



**2024 SkillsUSA Florida
State Leadership and Skills Conference (SLSC24)**

“Cruising Through Challenges”

April 14-17, 2024

Jacksonville, FL

The information in this guide should be used to help plan for participation in the 2024 State Leadership and Skills Conference and Championships and is subject to change. Check out the Tuesday Times newsletter regularly and our website at skillsusaf1.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 16 at 6 PM ET and 17 at 10 AM ET - Virtual Advisor Meeting - SLSC Orientation

February 1 - Registration opens

February 28 - State Officer Application Due

March 1 - Full contest schedule is released

March 4 - Registration closes; no drops or refunds after this date

March 4 - Courtesy Corps, Glam Squad, and Social Media Ambassador applications due

March 4 - Transportation survey due

March 4 - Accommodations requests due (including ADA needs and dietary restrictions)

March 11 - Deadline to book hotel rooms

March 18 - Payment due to the state office

March 25 at 6 PM ET and March 26 at 10 AM ET - Advisor Meeting - Championships Orientation

March 25 at 8 AM ET to April 5 at 5 PM ET - Online testing window - complete online exams

April 8 - Name changes and substitutions due

April 14 - Onsite registration and packet pickup, Code of Conduct Forms due

April 14 - State Leadership and Skills Conference 2024 (SLSC24) Opening Ceremony

April 15 - SLSC24 Competitions, Expo, and other activities, Meet the Candidates

April 16 - SLSC24 Competitions, Expo, Champions Night Celebration, Delegate Sessions and more

April 17 - SLSC24 Closing Ceremony and mandatory NLSC Delegation Meeting

April 29 at 6 PM ET - NLSC24 Delegation Virtual Orientation Meeting

May 6 - NLSC24 registration deadline

May 26 - NLSC24 payment deadline

June 24-28 - National Leadership and Skills Conference 2024 (NLSC24), Atlanta, GA

VIRTUAL ADVISOR MEETINGS

These meetings are informational 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 sign-up links below to receive the Zoom link via email.

SLSC Orientation - Review the SLSC24 Guide, including registration procedures, conference agenda, and other details related to the state conference.

January 16 at 6 PM ET or January 17 at 10 AM ET

Sign up: <https://form.jotform.com/231865211111140>

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82510388073>

Meeting ID: 825 1038 8073

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

March 25 at 6 PM ET or March 26 at 10 AM ET

Sign up: <https://form.jotform.com/231865427695166>

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84425803011>

Meeting ID: 844 2580 3011

CONFERENCE AGENDA - TENTATIVE

The schedule below is tentative and subject to change. The full contest and conference schedule will be available in early March. Check out the [Tentative Contest Locations](#) for more contest information.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

2 PM to 6 PM	Onsite registration and packet pickup	Hyatt
6 PM	Doors open for Opening Ceremony	Florida Theatre
7 PM	Opening Ceremony	Florida Theatre
11 PM	State curfew	Hyatt

MONDAY, APRIL 15

7 AM to 4 PM	Shuttle for offsite locations, Hyatt to POCC Advisor Lounge	Hyatt - Newnan St Hyatt
8 AM to 4 PM	Competitions	Hyatt, Prime Osborn, FSCJ
8 AM to 3 PM	CONNECTED Expo and Trade Show Construction Ready CareerExpo	Hyatt Prime Osborn
3 PM	Delegate Sessions	Hyatt
TBD	Professional Development Sessions	Hyatt
TBD	Community Service Project	TBD
5 PM to 8 PM	Meet the Employer	Hyatt
11 PM	State curfew	Hyatt

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

7 AM to 4 PM	Shuttle for offsite locations, Hyatt to POCC Advisor Lounge	Hyatt - Newnan St Hyatt
8 AM to 4 PM	Competitions	Hyatt, Prime Osborn, FSCJ
8 AM to 3 PM	CONNECTED Expo and Trade Show Construction Ready CareerExpo	Hyatt Prime Osborn
12 PM to 2 PM	Framework Luncheon and Advisor Business Meeting	Hyatt
3 PM	Delegate Sessions	Hyatt
TBD	Professional Development Sessions	Hyatt
TBD	Community Service Project	TBD
6 PM to 10 PM	Champions' Night Celebration	Hyatt
11 PM	State curfew	Hyatt

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

7:30 AM	Doors open for Closing Ceremony	Hyatt
8:30 AM	Closing Ceremony begins	Hyatt
Immediately after	NLSC24 Delegation meeting	Hyatt
1 PM	Adjourn/ Travel Home!	

