

SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC) Announcements 2019

Congratulations Everyone! Please make sure to read these important announcements for NLSC attendees.

SkillsUSA Championships Clothing and Tools App Updated

SkillsUSA has updated the “SkillsUSA: Clothing and Tools” app for the 2019 SkillsUSA Championships. For each contest, the app includes an overview, eligibility and clothing requirements, and safety guidelines. It also lists the tools, equipment or materials that contestants must provide. The app is free for students, instructors and SkillsUSA business partners and is available in both the Apple Store: <http://apple.co/2dtlb8d> and the Google Play Store: <http://bit.ly/2e5fRec>. The app was created and sponsored by Pearson (www.pearsoned.com).

Note: This student resource that *does not replace* the *SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards*. The app connects users to SkillsUSA’s membership site, where educators must join as professional members to receive the full book at no charge.

Help Others by Donating Blood During NLSC

State SkillsUSA directors: Please pass this information on to your advisors and students attending the national conference.

SkillsUSA will host a blood drive Thursday, June 27, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. The drive is sponsored by the Kentucky Blood Center, and the bloodmobile will be parked just outside the entrance to the North Wing Hall entrance to the Kentucky Exposition Center.

To schedule an appointment in advance, call 800-775-2522. All blood donors receive a free T-shirt. Donors 18 and older will be entered into a summer drawing to win a new car. Note: Donors must weigh at least 110 pounds and must be at least 16 years of age with a signed parental permission (form is located on the state directors’ site) or 17 years of age without parental permission. A state-licensed photo ID is required at the time of donation.

Your blood donation may be the only match for a patient’s unique need. Please donate so that when your specific type is needed, it will be ready to save a life. When you donate with Kentucky Blood Center, your blood serves patients in local hospitals.

Download the Conference App and PDF of the NLSC Program

In keeping with these digital times, there will no longer be a separate printed conference program for the national conference in Louisville. All attendees should download the official conference mobile app. The app includes the entire conference program including contestant schedules, trade show information and exhibitor list, general session information, special events, entertainment, participant tracks, attendee bus shuttle schedules, messaging/alert features and search features. The app can be downloaded by searching “2019 SkillsUSA NLSC,” and the QR code will be in the printed *Awards and Recognition* book and on signs at Kentucky Exposition Center.

A condensed version of the NLSC program will be included in the printed *Awards and Recognition* book, available on site. In addition, there will be a PDF of this program available for download from our SkillsUSA website by June 1.

Awards Ceremony Passes Only Available in Advance and Online – The only people who need to buy these are people NOT registered for the conference with their state delegation – Awards ceremony is included with \$170 conference registration

Extra tickets for the awards ceremony on Friday, June 28, may *only* be purchased in advance and online this year. No passes will be sold on-site at the conference.

You must have a conference name badge or a ticket to enter the awards ceremony, and no on-site ticket sales will be available. Online sales begin **June 3**, but sign up now for a reminder alert. Tickets are \$10 each, plus a service fee, and a credit card is required. Buyers can download their admission ticket onto smartphones or print out a paper ticket to show at the entrance to Freedom Hall. The number of awards ceremony tickets available is limited due to seating availability at Freedom Hall. Additionally, there are parking fees at the entrance of the Kentucky Exposition Center (KEC). Alert your parents and other supporters of this new policy so they buy Awards Ceremony tickets in advance.

To sign up for alerts or buy Awards Ceremony tickets, go to: <http://bit.ly/NLSC19Awards>

For information about KEC parking, go to: www.skillsusa.org/events-training/national-leadership-and-skills-conference/registration-and-logistics/parking/

SkillsUSA Shoe Drive Saves Lives Through Clean Water

Did you know that more than 685 million people lack access to clean drinking water? SkillsUSA is once again partnering with internationally recognized nonprofit WaterStep to help save lives through safe water. WaterStep collects and sells gently-used shoes to fund water projects around the world.

SkillsUSA encourages each student and advisor coming to Louisville to bring just one pair of shoes to conference to donate to this worthy cause. Let's step up our global influence at the National Leadership and Skills Conference June 24-28 in Louisville and help eliminate unsafe drinking water. Please pass this request along to your delegation.

For more information about how donating your shoes saves lives, go to: www.waterstep.org. Watch this video to learn more about the WaterStep shoe program:

<http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid2035075745001?bckey=AQ~~,AAAB2oUxGjE~,utVw2c5hsy-toSRZ-5n964-ATUly2fgD&bctid=4522271076001>

NLSC Offers Two Entertainment Options for Attendees

Champions Night: Louisville Bats Game

On Wednesday, June 26, SkillsUSA Champions Night is moving to Louisville Slugger Field for a fun-filled night at the ballpark, where the Louisville Bats will take on the Toledo Mud Hens. There will be giveaways all evening, and SkillsUSA will be featured throughout the game.

