

Dear SkillsUSA Advisor, (SkillsUSA 2025-2026 #9)

Item #1: SkillsUSA Maryland Membership – Join Now!

Just a reminder that the deadline for students and advisors to join SkillsUSA Maryland is **January 31, 2026**. Students must be paid members to participate in 2026 regional and state competitions. Contact SkillsUSA Customer Care if you need help with the membership process: [SkillsUSA Customer Team](#).

Item #2: Chapter Excellence Program – Recognition Levels - Deadlines

We hope that your students and you are working together to achieve Level 1 “Quality Chapter” and Level 2 “Chapter of Distinction” recognitions as part of the Chapter Excellence Program! Because the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC) is early this year the deadline to submit Level 2 documentation is **Wednesday, February 18, 2026**. More CEP information is available here: [Chapter Excellence Program Resources](#)

Item #3: Regional Competitions

All SkillsUSA regional competition dates and locations are available on the state association website. Be sure to reach out to respective regional conference hosts for additional information. Here is a link for additional information, including the list of contests that require regional qualifying events: <https://www.new.mdskillsusa.org/regionals/>

Item #4: National Conference Early This Year – Reminder

Just a reminder that the SkillsUSA NLSC, which always occurs during the third week in June, is two weeks early this year, **June 1-6, 2026**. These dates may conflict with some high school graduation ceremonies. Please remind graduating seniors planning to participate in the State Championship of this date change as it may impact their decision/ability to participate in the national conference in Atlanta, GA.

Item #5: 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 #6: New This Year! Maryland CTSO Week and Maryland CTSO Joint Advocacy Day

The SkillsUSA state officer team will join state officers representing Educators Rising, FBLA and FFA in Annapolis for **Maryland CTSO Joint Advocacy Day**, Wednesday, February 18, 2026. State officers will be meeting with state legislators, receive a Governor's proclamation and be recognized in front of the House and Senate and have requested to meet with the Governor. This event is in celebration of **Maryland CTSO Week**, February 16-20, 2026.

Item #7: Don't Miss Next Week's SkillsUSA Pathful Sessions!

Join SkillsUSA for an introduction to Pathful, the all-in-one platform for career exploration and workforce readiness. In this quick-start session, you'll learn how to navigate the platform, access live and on-demand career resources, connect with industry professionals, and integrate career exploration into your curriculum. You'll also unpack the Resume Builder tool, showcasing how students can build, export, and share resumes—and how advisors can access reporting features to support student success.

SkillsUSA Pathful (Focus: Resume Builder and Pathful 101)

Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. ET (60 minutes)

[Registration Instructions here.](#)

Item #8: SkillsUSA National Signing Day is May 6, 2026!

Celebrate students committing to their skilled career pathways. Host your Signing Day on the national date or whenever works best for your chapter. Early-bird registration runs March 1–31. The first 20 chapters to register 10 students will receive a National Signing Day incentive, and the first 3,000 registrations completed by the early-bird deadline will receive the official NSD hat. Registration closes May 1. Explore resources at [SkillsUSA Signing Day](#)

Item #9: Honorary Life and Outstanding Career and Technical Educator Nominations Open

If you would like to nominate someone for recognition by SkillsUSA as an [Honorary Life](#) or [Outstanding Educator](#), please complete the online applications. Be sure to notify those you nominate and provide all of the information that is requested. Learn more about these awards and eligibility by visiting the [Awards Programs](#) page on the SkillsUSA website. The deadline is March 1. For questions, contact [Chris Anderson](#).

Item #10: 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 #11: 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 #12 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 #13: New Scholarship Opportunity for SkillsUSA Members

SkillsUSA is proud to partner with the SkillPointe Foundation to expand scholarship access for students pursuing careers in Construction, Energy, Manufacturing, Transportation, Healthcare, Automotive and more.

The SkillPointe Foundation has committed \$250,000 exclusively for SkillsUSA members, giving them top consideration across dozens of high-demand career scholarships.

[Visit the SkillPointe Foundation's website](#) or scan the QR code below to explore current opportunities and apply.

Item #14: 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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