



»» Register for Signing Day!

ONLY TWO WEEKS remain to register for SkillsUSA National Signing Day on May 7!

Signing Day is SkillsUSA's annual spotlight on the next generation of skilled professionals and the essential skilled trade areas they represent. During Signing Day events, students are publicly celebrated as they sign letters of intent to pursue career pathways in the skilled trades. Signing Day makes a wonderful recognition ceremony to honor your students in front of parents, parents and school administrators as you highlight your CTE program.



Have you added your chapter to the record number of SkillsUSA members participating across the nation this year? If not, there's no better time than now, especially with this new incentive! Register by **April 23** and each participating student will receive a personalized letter of congratulations from SkillsUSA executive director Chelle Travis and SkillsUSA board president Maureen Tholen, vice president of sustainability at 3M Corp. This message will recognize each student for their dedication to the trade area they've chosen to pursue and their contributions to a national event that magnifies the value of the skilled trades to the nation. It will make a great addition to an employment portfolio and will be emailed on or before May 20, 2024 to each registered Signing Day participant.

Join us on SkillsUSA National Signing Day as we celebrate the skills that have been, are and always will be essential! Learn more about Signing Day and register at signingday.skillsusa.org. There, you'll also find a variety of resources to help you hold an unforgettable Signing Day event from scripts to signage plus a step-by-step guide to planning and holding your event. SkillsUSA National Signing Day is sponsored by the Lowe's Foundation, State Farm® and Constellation. For Signing Day shirts, baseball caps and event items, visit the SkillsUSA Store for the exclusive [National Signing Day collection](#).

»» 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 Coming Soon

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 Chapter Contributions During Week of Service

SkillsUSA is asking all chapters to conduct and promote a local community service project during the SkillsUSA [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 can also provide a brief description of your 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.

»» 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.