ADVISOR TO DO LIST

Use as a guide to prepare for SLSC24. This list is not exhaustive - add your items at the bottom!

- Add the [Important Dates and Deadlines](#) to your calendar and set reminders.
- Membership:**
 - [Add students and teachers as members](#) and submit membership by February 1.
 - Pay membership dues.
- Technical Standards and Contest Prep:**
 - Print a copy of the [Technical Standards](#) for each student.
 - Email a copy of the Technical Standards to their instructor.
 - Review the Technical Standards at a Chapter Meeting.
 - Check the [Contest Updates](#) page regularly.
 - Gather tools and supplies for each contest.
 - Determine transport/shipping needs for large displays, heavy toolboxes, etc.
 - Check uniform inventory and [order uniforms](#) as needed.
 - Manage [online testing procedures](#) and plan for administering the online exams.
- State Registration and Conference Logistics:**
 - [Register for state competitions](#) by March 4.
 - Submit the [Transportation Survey](#) by March 11. Pay bus invoice, if needed.
 - Make [hotel reservations](#) by March 11.
 - Arrange payment for hotel reservations and submit tax-exempt forms to the hotel.
 - Pay state [registration invoice](#) by March 18.
 - Register for [student leadership opportunities](#).
 - Arrange [transportation to and from Jacksonville](#). (PRO TIP: Do this EARLY in the year!)
 - Submit any [substitutions or spelling corrections](#).
 - Plan for [meals for students](#).
 - Collect signed [Code of Conduct forms](#) from all attendees.
 - Share travel plans with parents and obtain the necessary forms.
- Recognition:**
 - Submit your [Chapter Excellence Program](#) application by March 1.
 - Submit nominations for [State Level Awards](#).
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

REGISTRATION FEE: \$150 per registrant, \$50 for Courtesy Corps (see below for day passes)

REGISTRATION CLOSES: MARCH 4, 2024 AT 11:59 PM ET

****NO DROPS FOR A REFUND AFTER THIS DATE. INVOICES ARE FINAL AT 11:59 PM ET.**

HOTEL RESERVATIONS DUE: MARCH 11, 2024

PAYMENT DEADLINE: MARCH 18, 2024

Only individuals registered for the conference and with official credentials will be permitted in contest areas, conference activities, conference transportation, and designated conference locations, including Opening and Closing Ceremonies. SLSC24 is a ticketed event requiring a fee for public admission. Credentials (official SkillsUSA name badge and lanyard) will be provided for each school-registered participant during onsite registration on Sunday, April 14. Failure to provide credentials will result in removal from the conference facility. Replacement name badges are available for \$35 per occurrence.

DAY PASSES

Day passes are available onsite at the event for \$35 per day at the event. These passes are not available for advance purchase and should be used for administrators, parents, and other supporters. The day pass grants access to the contest floor and expo areas at the Hyatt Regency and the Prime Osborn Convention Center from 8 AM to 4 PM on Monday and Tuesday. Entry is only permitted with proper credentials. More information on day pass sales will be available closer to the event.

Day passes do not provide admission to the Opening or Closing session, conference transportation, meals, Champions Night, or other conference activities included with complete registration. To take advantage of these opportunities, attendees must purchase a complete conference registration for \$150, valid for the entire conference from April 14-17, including Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Payment Deadline: MARCH 18, 2024

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

Check payment is preferred. Contact the State Office if you need an extension.

MAIL CHECKS TO:

SkillsUSA Florida
4446 Hendricks Ave PMB 229
Jacksonville, FL 32207

TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD: Visit <https://square.link/u/D0gKSQZj> **NOTE THE NEW LINK!**

Enter the invoice amount, and list your school name and invoice number on the next screen.

NOTE: A 2.5% administrative fee is automatically added to each credit card transaction.

HOW TO REGISTER

Register online following your Regional events at www.skillsusa-register.org.

