



## **2023 SkillsUSA Florida State Leadership and Skills Conference (SLSC23)**

*"Storming Up New Opportunities"*

April 10-13, 2023

Jacksonville, FL

*The information in this guide should be used to help plan for participation in the 2023 State Leadership and Skills Conference and Championships and is subject to change. Be sure to check out the Tuesday Times newsletter regularly, as well as our website at [skillsusafl.org](https://skillsusafl.org). Once registration closes, communications will be sent directly to students and advisors registered for the conference, not to general stakeholders.*

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# GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

## IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

**January 24 and 25** - Virtual Advisor Meeting - SLSC Orientation

**February** - Registration opens

**March 6** - Registration closes; no drops or refunds after this date

**March 6** - Courtesy Corps, Glam Squad, and Social Media Ambassador applications due

**March 10** - Full contest schedule is released

**March 10** - State Officer Application Due

**March 13** - Transportation survey due

**March 13** - Accommodations requests due (including ADA needs and dietary restrictions)

**March 20** - Payment due to the state office

**March 20** - Deadline to book hotel rooms

**March 28 and 29** - Virtual Advisor Meeting - Championships Orientation for Advisors

**April 10** - Onsite registration and packet pickup

**April 10** - Code of Conduct forms due

**April 10** - State Leadership and Skills Conference 2022 (SLSC22) Opening Ceremony

**April 11** - SLSC22 Competitions, Expo, and other activities

**April 12** - SLSC22 Competitions, Expo, Champions Night Celebration, and other activities

**April 13** - SLSC22 Closing Ceremony and mandatory NLSC Delegation Meeting

**May 2** - NLSC Delegation Virtual Meeting

**May 8** - NLSC registration deadline

**May 26** - NLSC payment deadline (check payment ONLY)

**June 19-23** - National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC), Atlanta, GA

## VIRTUAL ADVISOR PREPARATION MEETINGS

These meetings are optional and free to attend. Advisors are strongly encouraged to attend one or both meetings to receive all SLSC information, ask questions, and receive guidance on the upcoming state conference. Use the links below to receive the Zoom link via email.

**SLSC Orientation** - Review the conference guide and registration procedures, conference agenda, and other details related to the state conference.

January 24 at 10 AM ET or January 25 at 6 PM ET

Sign up: <https://form.jotform.com/212843587760161>

**Championships Orientation for Advisors** - Review contest procedures and updates, supply list, and specific contest questions. At least one advisor per school must attend.

March 28 at 10 AM or March 29 at 6 PM ET

Sign up: <https://form.jotform.com/212373737779065>

## COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY EXPECTATIONS

SkillsUSA Florida's 2023 State Leadership and Skills Conference (SLSC23) is being offered in-person in Jacksonville, FL pursuant to local government orders permitting such gatherings at this time. SkillsUSA Florida requires all attendees and staff to comply with safety precautions specified in the federal, state, and local governments, as well as CDC guidelines. Any person disclosing or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, or knowingly exposed to the disease, will be refused admittance to the in-person event. Any person refusing to comply with required safety protocols will be required to leave the SLSC23 at their own expense. **Completing registration and attending indicates your acknowledgment and acceptance of the following terms and conditions:**

- I will not travel/attend if I knowingly have been exposed to anyone testing positive or presenting symptoms of COVID-19 (based on CDC Guidance at the time of the event).
- I will not travel/attend if I have tested positive or presented any of the symptoms of COVID-19 listed below. I will not enter the SLSC23 conference area if I am experiencing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19, including:
  - Fever (temperature of 100.4 F or higher)
  - Chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea
- I will immediately isolate myself and leave the SLSC23 conference area and notify SkillsUSA Florida Staff if I, or someone I have been in close contact with, is exposed to COVID-19, exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, or receives a positive COVID-19 test result.
- I expressly agree to fully comply with appropriate COVID-19 health and safety measures and protocols set for attendance at the SLSC23, including adhering to CDC guidance and applicable state and local requirements related to the wearing of face masks and maintaining appropriate social distancing.
- While in attendance at the SLSC23, I will make every effort always to maintain CDC-recommended hygiene procedures, including following the guidelines of frequent hand washing (or suitable hand sanitizer), avoiding touching my eyes, nose, and mouth in public places, and covering coughs or sneezes with a tissue or inside my elbow.

## ASSUMPTION OF RISK

The COVID-19 virus continues to spread from person-to-person contact and other means, and people reportedly can spread the disease without showing symptoms. Evidence has shown that COVID-19 can cause serious and potentially life-threatening illnesses and even death. Therefore, by choosing to participate in the in-person SLSC, I may be exposing myself to or increasing my risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19, despite safety precautions. In exchange for participation in the in-person SLSC, I hereby choose to accept the risk of contracting COVID-19 for myself, my peers, or my family.

**WAIVER OR LAWSUIT/LIABILITY**

I hereby forever release and waive my right to bring suit against SkillsUSA Florida and its officers, directors, managers, officials, trustees, agents, employees, or other representatives in connection with exposure, infection, and/or spread of COVID-19 related to my participation in-person SLSC23. I understand that this waiver means I give up my right to bring any claims, including for personal injuries, death, disease or property losses, or any other loss, based upon claims of negligence.

**VIRTUAL EVENT CONTINGENCY**

SkillsUSA Florida reserves the right to make changes to the event to ensure the safety of its staff, volunteers, students, teachers, partners, and stakeholders. Any changes to these measures will be communicated to attendees. By registering for the event, participants understand that this event is scheduled to occur as a regular, in-person event and agree to follow all protocols and procedures to mitigate the risk of contracting COVID-19. Failure to comply may result in removal from the event without a refund. Should the unlikely need arise to convert to a virtual event, participants are responsible for the virtual registration fees, and no refunds or drops will be allowed.

***Submitting SLSC registration and attending  
the 2023 State Leadership and Skills Conference  
indicates your agreement to the above  
COVID-19 Health & Safety Expectations.***

## REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

**REGISTRATION FEE:** \$125 per registrant

**REGISTRATION CLOSES:** MARCH 6, 2023 AT 5 PM ET

**\*\*NO DROPS OR REFUNDS AFTER THIS DATE.** You will be invoiced for all registrations included on your school's registration at 5 PM on March 6.

*Only individuals who are registered for the conference and have official credentials will be permitted in contest areas, at conference activities, on conference transportation, and in designated conference locations, including Opening and Closing Ceremonies. This event is not open to the public. Credentials (official SkillsUSA name badge and lanyard) will be provided for each registered participant during onsite registration on Monday, April 10. Failure to provide credentials will result in removal from the conference facility. Replacement name badges are available for \$25 per occurrence.*

**Questions or problems with the registration website? Contact the Customer Care Team at 844-875-4557 or [customercare@skillsusa.org](mailto:customercare@skillsusa.org).**

## PAYMENT INFORMATION

**Payment Deadline:** MARCH 20, 2023

Download our current W-9 from the [Advisor Resources](#) page on our website.



