

April 5, 2024



»» Register for Signing Day!

CALLING ALL CHAPTERS! SkillsUSA's National Signing Day is May 7, a day when chapters across the nation celebrate our next generation of skilled professionals as they sign letters of intent to pursue career pathways in the skilled trades. Will you add your chapter's voice to thousands of others? Watch the video for more, and visit the signingday.skillsusa.org page on our website to access registration and resources to help you plan a powerful celebration your school and community won't forget! Registration closes **April 23**. Help us show the nation the future is in good hands ... because it's in SKILLED hands! Signing Day is sponsored by the Lowe's Foundation, State Farm® and Constellation.



»» Get Ready for Skills Jam 2024!

The 2023 Skills Jam cast was amazing! Now, we're ready to do it again, bigger and even better, with Skills Jam 2024! The new cast? That could be you! In fact, your skills are your audition for the show. Advisors, [please share this flyer](#) with your students, providing them with all the info they'll need to submit great content of their own that could land them on the next season of Skills Jam!

»» SkillsUSA Scholarship Application Deadlines

Exploring and applying for SkillsUSA scholarships is a seamless process. SkillsUSA student members can review eligibility criteria, scholarship amounts and applications in one location: [SkillsUSA Scholarship Application Hub](#). Please encourage your SkillsUSA students to apply and take advantage of these incredible scholarships!



These scholarships close on April 15:

- Sharon Melton Myers Memorial Scholarship
- The AHRI Clifford "Ted" Rees Memorial Scholarship
- The Fieldpiece #MasteroftheTrade Scholarship
- The Fine Homebuilding #KeepCraftAlive Scholarship
- The Larry Rash Memorial Scholarship
- The Marsha Daves Memorial Scholarship

- The National Technical Honor Society Scholarship

Scholarship closing on May 6:

- 2024 Robert Flint Student Leadership Development Scholarship for Leverage Conference

NLSC travel scholarship open March 23 to May 22:

- Harbor Freight Tools for Schools (applicants can receive up to \$1,500 to attend the 2024 National Leadership & Skills Conference)

Closing May 31:

- The Bob Westphal Memorial Scholarship

To learn more about these scholarships and learn tips on how to submit a quality application, visit the [SkillsUSA Scholarships and Grants webpage](#). If you have questions, contact [Jordan Sewell](#).

»» Celebrate Community Contributions During SkillsUSA's National Week of Service

SkillsUSA is asking all chapters to conduct and promote a community service project during the [National Week of Service](#), May 5-11. This event helps commemorate the founding of SkillsUSA on May 8, 1965. Connect with SkillsUSA via social media by posting photos of your activities online. Chapter advisors or officers should give a brief description of their chapter events [using this form](#). In return, we'll send a SkillsUSA logo gift item valued at \$15 to say thanks (while supplies last).

We encourage participants to publicize their projects locally. To locate media resources for your community, including contact information for area newspapers, [use our SkillsUSA Advocacy Site](#). On the site, click on "Media," enter your ZIP code, and choose up to six outlets at a time. Then, click on "Send a Message." At "Compose Your Own Message," fill in your contact information and your message and click send. To see the full contact information for each outlet, click on the name of the newspaper.

»» National Officer Program Guide Updates

Are you working with a national officer candidate? If so, be sure to review the following [National Officer Program Guide](#) updates:

National Officer Training Schedule (page 8)

- Post-Election Training is *virtual* on June 29-July
- Summer National Officer Training is July 13-19

Candidate Speech Requirement (page 21)

Candidates must submit a video of their two-minute speech, "How I Plan to Serve SkillsUSA as a National Officer," within the online application.

»» Press Release Template for State Conference Participants

The [SkillsUSA Advocacy site](#) has a press release template for state conference participants and their advisors to share participation, competition results and recognition with your hometown media. Parents, instructors, students or anyone can send these emails. Please spread the word about SkillsUSA in your community and

share this advocacy resource link at your school and at your state conferences. For questions, email [Jane Short](#).

»» Join the NLSC 2024 Courtesy Corps!

SkillsUSA invites potential National Courtesy Corps (NCC) members to apply early to support the 2024 National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC). This much-appreciated group supports the technical committees and the overall conference experience, and it's a great way for students to network with industry partners and meet other SkillsUSA students from across the nation. NCC members receive free housing, local transportation, meals and free conference registration. NCC participants are housed at the Georgia Tech Woodruff Residence Hall in Atlanta. An advisor must also join the Courtesy Corps team and serve as a chaperone for their participating students. NCC candidates must also obtain the approval of their [state SkillsUSA director](#). For eligibility and timeline requirements, visit the [National Courtesy Corps webpage](#). For questions, contact [Boyd Hestand](#). The deadline for [nominations](#) is **May 1**. Candidate status notifications will be sent to NCC nominees by May 9. Along with NLSC attendee information, this email will include an acceptance form if a position on Courtesy Corps is available. If you want to not just *experience* the national conference but to *contribute* to its success, this is a great and affordable way to participate in SkillsUSA's biggest event of the year!

»» Apply for the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teacher Excellence

Applications are now open for the [Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence awards](#). The prize recognizes outstanding instruction in the skilled trades in U.S. public high schools and the teachers who inspire students to learn skills to prepare for life after graduation. In 2024, Harbor Freight will award \$1.5 million in cash prizes to 25 skilled trades teachers and their programs. In 2023, the prize recognized 16 SkillsUSA instructors as winners. Applications must be received by **May 3**. Finalists will be announced June 11 and winners will be announced this fall.

»» The USDOE to Launch "Power Your Future" Challenge

The U.S. Department of Education will launch the Power Your Future Challenge, a CTE Momentum challenge to design clean energy solutions. Starting in August, the Department will invite high schools to submit innovative action plans that will advance clean energy in their schools and communities. The challenge is an opportunity to create engaging learning opportunities for students to explore clean energy; to connect CTE programs with a wide variety of clean energy pathways; and to inspire students to envision and pursue clean energy careers. Up to 10 winners will receive an equal share of the \$50,000 prize pool, as well as in-kind prizes donated by sponsors. Plan ahead for next school year so your students can be part of this national event. [Sign up for updates](#) about the Power Your Future Challenge and future CTE Momentum challenges.

»» The SkillsUSA Store – Featured Product

April showers bring May flowers and this [Mini Navy Umbrella](#) is a spring staple. This super pocket mini umbrella features an auto open and close mechanism, a 43” arc when open, and a non-slip, rubber-coated handle. Additional features include a textured canopy and case, with a wrist strap on the rubber-coated handle. It also measures 11" when closed to easily fit in your bag on the go!