- Login to your account, 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.
 - **CONTESTANT** - all student competitors. MUST be joined by February 1.
 - **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** - non-competing student or professional who will observe the conference but is not an active participant; includes access to all general conference activities.
 - **COURTESY CORPS** - members who assist with logistics and pay a reduced 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.”
- Membership information is automatically ported over to the event. Ensure information is correct:
 - Address and phone number.
 - Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy format). This will be used to retrieve scorecards later.
 - Email address.
 - **NOTE: CONTESTANTS MUST HAVE A WORKING, UNIQUE EMAIL THAT IS NOT A SCHOOL EMAIL** to ensure access to the online testing platform.
 - No school/ district email addresses for students. Use Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo, iCloud, or similar. Do not use an advisor email for students.
 - Email addresses will be automatically verified on the invoicing screen. Fix any errors before registration is submitted.
 - Accompanying adult name and phone number for the person directly supervising the student onsite. Not required for professionals.
 - T-Shirt size.
 - ADA needs and/or dietary restrictions. **Required to guarantee the availability of suitable food options.**
- After all information is entered, click the attestation at the bottom of the page.
- Click “Save Registration” to return you to the list of all the conference registrations for your school. 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 to submit, and you will receive an invoice in a pop-up window and via email. If you do not receive an invoice, please email jgraber@skillsusafll.org to request a copy.

Regardless of their submitted status, anyone listed on your school’s registration page will be considered registered at 11:59 PM ET on March 4, 2024, and schools are responsible for the associated fees. Be sure to delete registrations for individuals no longer attending before the deadline.

SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS

All participating schools must register and pay for at least one advisor or chaperone to attend the conference who will actively supervise students. **Primary supervision is the responsibility of each school/ chapter.** Please ensure you have adequate coverage for all contest venues. [Review tentative contest locations here.](#) One advisor per program is suggested. Schools may register unlimited advisors for the conference; all must pay the full registration fee.

The school or district must provide written approval for any adult chaperone who will attend the event and directly supervise students on overnight trips by submitting a [Chaperone Certification Form](#) once per program year (July 1 through June 30). SkillsUSA Florida suggests, at a minimum, a criminal background check and sexual abuse prevention training be completed. Schools/ districts are responsible for maintaining records of certifications and background checks, as appropriate. Do not submit copies of background checks and certifications.

HOTEL AND LOGISTICS

DEADLINE TO BOOK HOTEL ROOMS: MARCH 11, 2024

STANDARD ROOM RATE: \$173/night, up to 4 per room

Official Conference Hotel: Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront
225 E Coastline Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Phone: 904-588-1234

The official conference hotel is the [Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront](#). Schools must arrange payment directly with the hotel, including submitting any necessary tax-exemption paperwork. Per SkillsUSA Florida policy, conference attendees must stay within official hotel blocks or pay a commuter fee of \$25 per person. Any school violating this policy risks disqualification without a refund.

Booking instructions will be provided to advisors in February.

COMMUTERS - *Schools that opt not to stay at the hotel.*

Schools located near Jacksonville who opt to commute instead of staying at the hotel are subject to a \$25 per person fee, payable before arrival. Commuters must arrive on time; exceptions will not be made for contestants arriving late. Schools must provide supervision for commuter students at the conference. Commuter fees will be billed at the close of hotel reservations on March 11, 2024. To receive an invoice prior, contact the State Office once your registration is complete.

PARKING - HYATT SELF-PARKING GARAGE

Enter the hotel through a covered skybridge from Level 2 or 3 of the garage.

- **Day Rate:** discounted rate of \$10 per day, no overnight. Purchase passes at the C.H.A.D. upon arrival at the Hyatt (cash only).
- **Overnight Rate:** discounted rate of \$20 for the duration of the conference (April 14-17, including overnights), with in and out privileges. Only available to overnight hotel guests; alert the front desk at check-in. Parking is added to room charges and payable at check out.
- **Valet:** no discount offered on valet parking; the current valet rate is \$49 per day.

NOTE: Clearance in the parking garage at the Hyatt is 6'7" for vehicles and trailers. Parking for buses and oversized vehicles is available at the Prime Osborn Convention Center (see below).