**Check payment is preferred. Please mail checks to:**

SkillsUSA Florida  
4446 Hendricks Ave PMB 229  
Jacksonville, FL 32207

**To pay via credit card,** please visit <https://givebutter.com/ConferencePayments> and follow the instructions provided. For instructions on how to use Givebutter, [click here](#). *Credit card payments are not accepted by phone.*

**\*\*IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING CREDIT CARDS:** Givebutter is a credit card processing platform designed for non-profits to collect funds with lower processing fees. By utilizing this platform, we can continue to keep conference fees affordable for our attendees. One way they keep platform fees reasonable to organizations like ours is by allowing users to add a “tip” for the platform when they make a payment. A tip is completely optional and supports the platform directly. SkillsUSA Florida does not receive any portion of tips. The instructions above provide step-by-step visuals on how to disable this option. **THESE FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE - PLEASE ENSURE THE CORRECT SELECTIONS ARE MADE AND REVIEW YOUR PURCHASE CAREFULLY BEFORE CLICKING “PAY NOW.”**

**Anyone listed on your school's registration page, regardless of their submitted status, will be considered registered at 5 PM ET on March 6, 2023. Be sure to delete any registrations for individuals no longer attending prior to the deadline.**

## HOW TO REGISTER

Register online following your Regional events at [www.skillsusa-register.org](http://www.skillsusa-register.org).

- Login to your account and click “Conference,” and then “My Registrations.”
- Select “SkillsUSA Florida State Leadership and Skills Conference” as the event.
- Click “Add New Registrant” and select the correct registration type. All contestants **MUST** be joined as official members of SkillsUSA by February 1.
  - **CONTESTANT** - all student competitors.
  - **MODEL** - Esthetics, Nail Care, and Job Skill Demonstration models.
  - **ADVISOR** - Instructor, chaperone, or anyone with a supervisory role of students during the conference; includes access to [“advisor-only” activities](#).
  - **OBSERVER** - student or professional who will observe the conference but is not an active participant; includes access to all general conference activities.
  - [COURTESY CORPS](#) - student and teacher volunteers who assist with the logistics of the conference and pay a reduced registration fee.
- Select the member you want to register from the drop-down list. For contestants and models, enter the division and contest information as prompted. Select a Team Code, if required.
- Click “Save & Continue.”
- When you select a member, their membership information is automatically ported over to the event. Ensure the correct registration information is entered for each participant:
  - Address and phone number.
  - Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy format). This will be used to retrieve scorecards later.
  - Email address.
    - **NOTE: ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A WORKING, UNIQUE EMAIL THAT IS NOT A SCHOOL EMAIL ADDRESS.** This will ensure they can access the online testing platform for the conference.
      - No school/district email addresses for students. Use Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo, iCloud, or similar public domains. Advisors may use a school/district email address. Do not use an advisor email address for student registrants.
      - Email addresses will be automatically verified on the invoicing screen. Any errors must be fixed before registration is submitted.
  - Accompanying adult name and phone number for the person who will directly supervise the student. Not required for professionals.
  - T-Shirt size.
  - ADA or Dietary restrictions or accommodations, if appropriate. **Please indicate if a student has a food allergy or dietary restriction (i.e., vegetarian).** Without this information, we cannot guarantee the availability of suitable food options.
- After all information is entered, click the attestation at the bottom of the page.
- Click “Save Registration.” This will return you to the list of all the conference registrations for your school. Here, you can click “Add Registrant” and add additional registrants until all are entered.
- Once you have entered all participants, click “Submit Registration.”
- Review the email address validation. Correct any errors or duplicates before submitting.
- Follow the prompts, and once you submit, you will receive an invoice in a pop-up window, and one will also be emailed to you. If you do not receive an invoice, please email [jgraber@skillsusaf1.org](mailto:jgraber@skillsusaf1.org), and we will send you a copy.

## **SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS**

**All participating schools must register at least one advisor or chaperone for the conference who will actively supervise students. Primary supervision is the responsibility of each school/chapter.** Please ensure you have adequate coverage for contests held at other venues. We recommend one advisor per training program. Admission to the Framework Luncheon, Advisor Lounge, Champions' Night Advisor Reception, and other advisor-only events is included only for registered advisors. Observers will not be admitted to Advisor-Only events. Schools may register an unlimited number of advisors and observers for the conference; however, all must pay the full registration fee.

The school or district must approve any adult chaperone who will supervise students directly on overnight trips. Each school must submit a Chaperone Certification Form once per program year (July 1 through June 30) indicating approval from the school/district. At a minimum, a criminal background check and sexual abuse prevention training must be completed. Schools/districts are responsible for maintaining records of certifications and background checks, as appropriate. Copies of background checks and certifications should not be submitted to SkillsUSA Florida, only the completed form.

***Remember: Only SkillsUSA student members who are registered and paid by February 1 are eligible for competition!***

## **STATE CONFERENCE HOTEL**

The official conference hotel is the [Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront](#). Rooms may be booked at any time using the link or phone number below. Schools are responsible for arranging payment for rooms directly with the hotel, including submitting any necessary tax-exemption paperwork. Per SkillsUSA Florida policy, conference attendees must stay within official hotel blocks. Any contestant or school violating this policy will be disqualified without a refund.

### **COMMUTERS**

Schools may opt to commute instead of staying at the hotel. Commuters are subject to a \$25 per person fee, which must be paid before the event. Schools who opt to commute are expected to arrive on time; accommodations will not be made for contestants who arrive late. Contact the State Office for more information regarding commuter options.

#### **Hotel Address:**

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront  
225 E Coastline Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

**Phone:** 904-588-1234

**Standard room rate:** \$168 per room, per night, plus taxes and fees, up to 4 occupancy.

**How to Book:** Book rooms using the link below. A credit card is required to secure the reservation.  
<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/JAXRJ/G-SK01>

**To book a large number of rooms:** Contact the Group Booking Department at 877-803-7534 and provide group code G-SK01.

**DEADLINE TO BOOK HOTEL ROOMS:** MARCH 20, 2023.

## Parking

Conference attendees are provided a discounted self-parking rate at the Hyatt of \$10 per day. Alternatively, passes for the duration of the event may be purchased for \$20, which will provide in and out privileges from April 10 through April 13. Upon check-in at the hotel, alert the front desk of any rooms that need parking to be added. Schools must settle the balance directly with the hotel. The self-parking garage is connected to the hotel on the second level by a covered Skybridge. The current valet parking rate is \$45 per day (including overnight) and is subject to change.

Day passes for the Hyatt are available for cash purchase at the Conference Help and Assistance Desk (CHAD) on the second-level sky bridge. Free parking is available at FSCJ Downtown and Fire College of the South. Parking at the Prime Osborn is available for \$5 per day.

**NOTE:** Clearance in the parking garage at the Hyatt is 6'7" for vehicles and trailers. Vehicles with a trailer may be subject to an additional parking fee, depending on how many spaces are occupied when parking. Parking for buses and oversized vehicles is available for an additional fee. Schools must complete the [Transportation Survey](#) to secure bus/oversized vehicle parking.

## Meals

The hotel will provide discounted food options for breakfast, lunch, and dinner throughout the hotel. In addition, food trucks will be available at the front of the hotel on the river each day during the conference. Food trucks are self-pay, except for Champions' Night on Wednesday evening.

Lunch is provided for contestants while they are competing. Advisors are provided lunch during the Framework Luncheon and Advisor Business Meeting on April 12. Dinner is provided to all attendees during Champions' Night.

