

Dear SkillsUSA Advisor, (SkillsUSA 2025-2026 #12)

Item #1: **ACTION ITEM!** State Championship Registration Closes Friday!

The registration deadline for the 2026 State Championship is **Friday, March 13, 2026**. Please register early; do not wait until the last minute. Unexpected challenges, such as last-minute technical problems, could cause you to miss the registration deadline. **Registration will not be accepted after the deadline - Friday, March 13, 2026, 11:59 pm.**

Item #2: No More Long Shuttle Rides to State Contests!

Reminder: several contests have been relocated near Carroll CTC to eliminate long shuttle rides for competitors, including:

Ø Automotive Refinishing Technology – Carroll CTC, Saturday, April 18, 2026

Ø Collision Repair Technology – Carroll CTC, Saturday, April 18, 2026

Ø Collision Damage Appraisal – Carroll CTC, Saturday, April 18, 2026

Ø Plumbing – **Carroll Agriculture Center**, Saturday, April 18, 2026

Ø Welding – Carroll CTC, **FRIDAY, April 17, 2026** (afternoon start time TBA)

Ø Welding Fabrication – Carroll CTC, Saturday, April 18, 2026

Item #3: Competition Opportunities for Health Science Students

In an effort to increase participation this year in targeted Health Sciences events, registration for Basic Health Care Skills and Emergency Medical Technician contests is increased to four (4) competitors/teams per region. Please encourage your students to compete!

Item #4: **ACTION ITEM!** Check Website for Contest Updates!

Remind students to check the SkillsUSA Maryland official website, “State Conference” page, for state contest updates. Several contest chairs have already posted updates with more to come as we move closer to the State Championship, April 17-18, 2026. Here’s the link, scroll down the page to find contests listed alphabetically: <https://www.new.mdskillsusa.org/state-conference/>

Item #5: National Conference Date is Early This Year!

As most of you know, the SkillsUSA national conference (NLSC), which always occurs during the last week in June, has moved to the first week - June 1-6, 2026.

This means that SkillsUSA Maryland will have less than ten days to submit all registration information to SkillsUSA by the national conference registration deadline, **April 28, 2026**.

Please share this important information with students (and parents/guardians) to help them prepare for a very quick NLSC registration turn-around if your students win gold at the State Championship.

See more NLSC information here: <https://www.new.mdskillsusa.org/nationals/>

Item #6: National Signing Day: Celebrate Student Pathways; Register Now!

National Signing Day provides advisors an opportunity to recognize student success while highlighting the value of skilled careers. Chapters are encouraged to honor students as they sign letters of intent for a job offer, internship/apprenticeship or advancing in CTE/technical training.

Chapters may host events on May 6 or choose a date that fits their schedule. Registration is required for all participating chapters.

Learn more and register at signingday.skillsusa.org.

Item #7: Travel Grants Available for Immersive Experience: Construction During NLSC

SkillsUSA is offering travel grants for the **Immersive Experience: Construction** at the 2026 National Leadership & Skills Conference. This hands-on program allows students to earn credentials, visit active jobsites and network with industry pros. To ensure all states have an equal opportunity to participate, grant applications are being released in two phases. Check the website today to see the timeline and secure funding for your students! [Learn more and apply here.](#)

Item #8: REMINDER: March's Professional Development Offerings

Encourage your state's advisors to register for SkillsUSA's exclusive Professional Development Opportunities occurring in March. View the virtual [Professional Development Training Sessions](#) designed to support advisors' professional growth and strengthen our classrooms.

Item #9: 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 #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.

Open scholarships include:

Ø Air Conditioning , Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) The Clifford H. "Ted" Rees Jr. Scholarship Foundation (\$2,500, closes April 17)

Ø Fine Homebuilding #KeepCraftAlive Scholarship (\$2,500, closes April 17)

Ø Larry Rash Memorial Scholarship (\$2,500, closes April 17)

Ø Marsha Daves Memorial Scholarship (\$1,500, closes April 17)

Ø NAPA/SkillsUSA Transportation Repair Pathway Scholarship (\$2,500, closes June 30)

Ø National Technical Honor Society Scholarship (\$1,000, closes April 17)

Ø 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: 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.