CHARTER BUS DROP OFF AND PARKING

Buses should drop off at the Newnan Street entrance of the hotel and then proceed to the Prime Osborn Convention Center. Street parking for buses is not permitted and is subject to ticketing and towing. Overnight bus parking is available at the Prime Osborn Convention Center for \$100 for all 4 days, with in and out privileges and bus driver transport on arrival and departure. Complete the [Transportation Survey](#) to secure bus/ oversized vehicle parking.

NOTE REGARDING BUS DRIVER TRANSPORTATION: On-demand shuttle service is not provided for bus drivers. Each registered bus is assigned an Uber voucher code to transport the driver between the Hyatt and the Prime Osborn for at least two trips (on arrival Sunday and departure Wednesday). Bus drivers may also utilize the conference buses, which loop regularly from 7 AM to 4 PM on April 15 and 16.

CONFERENCE TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING

Conference transportation is provided between the Hyatt Regency and all offsite contest locations. The conference app will have a full shuttle schedule and detailed maps. Ample parking is available at each location for those who prefer to drive. Parking fees vary by venue. Transportation is NOT provided to the Opening Ceremony venue. [The Florida Theatre](#) is located two blocks from the Hyatt. Parking at the Florida Theatre is limited; schools are encouraged to walk.

MEALS

Onsite Purchase Options:

- **Hyatt:** Various hotel outlets, stands, and onsite restaurants for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Food trucks for purchase on Sunday night and Monday and Tuesday during the day.
- **Prime Osborn:** concessions available for cash purchase.

Provided Meals:

- Lunch for contestants on the day(s) they compete.
- Lunch for Advisors during the Framework Luncheon and Advisor Business Meeting on April 16.
- Dinner for all registered participants during Champions' Night on April 16.

The hotel provides cooling refrigerators in each room. Contact the hotel for microwave availability.

Nearby Restaurants:

[Wild Kat Records Bar and Grill](#)

[Spliff's Gastropub](#)

[Burrito Gallery Downtown](#)

[Super Food and Brew](#) (closes at 7 PM)

[Bread and Board Downtown](#)

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

[D&G Deli and Grille](#) (breakfast/ 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 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 outside food to be brought into meeting room spaces.** Designated locations with tables, chairs, and trash receptacles for schools will be available. Please do not consume outside food in other public areas of the hotel. Use of meeting room spaces for outside food is subject to cleaning fees and financial penalties assessed by the hotel and/ or SkillsUSA Florida.

ONSITE REGISTRATION - WHAT TO EXPECT

Onsite registration and packet pickup will be on Sunday, April 14, 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 to request an earlier check-in.

Only 1 or 2 advisors per school should visit the registration area on the second level outside the ballroom to retrieve items. Any outstanding balances are due at registration. Advisors must verify that all items are received for their chapter and will distribute them to students once all materials are received. **Please bring all required forms, including the Code of Conduct forms for [students](#) and [advisors](#). As a reminder, minor participants require a parent/ guardian signature.**

SUBSTITUTIONS/ SPELLING CORRECTIONS

If you have additions, spelling corrections, or substitutions after registration closes, download and complete [this form](#), or [use this link](#) to complete it online and submit it no later than Monday, April 8.

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](#) (Spanish version [available here](#)). The liability form and code of conduct form for any substitutions and late additions are due at onsite registration, along with payment. Contact the State Director to obtain written approval to add additional registrants after the deadline.

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 a registered and paid professional member, you can access the standards online at absorb.skillsusa.org. If you have issues accessing it, contact the Customer Care Team at 844-875-4557, or email customercare@skillsusa.org. The Technical Standards provide guidance on the standards and competencies tested, supplies and materials, written exam topics, display requirements, and other relevant contest information **for national competitions**. We strive to meet the same standards and format at the state level but may be limited by time, facilities, and resources. How competitions test standards and competencies may vary for regional and state competitions. Students should be prepared to perform any skills outlined in the technical standards.

Any changes to the Technical Standards for state-level competitions or pre-competition information, including updated supply lists, drawings and plans, and other contest-related information, will be posted on the Contest Updates page at skillsusaf.org/slsc/updates. Updates and information will begin posting in earnest in February until two weeks before the conference. At that time, updates will be posted online and emailed to the advisor who registered the competitor. The advisor is expected to pass along the information to the contestant, instructor, and other parties.