Dinner on Monday and Tuesday is on your own. A list of restaurant suggestions is provided below, but you are encouraged to verify operating hours and menu before you arrive. The hotel also offers onsite dining options, as well as delivery services like DoorDash and Uber Eats. We encourage you to eat with your students before the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

## Nearby Restaurants

[Bay Street Bar and Grill](#)

[Spliff's Gastropub](#)

[Burrito Gallery Downtown](#)

[Super Food and Brew](#)

[Bread and Board Downtown](#)

[Atrium Cafe](#) (breakfast and lunch only)

[D&G Deli and Grille](#) (breakfast and lunch only)

[Tossgreen](#) (lunch only)

For a list of recommended dining options around the city: <https://www.visitjacksonville.com/food-drink/>

## Bringing Outside Food to the Hotel

Many chapters will arrange to have food delivered to the hotel for their students. **We understand this is a cost-effective option for schools, but our contract with the hotel does not allow for outside food to be brought into meeting room spaces.** We've arranged with the hotel to have the lower Riverdeck available with tables, chairs, and trash receptacles for school use, and it is the only public space in the hotel that schools may use for outside food. Schools that use meeting room spaces for outside food may have financial penalties assessed by the hotel and/or SkillsUSA Florida.

## TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Conference transportation is provided between the Hyatt Regency and all offsite contest locations. A full shuttle schedule and detailed maps will be available on the conference app. Ample parking is available at each location for those who prefer to drive.

Transportation is NOT provided to the Opening Ceremony venue. [The Florida Theatre](#) is located 2 blocks from the Hyatt Regency (about a 3-5 min walk). Exit the Hyatt on Newnan Street (below the parking garage Skybridge) and turn right. Cross Bay St and turn left on Forsyth. The theater is on the corner of Newnan and Forsyth. Parking at the Florida Theatre is extremely limited, with only street parking and paid lots. Schools are strongly encouraged to walk.

The [Transportation Survey](#) must be completed by each school and is due to the state office by March 13.

## ONSITE REGISTRATION - WHAT TO EXPECT

Onsite registration and packet pickup will be Monday, April 10, from 2 PM to 6 PM. Packet pickup is not available before 2 PM. When you arrive at the Hyatt, visit the front desk on the ground floor to check into your school's rooms and retrieve hotel room keys. Official hotel check-in time begins at 3 PM, but rooms may be available earlier. Contact the hotel directly for more information.

From the hotel front desk (ground floor) - take the escalator up to the second floor. Proceed to the registration area located directly outside the Grand Ballroom. From the parking garage - Cross the Skybridge on the second level to enter the hotel. Continue straight until you see the registration area, located directly outside the Grand Ballroom.

We ask that only 1 or 2 advisors per school visit the registration area to retrieve items. Any outstanding balances are due at registration. Advisors will be required to verify that all items are received for their chapter and then will distribute them to students once all materials are received from registration. Please bring all required forms with you to the desk, including the Code of Conduct forms for [students](#) and [advisors](#). As a reminder, forms for participants under the age of 18 require a parent/guardian signature.



If you have additions, spelling corrections, or substitutions after registration closes, complete this form and submit it no later than Monday, April 3, 2023.

Complete this online form: <https://form.jotform.com/212523572228048>.

Contestant substitutions may only be made with a current SkillsUSA member who joined before the February 1 deadline, meets the eligibility requirements for the contest, and has a completed [Personal and Liability Release Form](#). Payment for any additional registrants is due by onsite registration. Additional registrants who are not substitutions require prior written approval from the State Director.

## OPENING & CLOSING CEREMONY - WHAT TO EXPECT

Opening Ceremony kicks off the State Leadership and Skills Conference each year with special recognitions and [awards](#), a super amazing speaker, and any last-minute changes to contest schedules or information. Official attire or contest attire is not required. Chapters are encouraged to wear chapter t-shirts or similar attire. Attire must adhere to their school/district dress code. Schools are encouraged to bring glow sticks, headgear, and other items to light up the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

Doors open at 6 PM, and the ceremony begins promptly at 7 PM. The Opening Ceremony will be held at the historic [Florida Theatre](#), located at 128 E Forsyth Street, approximately 2 blocks from the hotel. Bus transportation is not provided for the Opening Ceremony. Concessions will be available for purchase before the ceremony. No food or drink is allowed inside the theater.

The Closing Ceremony is the culmination of all the hard work of the conference, and where we recognize the top students in each contest. Before the event kicks off, Advisors are invited to join Johnson and Wales University for coffee and pastries at a reception outside of the Hyatt ballroom. First, second and third place in each division are announced, and the medalists will proceed to the stage area. Once all are present, medalists are escorted onstage and are awarded medals. Next, they will take a photo with their contest group and receive any prizes, if available. Gold medalists will be provided a printed QR code to access the [Intent to Enter form](#), and hard copies will be available to students who cannot access the form electronically. This form is due by the conclusion of the Closing Ceremony.

Winners are announced in three sections, with a brief break between each section. During the breaks, we will announce the new [2023-2024 State Officer Team](#) and the [2023 SkillsUSA Florida National Courtesy Corps team](#). The Closing Ceremony will be held at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront in the Grand Ballroom. Doors open at 7:30 AM, and the ceremony begins promptly at 8:30 AM. The ceremony will conclude by 12 PM. With over 100 contests and three divisions, the announcements move fast, but don't worry - we have a great team of photographers who capture each group onstage. Photos of the medalists and from the rest of the conference will be available on the SkillsUSA Flickr page for free, high-quality download within 2 weeks of the conference. View photos from previous events: [flickr.com/photos/skillsusaflorida/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/skillsusaflorida/albums)

After the Closing Ceremony, all gold medalists and their advisors must attend a mandatory meeting about the National Leadership and Skills Conference. We will provide important information regarding registration, hotel, and other details related to our host city, Atlanta, GA! The meeting will conclude no later than 1 PM.

Closing Ceremonies will be live-streamed through our social media channels for public viewing. We encourage you to share the links with your family, friends, and supporters. Links will be provided before the ceremony.

*Warning: The Opening and Closing Ceremonies may use fast flashing lights and other lighting effects that may cause discomfort and trigger seizures in people with photosensitive epilepsy. Please use discretion in viewing.*

## STATE-LEVEL AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Nominations are open for our state awards, and we encourage all members to review the criteria for each award. Nominations are accepted until February 28, 2023.

### **Advisor of the Year**

This award recognizes career and technical educators, in addition to full-time classroom/laboratory teachers, who have provided or currently are providing significant contributions to SkillsUSA and career and technical education programs for students in their fields, communities, and/or the State of Florida.

Nomination Form and Information: <https://form.jotform.com/213626182510145>

### **Cornerstone Award (Administrators)**

This award recognizes the cooperative relationships that have been established between local school administrators and SkillsUSA chapters. The success of each chapter is reliant on the collective efforts of many dedicated school administrators who have unselfishly committed their support of our students.

Nomination Form and Information: <https://form.jotform.com/213626470840151>

### **Distinguished Service Award (Business Partners)**

This award recognizes organizations, agencies, businesses, or other groups that have made outstanding contributions to SkillsUSA and career and technical education on the state level. Their generous support of SkillsUSA state associations distinguishes these organizations, and we honor their commitment.

Nomination Form and Information: <https://form.jotform.com/213625947637163>

### **Hall of Champions Honorary Life Award**

The SkillsUSA Hall of Champions Award is an honor bestowed upon those who have dedicated their lives, at a state level, to helping youth develop the components of the SkillsUSA Framework necessary to be successful in a changing world. Their legacy in the state will continue far beyond their career.

