

SkillsUSA Maryland 2026 State Championship

Automotive Refinishing Technology Contest Update (4/8/26)

This letter contains the information you will need for the SkillsUSA Automotive Refinishing State Competition. The competition is scored on the following practical test of skills; (1) Paint ID and Masking (2) Featheredge, Prime and Blocking (3) Single Panel Refinishing and (4) Color Tinting.

On Saturday, April 18th, contestants are to report by 8:00am to Carroll County Career & Technology Center located at 1229 Washington Rd. Westminster, MD 21157 with all tools required, further details below. Contestants will be given a designated number and location at check-in to store equipment and toolboxes. Upon arrival there will be an orientation for all competitors, including explanations of all four functional areas for the Automotive Refinishing Competition.

Visitors will have a designated area to observe, however **after the competition begins there is to be no communication between the competitors and the visitors in the contest area, this could cause disqualification of the competitor.**

The competitors will be split into groups of two or three depending on the number of contestants. They will start in one of the four areas within the competition and rotate through each area. Each segment will last 1 hour and 15 minutes, with 5 minutes between segments to get materials prepared for the next rotation. If a contestant finishes their segment early, they will go back to their assigned square and wait for the next rotation. Lunch will be from 12:00pm-12:30pm, meals will be provided, however, if there are specific dietary restrictions or concerns the competitor is able to bring their own. There will be no visitors allowed in the competition space during lunch, upon the competition restarting visitors will be allowed back in to observe.

Each competitor will need a Milton long shank adapter, enough fittings for each tool they are bringing and HVLP fittings for the spray gun. A full-face fresh air respirator will be supplied at the competition site if needed, however each contestant has the option to bring their own. The waterborne and low voc paint products being used are from the PPG Envirobase High Performance system.

Segment details and required tools are listed below.

- Paint ID and Masking: Safety glasses are required, other tools and equipment are optional. For Paint ID the contestants will be locating the paint code and identifying the paint. For Masking the contestants will be masking and unmasking a designated part of a vehicle.
- Featheredge, Prime and Blocking: Tools required include a HVLP spray gun with regulators, protective gloves, safety glasses, and a paint suit. Each contestant will repair a scratch and prepare a painted plastic bumper cover for primer. Contestants will apply primer surface and level the primer after curing.
- Single Panel Refinishing: Tools required include a HVLP spray gun with regulators or regulated air, protective gloves, safety glasses, and a paint suit. The contestant will prepare a primed area for a blend of a metallic base coat and full clear coat finish.
- Color Tinting: Tools required include a HVLP spray gun, protective gloves and safety glasses. Contestants will need to correct the color of a premixed basecoat to a blendable match using the color tints provided.

If there are any questions concerning the competition, please feel free to reach out to the number listed below.

Thanks,

Matt Pratt
Automotive Refinishing Contest Chair

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