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, problem, or scoring criteria is not released in advance. If no update is posted, use the Technical Standards to prepare.

Review additional contest information, including tentative locations, here:

<https://www.skillsusaf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2024-Contest-Locations-Tentative.pdf>

Questions about competition rules? Check out the [General Rules and Regulations!](#)

WRITTEN EXAMS/ ASSESSMENTS

Contestants will complete all exams online before the conference. Most contests require two exams:

- **Technical Knowledge Assessment:** Required for most competitions. Review the contest Technical Standards for topics and resources.
- **Professional Development Assessment:** The SkillsUSA Knowledge Exam is counted as a scored portion of all state contests. [Study Guide Available Now!](#)

All exams must be completed within the designated testing window, March 25 at 8 AM ET to April 5 at 5 PM ET. Failure to complete any exam will result in a zero score. Students taking exams must be supervised. Proctors may be any school employee unrelated to the student and not the student's advisor. Specific proctor instructions will be provided soon. The Lead Advisor will receive a list of student login credentials to assist in administering the exams and is responsible for arranging proctors for students to take exams on campus. Remote testing is not allowed.

EXEMPT: All middle school contestants and models (Esthetics, Nail Care, Job Skill Demo).

Testing Info: <https://www.skillsusafl.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2024-Online-Testing-List.pdf>

ACCOMMODATIONS REQUEST

The SkillsUSA Championships 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 is provided that could be interpreted as giving a special needs contestant an unfair advantage.

Accommodations Provided to All Participants:

- ASL interpreters at the Opening Session and Closing Ceremony
- Wheelchair ramps and other ADA-accessible access to all events and activities
- Vegan, vegetarian, and other dietary accommodations ***upon prior notification and request.***

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 requiring technical manuals.
5. The school may provide sign language interpreters for deaf and hard of hearing contestants at contest orientations, at the start of the competition (and throughout, if the technical committee permits), and for the contest debriefing. Interpreters may not be the contestant's instructor or similar, nor have any familial relation to the contestant.
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 complete [this form](#) 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 11, 2024. Requests received after this date are accepted on a case-by-case basis. (<https://form.jotform.com/212435080058045>)

ADVANCING TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

All competitors must be certified by the State Association as having qualified for a contest to compete nationally. 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 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.

The National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC24) Guide will be released by March 1 (pending information from the national office) through the Tuesday Times mailing list and on our website. Registration for the NLSC24 is due by May 6.

PRO TIPS FROM SEASONED ADVISORS

We asked our best advisors what helps them succeed at SLSC. Here’s what they shared:

- Make plans to attend the virtual advisor meetings! The PowerPoint and recording are posted to the Advisor Resources page afterward and are helpful to refer to.
- Assign an advisor to check in to the rooms and manage reservations. Determine how you will distribute your school’s materials once you collect them, especially if you have a bigger school. Make a plan for arrival in case rooms are not ready for check-in.
- Have a printed list of your school delegation by advisor/ instructor, including shirt sizes!
- Make a plan for departure at the end of the conference (when your bus will pick you up, where you will store luggage, etc.).
- Double-check tools and supply lists before departure - right before they are packed on the bus if you can! The same goes for uniforms - save yourself a late-night trip to Walmart and make sure everyone has shoes and belts before you depart.
- Make sure students have resumes ready and printed. Save them all to a flash drive or cloud storage, just in case.
- Review the SkillsUSA Code of Conduct on the BUS on the way to Jacksonville.
- Make sure all students have advisor phone numbers. You may want to set up a Remind or similar messaging platform to communicate easily.
- Schedule activities for any downtime. Review the conference schedule and find activities to fill idle time (i.e., non-competing days). The beach is about 20-30 minutes away. Check out the St. Johns Town Center for all kinds of shopping (15-20 minutes away). Additional activities are available all over the city - your State Director is a Jacksonville native and can help with suggestions if needed! 😊
- Talk to your students about the national conference before you go to the state conference. Gold medalists must file an intent to enter the national competition by the end of the closing ceremony. Having their commitments, availability, and parental permission beforehand is helpful.

OPENING & CLOSING CEREMONY - WHAT TO EXPECT

OPENING CEREMONY

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

Doors open at 6 PM, and the ceremony begins promptly at 7 PM. The Opening Ceremony will be held at the historic [Florida Theatre](#) at 128 E Forsyth Street, approximately two 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. **NOTE:** We expect the theatre to reach capacity for the Opening Ceremony. Schools are encouraged to arrive early!