Nomination Form and Information: <https://form.jotform.com/213625680675159>

### **Pillars of Success Award (Volunteers)**

This award recognizes the achievements of volunteers who have contributed time, talent, and financial support to our state association. Their generous support of our SkillsUSA association serves as a pillar of our success. We honor volunteers to continue and deepen relationships.

Nomination Form and Information: <https://form.jotform.com/213626035485052>

### **Rookie Educator of the Year**

For new educators, SkillsUSA can help create a roadmap to success. The Rookie Educator of the Year recognizes educators new to the profession who embrace SkillsUSA programs and ideals and show dedication to career and technical education as a whole.

Nomination Form and Information: <https://form.jotform.com/222435344249152>

### **Todd Mann Service Award (Students)**

This award recognizes student members for the highest meritorious contributions to the improvement, promotion, development, and progress of SkillsUSA Florida. They should represent the fundamental principles and purposes of our organization.

Nomination Form and Information: <https://form.jotform.com/213626652521149>

## CONTEST PREPARATION, UPDATES AND SUPPLY LISTS

To prepare for contests, the [Technical Standards](#) are the first and primary source of information, available online with Professional Membership. Once you are registered and paid professional member, you can access the standards online at [absorb.skillsusa.org](https://absorb.skillsusa.org). If you are having issues accessing it, contact the Customer Care Team at 844-875-4557, or email [customercare@skillsusa.org](mailto:customercare@skillsusa.org). The Technical Standards provide guidance on the standards and competencies that will be tested, supplies and materials, written exam topics, display requirements, and other relevant contest information.

Any changes to the Technical Standards for state-level competitions or information about the contest projects needed before the conference, including updated supply lists, drawings and plans, and other contest-related information, will be posted on the SkillsUSA Florida website: [skillsusafl.org/state-conference/updates](https://skillsusafl.org/state-conference/updates). Updates and information will be posted here until 2 weeks before the conference. After that time, they will be posted online and also emailed to the advisor who registered the competitor to distribute to the appropriate students and/or advisors. It is expected the advisor who registered the contestant will pass along the information to the contestant, instructor, and other parties. If no update is posted, use the information provided in the Technical Standards to prepare.

For logistical reasons, in some cases, some benchmarks outlined in the technical standards may not be evaluated during the state competition. Students should be prepared to perform any of the skills outlined in the technical standards. Any updates posted are at the discretion of the contest committee and the state association. Not all contests will have an update. In most cases, information about the specific contest project or problem, or scoring criteria is not released in advance.

*Questions about clothing standards or general contest rules? Check out the [General Rules and Regulations](#) section below!*

## WRITTEN EXAMS/ASSESSMENTS

**All written exams will be completed online before the conference.** The online testing window will be announced soon. All exams must be completed within this window. Failure to complete any exam will result in a zero score. Students taking exams must be supervised. The Lead Advisor for each school will be responsible for arranging proctors for students to take exams on campus. Remote testing is not available. A form is not required for each proctor or supervisor, but the Lead Advisor will be required to acknowledge that their students followed protocols and acted with integrity.

### Technical Knowledge Assessment

Most skill competitions will require a written technical assessment. Review the contest Technical Standards for topics and resources for each contest.

### Professional Development Assessment

**The SkillsUSA Knowledge Exam will be counted as a scored portion of all state contests.**

Instructions on accessing the online testing platform will be available following registration. **Study Guide Coming Soon - will be posted to the [Contest Updates](#) page!**

## ADVANCING TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

All competitors must be certified by the State Association as having qualified for a contest to compete at the national competition. Gold medalists will be required to achieve a “cut” score of 70% to earn a gold medal and advance to the National Championships. If a contestant does not achieve the cut score, no gold medal will be awarded, and the top-scoring competitor will receive a silver medal. The State Director will verify all scores before the Closing Ceremony. Contestants will not advance straight to the National Championships without an appropriate qualifying event, score, and certification by the State Director.

Students advancing to the National Conference and their advisors must attend a mandatory meeting following the Closing and Awards Ceremony to receive information about registration and deadlines.

***National Conference (NLSC23) Guide will be released on February 1 (pending information from the national office) through the Tuesday Times mailing list and on our website. Registration for the NLSC23 is due by May 9.***

## ACCOMMODATIONS REQUEST



The SkillsUSA Championships management team will make every effort to provide assistance/accommodations as appropriate to create equitable opportunities and a level playing field for all contestants. No assistance that could be interpreted as giving a special needs contestant an unfair advantage will be provided. To properly prepare, advanced identification of the contestants and their special needs is required. Examples of the types of assistance allowed are:

1. Special tables will be allowed for contestants who need to use wheelchairs.
2. Special tools and devices will be allowed for contestants with prosthetics or physical challenges such as a club foot, burn injury, or amputation.
3. Contestants with dyslexia or other learning disabilities will be allowed assistance as determined by the complexity of the contest assignment.
4. Readers will not be allowed in contests where technical manuals are required.
5. Hearing-impaired contestants may provide a sign language interpreter at contest orientations, at the start of the competition (and throughout the day if the technical committee permits), and for the contest debriefing. SkillsUSA Florida will provide ASL interpreters for Opening and Closing Ceremonies.
6. Translators for language issues must be provided by the school/chapter and approved by the state association before arrival at SLSC. Translators must be unassociated with the student.

Any conference registrant needing accommodations should fill out [this form](https://form.jotform.com/212435080058045) to list their needs. Please include all restrictions, including dietary, physical, or other. Advisors may complete the form on behalf of their students. Submit this form no later than March 13, 2023. Requests received after this date are accepted on a case-by-case basis. (<https://form.jotform.com/212435080058045>)

## COURTESY CORPS

The SkillsUSA Courtesy Corps is responsible for the logistics of the conference, including contest site set up, break down and changeovers, lunch delivery, contest support during the contests, and much, much more. This contest is great for any student interested in competition but not quite ready for the state level in their trade or students who may not have qualified at the regional level but still want to get involved and participate in the state conference. It's a great opportunity to see how the event runs from behind the scenes. It is also ideal for students interested in event planning, project management, or other careers requiring logistical coordination. **Registration is ONLY \$50 for students (AND advisors!) interested in participating.** Students may not compete in any other event or serve as a model or an assistant for another competitor. Courtesy Corps Advisors should not have primary supervisory duties for other students from their school. All Courtesy Corps registrants must complete the form linked below by March 6, 2023, to qualify as Courtesy Corps members.

**Courtesy Corps is also a competition that advances to the national level!** Courtesy Corps team members are evaluated during the conference, and the top students receive an invitation to attend the National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC) in Atlanta, GA, on June 17-24, 2023 -- **all expenses paid!** Selected students will participate in the national courtesy corps and ensure the conference runs smoothly. During the Closing Ceremony, the Florida Courtesy Corps delegation to NLSC is announced during the Closing Ceremony.

"When attending a SkillsUSA conference, you probably don't think about the people working behind the scenes. From setting up contests to distributing lunches, the Courtesy Corps team makes it happen. I've worked as a part of this amazing group at the state and national levels, and it is one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had. As a part of Courtesy Corp, you have a special opportunity to see SkillsUSA from a perspective that few others get to see. The days are long, and the work is not easy, but nothing beats seeing all your fellow SkillsUSA members enjoy your hard work. You also get the opportunity to learn more about SkillsUSA and all the different contests and meet and form long-lasting connections with people from all over. Courtesy Corp is a unique opportunity that I encourage everyone to take if they're up for the challenge."

