See national technical standards and national scoring rubric on “State Conference” webpage - scroll down page to find state competition list. [goog_570154595] <https://www.new.mdskillsusa.org/state-conference/>

SkillsUSA Maryland will be offering a state-level demonstration event at the 2026 State Championship. For this year, one student per chapter is allowed to participate.

Item #3: SkillsUSA Week is Coming: Are You Ready?

It's time to get energized for SkillsUSA Week, February 2–6! This is an exciting opportunity for your chapter to plan activities that raise awareness of SkillsUSA, increase member engagement, and recognize the educators and industry partners who support student success. SkillsUSA Week is a time for members to strengthen their skills and showcase how SkillsUSA plays an important role in personal and professional growth.

To get started, explore the [SkillsUSA Week resources](#). You'll find ready-to-use artwork, a printable daily themes flyer, sample activities, a draft news release, a school morning announcement script, and more to help make planning easy and impactful.

Chapters can also request a virtual visit from SkillsUSA national officers during SkillsUSA Week. On February 3, national officers are available to join students for 30-minute sessions, providing greetings and taking your group through a fun lesson. Be sure to complete the [virtual visit request form](#) by January 30. Space is limited, and visits are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Item #4: Industry Insider: Construction Recordings & Event Resources

The Industry Insider: Construction recordings are now live on SkillsUSA Pathful! Through authentic, industry-led conversations, students gain an insider's perspective on what it takes to succeed in today's construction industry, helping them build occupational identity, confidence, and clarity around their future career paths.

Students can watch the videos individually or as part of a classroom experience, featuring the following career areas:

[Carpentry](#)

[Electrical](#)

[HVAC-R](#)

[Plumbing](#)

All videos are available on demand. To access them:

1. Log in to SkillsUSA Pathful
2. Navigate to the Work-Based Learning tab
3. Click Videos
4. Search "Industry Insider" to view all four recording

Item #5: Now Available: SkillsUSA Pathful Walkthrough Videos

SkillsUSA Pathful walkthrough videos are now available on the SkillsUSA website and YouTube to help advisors and students access member benefits and navigate the platform with confidence.

These role-specific videos focus on accessing the platform, with additional guidance for advisors using Pathful in the classroom and students exploring career-ready skills.

What's Included for Advisors

How to access professional member benefits, including contest technical standards

Overview of **Pathful** for classroom and career readiness use

What's Included for Students

How to access contest technical standards

How to log in and navigate **Pathful**

Access the videos and resources:

[Advisor and student access to member benefits](#) (contest technical standards)

[Advisor Overview](#)

[Student login and navigation overview](#)

Item #6: SkillsUSA College/Postsecondary Scholarships Are Open!

Many students are thinking ahead to the cost of college and SkillsUSA offers exclusive scholarship opportunities for members pursuing postsecondary education. Registered SkillsUSA members with upcoming tuition expenses for the fall 2026 academic term can apply for scholarships provided by SkillsUSA and our industry partners.

Scholarships now open include:

- Clifford "Ted" Rees Memorial Scholarship (\$2,500, closes April 17)
- Fine Homebuilding #KeepCraftAlive Scholarship (\$2,500, closes April 17)
- Larry Rash Memorial Scholarship (\$2,500, closes April 17)
- Marsha Daves Memorial Scholarship (\$1,500, closes April 17)
- NAPA/SkillsUSA Transportation Repair Pathway Scholarship (\$2,500, closes June 30)
- National Technical Honor Society Scholarship (\$1,000, closes April 17)
- Sharon Melton Myers Memorial (\$1,000, closes April 17)

SkillsUSA partners with Kaleidoscope to provide a streamlined application platform. Students are encouraged to explore the [SkillsUSA Scholarships webpage](#) now to view available opportunities and more will be posted soon. For scholarship questions or assistance in applying, reach out to [Customer Care](#).

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

SkillsUSA is offering the 2026 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 2026 NLSC. The challenge is open now, entries must be received by **February 1 at midnight** ET, and winners will be announced on February 7. Download the rules below:

[NLSC T-shirt Design](#)

[NLSC Pin Design](#)

Item #8: SME Foundation Scholarships

The SME Education Foundation awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors and current college students pursuing an associate or bachelor's degree in technical fields that directly support manufacturing. [Applications](#) will be accepted until **Feb. 1, 2026**. If you have already registered on the site, use your email and password to login. If you have not registered, please complete SME's [registration form](#) to set up an account and begin your application. With more than 60 scholarship programs, the SME Foundation provides both merit and need-based scholarships, issues renewing and one-time awards, and seeks applications from all eligible students including women and under-represented communities. The Foundation awards nearly \$1 million dollars in scholarships each year and has awarded \$18 million dollars to over 5,000 future industry leaders since 2005. By submitting one application, you will be considered for all SME Foundation scholarships for which you are eligible.

Item #9: ACTION ITEM! 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 a performance opportunity on the big stage in front of over 15,000 people plus complimentary conference registration if their sole purpose of attendance is to perform the national anthem. [Apply here](#) by 5 p.m. ET on **Jan. 30, 2026**. For questions, contact [Melinda Lloyd](#).

Item #10: Share Your Community Service Stories with SkillsUSA!

The [SkillsUSA Champions digital hub](#) provides new content frequently, from inspiring features to stories about the great work chapters and partners are doing. We know your chapters are doing some amazing community service work this holiday season and we would love to write about it. To submit a story idea, send us the details through our ["Submit a Story"](#) link, and we'll contact you.



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