Each paid attendee will receive an admission ticket with a \$5 pre-loaded value to use at the gift shop or the concession stand, as well as a baseball hat. SkillsUSA attendees will have many opportunities to be involved in activities in between innings and to receive additional free items at random the entire night, including two free NASCAR tickets. Game time is at 7 p.m., and the event will be held rain or shine. Plan to arrive by 6:45 p.m. to hear SkillsUSA Vermont director Jane Donahue Davis sing the National Anthem, and watch SkillsUSA New Hampshire director Josh Brunk officially start the evening's activities. There will also be free gifts from select inning sponsors.

Shuttle bus transportation to the stadium will begin approximately 5:30 p.m. and run until the close of the event. There will be no shuttle service available from all downtown hotels, since the event is within walking distance. Game tickets will be distributed to state SkillsUSA directors during scheduled registration appointments.

A SkillsUSA logo shirt, appropriate attire and the official conference name badge are required to enter. A donation of \$1 is being asked of attendees at the entrance. This donation will be used to offset the cost of the new Champions Circle Amphitheater at the National Leadership Center in Leesburg, Va.

SkillsUSA Night Returns to Kentucky Kingdom

On Thursday, June 27, from 6 p.m.-10 p.m., join your SkillsUSA friends and colleagues at Kentucky Kingdom. Fun is required at this traditional night following the SkillsUSA Championships. The park is open only to SkillsUSA attendees.

Tickets for registered participants will be distributed by the state SkillsUSA director at each state's delegation orientation meeting. Additional tickets will be on sale in the Kentucky Exposition Center's North Wing Lobby for \$20. Transportation is provided from state hotels through the close of the event. A SkillsUSA logo shirt, appropriate attire and the official conference name badge are required for admittance. A \$1 donation at admission will support Feed Thy Neighbor, a Louisville program to help the homeless.

'Meet the Employer' Sponsored by Magna International

SkillsUSA will be conducting a Meet the Employer event for SkillsUSA students at the National Leadership and Skills Conference on Friday, June 28, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. All student members, regardless of graduation date and curriculum, are encouraged to attend and bring résumés. We anticipate over 50 employers will staff booths in the East Wing of the Kentucky Exposition Center. The first companies to sign up are Magna International, 3M, CBRE (commercial real estate services), Centuri Construction, Ferguson, IAA, NASSCO, Spirit AeroSystems, Textron Aviation and Nissan. Meet the Employer will include career development seminars for attendees.

A flier about Meet the Employer can be downloaded and shared with your students who are coming to Louisville in June: <http://MeettheEmployer.skillsusa.org>

NLSC Prep for Your Students: Get Ready for a Great Trip

Ensure a great experience for your students by helping them prepare for SkillsUSA's National Leadership and Skills Conference in Louisville, Ky. Share the tips and best practices below so they can be well on their way:

- Be sure you know your travel schedule and trip details. If in doubt, check with your advisor well before departure day
- If a SkillsUSA contestant or delegate, check to be sure you have the proper work uniform, SkillsUSA official attire for the opening and awards ceremonies, and all tools or equipment specified for your competition. If you need clothing or tools, acquire these items well ahead of time
- Rules and requirements are different for national events than for state events and can change year to year. Be sure you have the latest rules for your competition. Visit the website at www.skillsusa.org for the latest SkillsUSA contest updates and conference information. If you would like a copy of the rules for any contest, purchase them online from www.skillsusa.org/store/

Planning and Packing — Tips for Students:

- Take the time to think through what you will need on your trip, then pack accordingly
- Leave your itinerary with family
- Tag your luggage inside and out
- Bring your cellphone
- Bring your cellphone charger
- Have your advisor's cell phone number
- Carry your medical insurance card
- Bring a list of family phone numbers
- Leave expensive jewelry at home
- Bring an alarm clock — just in case!
- If you take prescription medicine, bring a supply with you
- Bring some extra cash for emergencies
- Bring two pairs of comfortable shoes
- Write down your schedule for the week, including any meetings, contest times and state meetings
- Remember, no backpacks or large tote bags are allowed in the opening and awards ceremonies at Freedom Hall

Dress Code for Award Winners to Be Strictly Enforced:

- Photos of medalists and industry supporters are used in trade and SkillsUSA publications. It's important that all members demonstrate their professionalism by looking the part. Therefore, the national board of directors has ruled that all contestants receiving medals at the ceremony must be dressed in *official SkillsUSA attire or SkillsUSA Championships work clothing*
- Winners who are dressed inappropriately will not be allowed on stage. Other attire, jeans, T-shirts, sneakers, boots and sandals are not allowed. Please leave behind any cameras, purses, hats and blinking lights

I will send more information as I get announcement from the national office.

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