- Skylar Rearick, Past SkillsUSA State and National Officer

**[Click here for more information and to complete the Courtesy Corps Application!](#)**

## ALUMNI

We love to have our alums involved with our events! If you know an alum who wants to get involved, have them contact Jayde Villagomez at [jaydev@skillsusaf.org](mailto:jaydev@skillsusaf.org) for more information! A select group of alumni will serve as Alumni Leadership Team (ALT) and attend the conference, all expenses paid.

Some ways alumni can help:

- Assist with the production of Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- Judge a competition
- Run the SkillsUSA Florida Store
- Assist with Courtesy Corps
- Provide tours to VIPs
- Assist with photography and recap video
- And much, much more!

## STATE OFFICER CANDIDATES

During the State Leadership and Skills Conference each year, SkillsUSA Florida Delegates from across the state will elect a team of State Officers who will serve as student leaders for the organization in the school year following their election. These students serve as communicators, advocates, and facilitators. The State Officer team leads our state conferences, including the Fall Leadership Conference and State Leadership and Skills Conference. They also participate in training and professional development to prepare local chapters and teach members skills from the SkillsUSA Framework that they need to be career-ready.

Being a State Officer is one of the personal growth and student leadership experiences within SkillsUSA, focused on developing three key essential elements of the SkillsUSA Framework: Leadership, Communication, and Service Orientation. The skills learned through the State Officer program will not only help these students to be successful in serving the members of the organization but also throughout their lives and careers. State Officers attend SkillsUSA events, all expenses paid, and have various unique opportunities throughout the year.

Opportunities include:

- Building facilitation skills during Leverage, a pre-conference activity at the National Leadership and Skills Conference in June
- Creating a Program of Work for the year for the state office, and selecting the state theme for the year during State Officer Training in July
- Advocating for CTE and SkillsUSA on Capitol Hill during the Washington Leadership Training Institute in September
- Facilitating small and large group sessions for members during the Fall Leadership Conference in November
- Performing the opening and closing ceremonies of the conference, escorting VIPs, networking with students, teachers, and industry, and serving in a variety of integral roles during the State Leadership and Skills Conference in April
- And more!

Elections will occur at the 2023 State Leadership and Skills Conference for the 2023-2024 State Officer Team at [Delegate Sessions](#). Review the requirements of the role, election processes, and application information in our State Officer Program Guide, found on our website on the Advisor Resources page at [skillsusafl.org/resources](https://www.skillsusafl.org/resources).

### Program Guide:

<https://www.skillsusafl.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/State-Officer-Program-Guide-2023-2024.pdf>

***Applications are due by March 10, 2023!***

**Questions? Contact Dave Moye at [dmoye@skillsusafl.org](mailto:dmoye@skillsusafl.org).**

# ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

## CHAMPIONS NIGHT CELEBRATION

On Wednesday, April 12, from 6 PM to 10 PM, SkillsUSA students and teachers are invited to celebrate their hard work and accomplishments this year. Champions Night will be held at the Hyatt on the Riverdecks and Coastline Drive, overlooking the beautiful St. Johns River. Dinner is provided - this is a time just to kick back and relax, meet new friends, and celebrate your successes! Join us for food trucks, music and dancing, Giant Jenga, a photo booth, and other activities. Dress is casual, and there is no additional cost to attend. You must have your name badge for entry!

## CONNECTED EXPO AND TRADE SHOW

The CONNECTED Expo and Trade Show will offer students and teachers the opportunity to meet with potential future employers, participate in hands-on demonstrations, and meet with local, state, and national business partners. Booths will showcase new technologies and products and provide valuable opportunities to connect. The Expo will take place in the Grand Foyer on the second level on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 11 and 12, from 8 AM to 3 PM. Additional partner booths will be stationed at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. Refer to the conference app for more details and location information.

## DELEGATE SESSIONS

Each year, a group of student leaders are elected to represent our state association as State Officers. We need your students to act as delegates to elect them! Your students will develop responsibility and decision-making skills during the sessions, as well as learn and experience parliamentary procedures. Each school is allowed delegates based on the total number of members registered for their chapter.

7-12 members	1 Delegate
13-24 member	2 Delegates
25-49 members	3 Delegates
50-79 members	4 Delegates
80-200 members	5 Delegates
201+ members	1 Delegate per 100 additional members

Having delegates represent your chapter is a great opportunity to learn about the democratic process and parliamentary procedure, and for your chapter to be involved with decisions made at the state level. For more information, reach out to [dmoye@skillsusafl.org](mailto:dmoye@skillsusafl.org). Sign up your delegates [here](#)!

***Do you have a student interested in running for a State Officer position? Check out the 2023-2024 State Officer Program Guide here:***

***<https://www.skillsusafl.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/State-Officer-Program-Guide-2023-2024.pdf>***

Email Dave Moye at [dmoye@skillsusafl.org](mailto:dmoye@skillsusafl.org) for questions or more information!

## **GIVE AND GROW COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Students and teachers are invited to join our annual community service project to give back to the Jacksonville community. Participants will receive a certificate documenting their hours. Pre-registration is required. Sign up here: <https://form.jotform.com/213634247839059>

## **GLAM SQUAD**

Help the State Officer team look their best before their onstage performances at Opening and Closing Ceremonies! Cosmetology students are invited to apply for the Glam Squad, and selected applicants will receive complimentary conference registration, including dinner on Monday evening, breakfast on Thursday morning, and all other conference activities. Interested applicants should complete [this application](#) and provide photos showcasing their work styling both male and female subjects. Applications are due by March 6. For more information, check out the Glam Squad Application: <https://form.jotform.com/213633520145042>

## **MEET THE EMPLOYER**

This is a direct recruitment and job fair event. Our industry partners want to meet with SkillsUSA students and provide career opportunities! All students are encouraged to attend, even if they are not seeking immediate employment. Students should dress for success and arrive with multiple copies of their resumes to provide to potential employers. Pre-registration is not required, but students will be asked to sign in before accessing the career fair. The event will take place on Tuesday, April 11, from 5 PM to 8 PM at the Hyatt.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

We are excited to offer professional development opportunities for both students and teachers during the conference. All sessions will be held at the Hyatt and will cover topics like implementing the SkillsUSA Framework, training chapter officers and preparing students for future careers. A full schedule of available sessions will be posted in March, and all attendees are encouraged to participate!

## **SOCIAL MEDIA AMBASSADORS**

Social media ambassadors are responsible for posting and monitoring content during the state conference. Selected ambassadors will participate in online training on responsible social media posting and brand standards and will receive an all-access press pass for the State Leadership and Skills Conference. All students are invited to apply, and selected applicants will receive complimentary conference registration, including dinner on Monday evening, breakfast on Thursday morning, and all other conference activities. Applications are due by March 6. For more information, check out the Social Media Ambassador Application: <https://form.jotform.com/213634493960158>

## EXCLUSIVE ADVISOR-ONLY EVENTS

### Advisor Lounge

The Advisor Lounge will be open exclusively to registered advisors, featuring dedicated space for our Advisors to recharge during the conference. The lounge will be open on Tuesday and Wednesday from 7 AM to 4 PM. Grab a cup of coffee and a snack, plug in your laptop, and network with other advisors!