Directions: 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.

CLOSING CEREMONY

The Closing Ceremony is the culmination of all the hard work of the conference, and where we recognize the top students in each contest. The Closing Ceremony will be held in the Grand Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront. Doors open at 7:30 AM, and the ceremony begins promptly at 8:30 AM, concluding by 12 PM. Closing Ceremonies will be live-streamed for public viewing, and attendees are encouraged to share the links with family, friends, and supporters. Links will be provided before the ceremony. With over 100 contests and three divisions, the announcements move fast, but don't worry - we have a great team of photographers to 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 two weeks of the conference. View photos from previous events: [flickr.com/photos/skillsusaflorida/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/skillsusaflorida/albums).

Contests are announced in random order in three sections, with a brief break between each section. First, second, and third place in each contest and division are announced, and the medalists will proceed to the stage area. Once all are present, medalists are escorted onstage, are awarded medals, and take a photo from the medalist stand. Encourage your students to show their excitement for the cameras! Then, they will exit the ballroom, take a photo with their contest group, and receive any prizes, if available. During the breaks, we will announce and install the new [2024-2025 State Officer Team](#) and the [2024 SkillsUSA Florida National Courtesy Corps team](#).

Gold medalists will receive 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. If a student doesn't complete the Intent form promptly, SkillsUSA Florida will extend an invitation to the next qualified medalist. After the Closing Ceremony, all gold medalists, the National Courtesy Corps team, and their advisors must attend a mandatory meeting about the National Leadership and Skills Conference. The meeting will conclude no later than 1 PM.

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, 2024.

Advisor of the Year

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

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

Cornerstone Award (Administrators)

This award recognizes the cooperative relationships 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 groups that have made outstanding contributions to SkillsUSA and career and technical education on the state level. These distinguished organizations are honored for their generous support and commitment to SkillsUSA Florida.

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 is 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.

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 SkillsUSA Florida's improvement, promotion, development, and progress. They should represent the fundamental principles and purposes of our organization.

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

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

STATE OFFICER CANDIDATES

During SLSC 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, leading our state events. They also participate in training and professional development to prepare local chapters and teach members the SkillsUSA Framework skills they need to be career-ready. Being a State Officer is one of the personal growth and leadership experiences in SkillsUSA, developing three key essential elements of the SkillsUSA Framework: Leadership, Communication, and Service Orientation. The skills learned through the State Officer program will help these students succeed in serving SkillsUSA members, and throughout their lives and careers. State Officers attend events, all expenses paid, with unique opportunities during the year.

Opportunities include:

- Building facilitation skills during Leverage, a pre-conference activity at the NLSC in June
- Creating a Program of Work and selecting the state theme during State Officer Training in July
- Advocating for CTE on Capitol Hill during the Washington Leadership Training Institute in September
- Facilitating small and large group sessions during the FLC in October
- Visiting the state capitol to advocate for CTE Day on the Hill in Tallahassee in February
- Assisting with Regional competitions in February
- Performing the opening and closing ceremonies, escorting VIPs, networking with students, teachers, and industry, and serving in a variety of roles during the SLSC in April... and more!

Elections for the 2024-2025 State Officer Team will occur at SLSC24 during [Delegate Sessions](#). Review the State Officer Program Guide for more information. Delegate Sessions include a Meet the Candidates session on April 15 and introductory speeches and problematic questions on April 16 at 3 PM. Specific schedule information will be provided to candidates.

→ DOWNLOAD THE PROGRAM GUIDE:

www.skillsusaf1.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/State-Officer-Program-Guide-2024-2025.pdf
Applications are due February 28, 2024! Questions? Contact leadership@skillsusaf1.org.

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, and much, much more. This opportunity is great for any student interested in competition but not quite ready or students who may not have qualified at the regional level but still want to get involved and participate in the state conference. This unique behind-the-scenes experience 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 and includes extra perks (like meals).** Students may not compete in any other event or serve as a model. Courtesy Corps Advisors should not have primary supervisory duties for their school. Courtesy Corps registrants must be registered online with their school and complete the application below by March 4.