### Advisor Champions' Night Reception

During Champions Night, we will host a special reception to celebrate our advisors and their hard work throughout the year. Dessert will be served! We will also provide opportunities to meet and connect with business and industry partners who want to get involved with your work in the classroom and support your efforts on the local level. Food, industry connections, and door prizes highlight this event!

### Framework Luncheon and Advisor Business Meeting

All advisors are invited to attend a special luncheon to recognize their hard work and dedication to their students. On Wednesday, April 12, at 12:00 PM, all SkillsUSA Advisors are invited to the Framework Luncheon and Advisor Business Meeting. Join us for informational updates from the state and national offices and Advisor at Large elections. We will discuss the 2023 National Leadership and Skills Conference, the 2023 Fall Leadership Conference, and other important information. No RSVP required!

Advisors at Large serve as representatives for the SkillsUSA advisors to the Board of Directors. They serve two-year terms and are elected in alternating years. At SLSC23, one Advisor at Large seat is up for election. If you are interested in running, please contact [jgraber@skillsusafl.org](mailto:jgraber@skillsusafl.org) or [thomas.thoss@ocps.net](mailto:thomas.thoss@ocps.net) for more information. To nominate yourself or another advisor, use this form: <https://form.jotform.com/213636519031047>. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the business meeting.

#### *Advisors at Large:*

- Must be an active Professional Member of SkillsUSA for the 2022-2023 school year and have an active chapter (at least 6 students and 1 professional member) for the year preceding the election and for the duration of their term in office.
- Understand and embrace our mission to serve the students, teachers, and industry of Florida to provide our state with a quality workforce.
- Must have support from their school administration to serve in the role, which may require time away from school.
- Serve as a voice for SkillsUSA Florida Advisors in the strategic planning of the organization, and have a role in the future of our organization and how it serves its students.
- Can attend three Board meetings annually (generally, August, January, and June).
- Actively participate in local, regional, and state activities and events.
- Travel with expenses paid for required SkillsUSA-related events.
- Have opportunities for additional training and professional development.

### Closing Ceremony Advisor Reception

Join Johnson and Wales University for coffee and pastries before the Closing Ceremony and learn more about the educational opportunities available for students. All advisors are invited to attend! The event begins at 7 AM and ends at 8:30 AM.

# GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

## GENERAL RULES

1. Registration for the State Leadership and Skills Conference begins after the school/chapter's Regional Leadership and Skills Conference. Registration and payment deadlines will be published each year at [www.skillsusafl.org](http://www.skillsusafl.org). Failure to adhere to deadlines may result in additional fees, penalties, or disqualification.
  - a. After the final registration deadline, no drops are allowed, and no refunds are permitted. Invoices are final at the registration deadline, and any registrants entered on the registration website are considered registered for the conference, and the school is responsible for payment.
  - b. No late registrations are permitted. After the final registration deadline, contestants/teams may only be added if the State Director first approves them.
2. Schools/Chapters must stay within the approved SkillsUSA Florida Hotel Room Blocks to participate in the conference. Failure to comply will result in disqualification without a refund.
  - a. A school-appointed chaperone must supervise students at any hotel and throughout the conference, regardless of age. No student is permitted to stay outside of their school's group and supervision.
  - b. Commuters are allowed and are subject to a per-person commuter fee. The fee is a flat, one-time fee per person and must be paid before attending the conference.
3. Primary supervision is the responsibility of the school/district, which appoints an advisor to supervise students. All students must have an emergency contact name and phone number for the onsite chaperone(s) submitted with their registration. Advisors and/or chaperones are responsible for maintaining contact information for parents and guardians.
  - a. All supervisory chaperones and advisors must be approved by their school/district for overnight supervisory roles. At a minimum, supervisory chaperones must complete a background check and abuse prevention training through the school/district.
    - i. Each school must complete a Chaperone Certification form listing the individuals approved by the school or district to supervise students on overnight trips.
    - ii. Verification must be completed once per school year, and the same verification may be used for all in-person SkillsUSA events during that school year.
    - iii. The Chaperone Certification form will be published on the Advisor Resources page at [skillsusafl.org/resources](http://skillsusafl.org/resources).
4. Each school must designate a Lead Advisor to be responsible for online registration and onsite registration pick-up. The Lead Advisor also serves as a point of contact during the conference.
  - a. The Lead Advisor will be designated at onsite registration, and contact information will be provided to the registration team.
  - b. The Lead Advisor must have a cell phone on and charged at all times and will be notified first in the event of any emergency or other important communications.
  - c. The Lead Advisor should be familiar with Crisis Management procedures, as outlined in the written Crisis Plan provided to all advisors.

5. Judges and volunteers donate their time and expertise to the success of this event and SkillsUSA Florida students. In respect of their privacy, SkillsUSA Florida does not disclose the names or contact information of any judge or volunteer. Judges may choose to provide contact information at their discretion during the conference or contest ONLY at their discretion.
6. All scores are final at the conclusion of the Closing and Awards Ceremony. Detailed scoring information can be found in the [Results, Awards and Prizes](#) section of this document.

## CONTEST INFORMATION

7. Scorecards or scoring criteria for all national contests from the previous year can be found on the SkillsUSA website at [updates.skillsusa.org](https://updates.skillsusa.org). These may vary from the state contest version. In almost all cases, current scoring criteria are not published before state or national competitions.
8. The Technical Standards are the primary source of information to prepare for contests. If you need help accessing the Technical Standards, contact the Customer Care Team at 844-875-4557 or [customercare@skillsusa.org](mailto:customercare@skillsusa.org).
9. Contests at the Regional and State Leadership and Skills Conferences will be based on the Technical Standards to the fullest extent possible. Contests will increase in difficulty at each level. They may be adapted for time, space, logistics, number of registrants, and a variety of other factors, as determined by the Regional Coordinator, State Director, and/or Technical Committees.
  - a. Not all contests at the state level are offered at the regional level. Contests offered at the regional level are at the discretion of the Regional Coordinator and may be based on the number of registrants, available space and materials, or other factors.
  - b. “Florida Only” contests do not advance to the national competition. Contestants are eligible for regional and/or state medals and prizes, as with all contests.
  - c. “Demonstration Contests” may have a national contest, and contestants may or may not be eligible for medals and/or prizes. Contest status will be published each year.
10. Any changes to the National [Technical Standards](#) for state events will be published online at [www.skillsusafl.org/stateconference/contest-updates](https://www.skillsusafl.org/stateconference/contest-updates) at least 2 weeks before SLSC. Any updates released less than 2 weeks before the event are emailed directly to the registering advisor to distribute to the appropriate students and/or instructors.
  - a. Published updates are at the discretion of the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee and/or State Director will make the final determination of what information is released before a contest. All materials will be released in the same manner to all participating schools/chapters.
  - b. If no update is published, refer to the Technical Standards for supply lists and other contest information.
11. All competitors must create a one-page, type-written résumé and submit it to the judges during contest orientation or upon arrival to their contest site. Failure to submit a resume at the assigned time will result in a penalty.
12. All contestants must complete the Professional Development Assessment as a scored portion of their contest. Failure to complete the assessment during the testing window will result in a zero score for that component. A study guide will be published on the Advisor Resources page at [skillsusafl.org/resources](https://skillsusafl.org/resources) for students to prepare.

13. Many contests require a written exam. In almost all cases, the exams will be completed online before the competition. Failure to complete the assessment during the testing window will result in a zero score for that component. Specific testing instructions and testing windows will be provided to Advisors.

## **GRIEVANCE FORM AND CONTEST FEEDBACK**

14. A Grievance Form will be used to file grievances in all contests. The form outlines the filing steps. Hard copies of the form will be available from the Head Judge in each contest. Advisors and students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the process. A grievance is only accepted by the student competitor before they leave the contest area during the competition.
  - a. The most current version of the Grievance Form can be found on the Advisor Resources page, [skillsusafl.org/resources](http://skillsusafl.org/resources).
  - b. Contestants should request a hard copy from the Head Judge in their contest area.
  - c. Grievances are not accepted from advisors, observers, or non-competing students.
15. SkillsUSA Florida seeks input to ensure consistent growth and improvement. Constructive contest feedback from competitors and non-competitors is welcome using this form: <http://bit.ly/ContestFeedback>
  - a. When providing constructive feedback, please be as specific as possible and use as much detail as possible, noting times, locations, and any other important information.
  - b. Name and email address are required to submit feedback to allow for follow-up or additional questions, if needed.

## **CLOTHING AND TOOLS**

16. Competitors must adhere to the uniform requirements outlined in the Technical Standards for each contest. Refer to the Clothing Classifications in the Introduction Materials with the Technical Standards at [absorb.skillsusa.org](http://absorb.skillsusa.org) and on the Advisor Resources page at [skillsusafl.org/resources](http://skillsusafl.org/resources).
  - a. Check for specific clothing and safety requirements for each contest. Each contest is assigned a Clothing Classification and identified with Class (A - H).
17. At the state competition, the following uniform substitutions are acceptable and do not require prior notice. Please note: these exceptions will NOT be made at the national competition.
  - a. A plain white polo may be substituted for the official SkillsUSA white polo in Class E attire, provided it is plain white with no logos, colored buttons, accents, or stitching.
  - b. Plain blue scrubs may be substituted for the official SkillsUSA blue scrubs, provided they are objectively similar in color. A different shade of blue is not acceptable.
  - c. Any brand of pants or slacks is acceptable for any contest, provided they meet the color specifications of the competition and any safety requirements (i.e., non-flammable).
  - d. A plain white chef's coat is acceptable for all culinary- and baking-related contests, provided it does not have the name of a school or chapter visible on the jacket. Any logos or names must be securely covered before entering the contest area.
  - e. Additional exceptions must be approved at least 4 weeks before the conference by the State Director. Any exceptions without prior approval are subject to penalty.
  - f. For Regional Contest uniform requirements, contact your Regional Coordinator.

18. Contestants must wear the contest uniform to all contest-related events, including orientations, debriefs, onsite written exams, practical skill tests, or any other official contest activity.
19. Failure to adhere to uniform requirements may result in a penalty, as determined by the Technical Committee and/or State Director.
20. Opening Ceremony dress is business casual. Chapters are encouraged to wear chapter t-shirts or similar attire. Official attire or contest attire is not required.
21. All contestants are required to wear their official contest uniforms or official SkillsUSA attire to the Closing and Awards Ceremony, where the winners are announced, and the industry awards are presented. Students who are not dressed in the appropriate attire will be denied access to the awards platform onstage and will not appear in medalist photos. Appropriate attire is defined as official contest attire or official SkillsUSA attire.
22. The original official blazer, jacket, sweater, or any other uniform with the old “SkillsUSA–VICA” or “VICA” emblem patch may still be worn in contests requiring official attire.
23. No canvas, vinyl, plastic, or leather athletic-type shoes, open-toe shoes, or open-heel shoes are permitted in any SkillsUSA Championships event. Contestants may be penalized or disqualified where improper clothing constitutes a health or safety hazard.
24. Contestants with long hair that poses a possible safety or sanitary hazard must properly restrain their hair, as is appropriate for their industry. Hair or beard nets may be required.
25. Contestants will be penalized or risk disqualification for lack of safety equipment, clothing, or attire based on the severity of the infraction.
26. The wearing of accessories (such as belts) is optional unless otherwise specified in the contest rules and clothing classifications. Accessories may in no way pose a safety risk. Contestants should avoid large belt buckles, large and/or dangling jewelry, or any item that could impede on maintaining a safe work environment.
27. No identification of the contestant, chapter, advisor, city, or school may be visible on contest attire.
28. The policy concerning piercing and tattoos while participating in SLSC is as follows:
  - a. Piercings: Wearing any piercings should not potentially cause a safety issue, including any loose or dangling items. If so determined, the offending item must be removed for the duration of the SkillsUSA Championships contest. Failure to comply may result in a penalty or disqualification.
  - b. Tattoos: Any tattoos that are considered vulgar, sexual, or morbid should be covered to the best of the student’s ability while competing in any SkillsUSA Championships contest. Failure to do so may result in a penalty.
29. Participants who do not bring the required tools and materials as specified in the individual contest regulations will be penalized for items missing. The contest chair may furnish the required item(s) if possible but will assess the point penalty.
30. It is strongly recommended that toolboxes not exceed 9"x14"x22". Contestants may bring more than one box. Toolboxes that are bigger or cannot be carried by one person should have casters, wheels, or a hand truck for movement to and from contest areas.
  - a. SkillsUSA Florida is not responsible for tools left in the contest area overnight. Toolboxes should have a locking mechanism in place.
  - b. It is the responsibility of the contestant to move their toolbox to the contest area.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

31. Each contest provides individual entries unless the rules of the contest state that it is a team competition. Team members must be from the same school and division. Schools may enter high school, middle school, and/or college/postsecondary students/teams in each competition, determined by the state office and/or Regional Coordinator. Contact your Regional Coordinator for more information.
32. Participants must be active SkillsUSA members in their respective divisions whose dues have been postmarked by midnight on February 1.
  - a. Exceptions to the above policy may be made on a case-by-case basis and only under certain extenuating conditions as determined by the State Director, in cooperation with the National SkillsUSA Office.
33. Participants must meet the eligibility requirements outlined in each contest description, including, but not limited to, programs of study and occupational objectives.
34. Nail Care and Esthetics models and assistants in Action Skills, Principles of Technology, and Job Skill Demonstrations A and Open must be active SkillsUSA student members who are not competing in a contest during the same conference. Advisors and competitors from other contests may not serve as models for these events.
35. Each member will register under one of the following divisions:
  - a. High-school contestants are students enrolled in a coherent sequence of courses or a career major that prepares the student for further education and/or employment related to technology, the health industry, trades, or industry. Further, a high-school contestant must earn credit toward a high-school diploma/certificate or its equivalent during the school year immediately preceding the National Leadership and Skills Conference.
    - i. An individual who has not completed the requirements for nor received a high-school-level diploma must compete as a high-school contestant even though they may be taking advanced placement or college/postsecondary courses, including dual enrollment.
  - b. College/postsecondary contestants are students enrolled in a coherent series of courses or a career major that prepares them for further education and/or employment related to technology, the health industry, trades, or industry. College/postsecondary contestants must be earning credit toward a postsecondary degree/certificate during the school year immediately preceding the National Leadership and Skills Conference.
  - c. Middle-school members must be or have been enrolled in a middle-school exploratory course that prepares them for future study in a career and technical education pathway.