Courtesy Corps is also a competition that advances to the national level! Courtesy Corps Coordinators evaluate team members during SLSC24, and the top students are invited to be part of the National Courtesy Corps at NLSC24 in Atlanta, GA, on June 21-28, 2024, with **all expenses paid!**

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

GLAM SQUAD

Help the State Officer team look their best before their onstage performances at the 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 Sunday evening, breakfast on Wednesday morning, and all other conference activities. Interested applicants should complete [this application](#) and provide photos showcasing their work styling male and female subjects. Applications are due by March 4. For more information, check out the Glam Squad Application: <https://form.jotform.com/213633520145042>

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 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 Sunday evening, breakfast on Wednesday morning, and all other conference activities. Applications are due by March 4. For more information, check out the Social Media Ambassador Application: <https://form.jotform.com/213634493960158>

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 Alioto at jaydea@skillsusaf1.org for more information! A select group of alumni will serve as the Alumni Leadership Team (ALT) and attend the conference, all expenses paid.

- Assist with Opening/ Closing Ceremonies
- Judge a competition
- Run the SkillsUSA Florida Store
- Assist with Courtesy Corps
- Assist with photography and recap video
- And much, much more!

MORE CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

CHAMPIONS NIGHT CELEBRATION

On Tuesday 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 on the Hyatt Riverdecks and Coastline Drive, overlooking the beautiful St. Johns River. This year, we have more food trucks, more activities, more competitions, and more fun! Kick back and relax, meet new friends, and celebrate your successes! Dress is casual, and dinner is provided.

CONNECTED EXPO AND TRADE SHOW and CAREEREXPO

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. Visit the Grand Foyer on the second level at the Hyatt Regency from 8 AM to 3 PM on Monday and Tuesday. Running concurrently, the Construction Ready CareerExpo will showcase construction and transportation trades alongside our competitions at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. Check out the interactive booths and displays, and learn more about those sectors.

DELEGATE SESSIONS

Each year, delegate representatives from each chapter elect a group of student leaders to serve our state association as State Officers. Each school is allocated delegates based on the total number of members registered for their chapter. Students will develop responsibility and decision-making skills during the sessions. Delegate Sessions will take place Monday and Tuesday at 3 PM. 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 in decisions made at the state level. Contact Teresa Mankin at leadership@skillsusaf1.org for more information.

7-12 members	1 Delegate
13-24 members	2 Delegates
25-49 members	3 Delegates
50-79 members	4 Delegates
81+ members	1 Delegate per 100 additional members

→ **Interested candidates: check out the [2024-2025 State Officer Program Guide here!](#)**

OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Give And Grow Community Service
- Meet The Employer Career Fair
- Professional Development Opportunities

ADVISOR-ONLY EVENTS

Advisor Lounge

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

Advisor Champions' Night Reception

During Champions' Night on Tuesday, join us for sweet treats, coffee, and an exclusive space for networking with other advisors. Don't miss out on an extra special raffle and door prizes!

Framework Luncheon and Advisor Business Meeting

Advisors are invited to attend a special luncheon to recognize their hard work and dedication. Join us on Tuesday at noon for lunch, informational updates, door prizes, and Advisor at Large elections! Advisors at Large serve as representatives of SkillsUSA advisors to the Board of Directors in two-year terms, elected in alternating years, with two seats up for election at SLSC24. Nominations are accepted in advance with this form: <https://form.jotform.com/213636519031047>, and will be accepted from the floor. If you are interested in running, contact TJ Thoss at thosst@skillsusaf1.org.

Advisors at Large:

- Must be a Professional Member of SkillsUSA for the 2023-2024 school year with an active chapter (minimum of 6 students and 1 professional) for the year preceding the election and for the term.
- Understand and embrace our mission to serve Florida's students, teachers, and industry.
- Have support from their school administration (may require time away from school).
- Represent Florida Advisors, engaging in the future of SkillsUSA Florida and how we serve students.
- Attend three Board meetings annually (generally, August, January, and June).
- Actively participate in local, regional, and state activities and events, with travel expenses paid.
- Have opportunities for additional training and professional development.

INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT AND EXPECTATIONS

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 staff if you witness a violation, 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. The list below is in no way exhaustive or inclusive.