## RESULTS, AWARDS AND PRIZES

36. SkillsUSA Florida Championships medals and awards may be presented to the top three contestants in each division. Contestants are rated against a performance standard rather than automatically being awarded first, second or third-place medals based solely on the highest rankings.
  - a. Medals will not be awarded if the performance standard as determined by the technical committee does not justify such recognition.

- b. Medalists will be required to achieve a “cut” score of 70% or better to earn a gold medal and advance to the National Championships. If a contestant does not achieve the cut score, no gold medal will be awarded, and the top-scoring competitor will be awarded a silver medal. All scores will be verified by the State Director before the Closing Ceremony. By awarding a gold medal, the state association acknowledges the scores have been verified, and the student receives an invitation to the national competition. Receipt of a gold medal constitutes an invitation to the national championships.
  - c. If a gold medalist cannot attend the national conference, the silver medalist may be notified and receive an invitation to NLSC within 1 week of SLSC.
37. Judges’ decisions and scores are final.
38. Prizes may be awarded, contingent on industry support, and are not guaranteed for any contest.
39. Contestants must be present during the Closing Ceremony to receive medals and/or prizes. No medals or prizes will be distributed following the close of the conference unless approved by the State Director in writing in advance of the conference.
40. Advisors are not permitted backstage or in the prize room. Students will return to their seats after receiving their awards.
41. To advance to the National Leadership and Skills Conference, contestants must qualify through state SkillsUSA-approved contests. Contestants are not permitted to advance “straight to Nationals” without being deemed qualified by the State Director.
42. Individual scorecards will be made available online 1-2 weeks following the close of the state conference. Contestants must have their contestant number and date of birth to access their scorecard. Please make note of contestant numbers.
- a. Conference registrants will receive an email once scorecards have been published online.
  - b. If you believe an error has occurred on your scorecard, complete a [Request for Review](#) as the error is discovered. Reviews may be requested for two weeks following the release of scores. A link to the form can also be found on the Advisor Resources page at [skillsusafl.org/resources](http://skillsusafl.org/resources).
    - i. Reviews will be considered for clerical errors only - for example, a written test score is omitted; a “1” was entered instead of a “100”; etc.
    - ii. Reviews will not be considered for disagreement with the judges’ decisions or scores on any portion of the contest.

## TEAM CONTESTS

43. Teams will consist of SkillsUSA members from the same school or chapter, unless otherwise stated in the Technical Standards. All team members must be from the same division (middle school, high school, and college/postsecondary).
44. Teams must wear the same uniform. In contests where multiple clothing classifications are acceptable (for example, Quiz Bowl), all team members must wear the same classification.
45. In team leadership contests, should a team member drop following the state competitions, schools/chapters may substitute another student, provided they meet the eligibility requirements of the competition. Teams may compete with one fewer team member in the case of an unforeseen circumstance just before the state competition (e.g., the student becomes ill, is

involved in an accident, or simply does not show up) as long as a full team is registered and paid for originally and the specific contest guidelines do not state otherwise.

- a. Notify the State Director of any last minute issues as soon as they arise to be granted an exception.
46. For team skill contests, a team may compete with less than the required number of competitors but will be penalized based on the number of team members present divided by the number of team members required. For example, if a contest requires a team of 4, a team of 3 is permitted to compete with a 25% penalty.
47. Teams that advance to the National Championships must compete with at least half of the original members who qualified at the state event. If more than half of the original members are replaced, the team must forfeit their position to the next eligible team.

## **OBSERVERS**

48. During the contest, participants must work independently, without assistance from judges, teachers, fellow students, or observers. Contestants may be disqualified for receiving such assistance.
49. It is in the spirit of competition and good sportsmanship to demonstrate professional courtesy to other competitors. Contestants shall in no way disrupt or interfere with the work or performance of fellow contestants or teams. Any contestant or team found to violate this regulation may be penalized or disqualified.
  - a. If the disruption comes from a non-contestant, a penalty or disqualification may be applied to all contestants from the offending school.
50. A roped or otherwise marked area may be designated for observers. Not all contests will allow for observers. No observers, including SkillsUSA advisors, will enter the designated contest areas at any time. This is necessary for both safety and to maintain the integrity of the contests.
51. SkillsUSA Florida reserves the right to remove any contestant, advisor, or observer for disruptive behavior.
52. Advisors or observers will not talk or gesture to contestants. Doing so may result in penalties or disqualification.
53. Judges may request a penalty or disqualification of contestants who accept assistance from observers. The State Director will make the final determination of any such penalties or disqualification.
54. No advisors or observers will be permitted in the contest holding room or at the contest orientation meeting unless expressly stated in the contest Technical Standards.
55. Additional limitations on observers, such as entering or leaving a contest area during a demonstration or sequence, may be posted to protect contestants from unnecessary distractions.
56. The technical committee chair may close the contest to observers if observers are seen to be communicating or aiding a contestant in any way, or if safety demands such action.
57. Cameras with flash attachments, cell phones, and/or recording devices of any kind will not be permitted in any contest area without the consent of the State Director and/or Technical Committee.

# INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

SkillsUSA Florida aims to be inclusive to all participants of SkillsUSA events to ensure a welcoming, safe, and respectful environment by reflecting the diverse interests of our membership. **We remain committed to providing an inclusive environment for all participants, regardless of age, gender, gender expression or identity, race, ethnicity, nationality, health status, disability, relationship status, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, faith, or religion.**

*For the purposes of this statement, “participant” includes student members, advisors, chaperones, business and industry partners, judges, volunteers, alumni, contractors, vendors, exhibitors, and anyone else present at a SkillsUSA Florida function or activity.*

## EXPECTED BEHAVIOR

All participants must adhere to the following expectations:

- Exercise consideration and respect in your speech and actions
- Avoid demeaning, discriminatory, or harassing behavior or speech
- Be mindful and respectful of your surroundings and fellow participants
- Alert SkillsUSA Florida staff if you notice violations of this policy, someone in distress, or a potentially dangerous situation

## UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

The list of behaviors below is not exhaustive. Participants must exercise common decency and professionalism in all interactions and behaviors. Unacceptable behaviors include:

- Intimidating, derogatory or demeaning speech or actions by any participant.
- Harmful or prejudicial verbal or written comments or visual images related to age, gender, gender expression or identity, race, ethnicity, nationality, health status, disability, relationship status, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, faith, or religion.
- Use of nudity and/or sexual images.
- Deliberate stalking or following.
- Harassing photography or recording.
- Sustained disruption of talks or other events.
- Unwelcome and uninvited attention or contact, or physical assault (including touching or groping).
- Real or implied threat of physical or professional damage or harm.
- Retaliation for reporting an incident or reporting an incident in bad faith violates this policy.

## REPORTING UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

If you feel uncomfortable or unwelcome as a result of another participant’s behavior, if you witness inappropriate behavior, or if you have concerns regarding another participant’s behavior, contact a SkillsUSA Florida staff member onsite, or email [jgraber@skillsusafl.org](mailto:jgraber@skillsusafl.org).

If possible, provide written documentation on this form: <https://form.jotform.com/223326176041044>

- Your name and contact information
- Date, time, and location of the incident
- Identifying information of any offending parties or victims
- Description of the violating behavior, along with any physical injuries or property damage
- Identifying information for any witnesses
- Photos, videos, screenshots, or any other evidence