- Intimidating, derogatory, or demeaning speech or actions by any participant.
- Displaying or otherwise distributing 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, obscene gestures or language.
- Deliberate stalking or following; harassing photography or recording; sustained disruption of talks or other events; real or implied threat of physical or professional damage or harm.
- Unwelcome and uninvited attention or contact or physical assault (including touching/ groping).
- Retaliation for reporting an incident or reporting an incident in bad faith.

REPORTING UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

If you feel uncomfortable or unwelcome as a result of another participant's behavior, witness inappropriate behavior, or have concerns regarding another participant's behavior, contact the closest SkillsUSA Florida staff member onsite or email jgraber@skillsusaf1.org.

If possible, provide any relevant details and documentation on this form: form.jotform.com/223326176041044

- Your name and contact information; date, time, and location of the incident.
- Identifying information of any offenders or victims (physical traits, contestant number, school, etc.)
- Description of the violating behavior, along with any physical injuries or property damage.
- Photos, videos, screenshots, or any other evidence; identifying information for any witnesses and any additional information that might be useful.

Incidents will be investigated promptly, and advisors/ chaperones will be notified. SkillsUSA Florida has a zero-tolerance policy for unacceptable behavior and will take any necessary and warranted action.

Potential consequences for violation:

- Point penalties in competition and/ or disqualification from competition.
- Removal from leadership positions, including State Officers and Courtesy Corps.
- Referral to school administration and/ or contact to parent/ guardian.
- Removal from the conference at own cost.
- Permanent ban from future SkillsUSA and SkillsUSA Florida activities.
- Legal action, including involvement of law enforcement agencies, to the fullest extent of the law.

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.skillsusafli.org. Failure to adhere to deadlines may result in additional fees, penalties, or disqualification.
 - a. After the final registration deadline, invoices are final, and no refunds are permitted. Any registrants entered on the registration website are registered for the conference, and the school is responsible for payment.
 - b. No late registrations are permitted. After the final registration deadline, schools may only add contestants/ teams if approved by the State Director.
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 may stay outside of their school's group and supervision.
 - b. Commuters are allowed and are subject to a per-person commuter fee, which is a flat, one-time fee per person payable before attending the conference. Refer to the Conference Guide for details.
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 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. SkillsUSA Florida suggests that, 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, expiring on June 30, and the same verification may be used for all in-person SkillsUSA events during that school year.
 - iii. The Chaperone Certification form is available on the Advisor Resources page at skillsusafli.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. Schools will designate a Lead Advisor at onsite registration and provide contact information 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 provide contact information during the conference or contest ONLY at their discretion.
6. All scores are final at the end 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. These may vary from the state contest version. In most cases, current specific 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.
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 other factors, as determined by the Regional Coordinator, State Director, 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. As with all contests, contestants are eligible for regional or state medals and prizes.
 - c. "Demonstration Contests" may have a national contest, and contestants may or may not be eligible for medals 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/slsc/contest-updates at least two weeks before SLSC.
 - a. Any updates released less than two weeks before the event are emailed to the registering advisor to distribute to the appropriate students or instructors.
 - b. Published updates are at the discretion of the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee or State Director will determine the information released before a contest.
 - c. All materials will be released in the same manner to all participating schools/chapters.
 - d. 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 in hard copy 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 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 in the Conference Guide.

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.
 - 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 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 each contest's uniform requirements outlined in the Technical Standards. Refer to the Clothing Classifications in the Introduction Materials with the Technical Standards at absorb.skillsusa.org and the Advisor Resources page at 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 in lieu of the official SkillsUSA chef coat, 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. The State Director must approve additional exceptions in writing at least four weeks before the conference. 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 or State Director.
20. The Opening Ceremony dress is business casual. Official attire or contest attire is not required.
21. All contestants must 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 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, open-toe, or open-heel shoes are permitted in any SkillsUSA Championships event.
24. Contestants may be penalized or disqualified where improper clothing constitutes a health or safety hazard.
25. 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.
26. Contestants will be penalized or risk disqualification for lack of safety equipment, clothing, or attire based on the severity of the infraction.
27. Wearing 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 or dangling jewelry, or any item that could impede on maintaining a safe work environment.
28. No identification of the contestant, chapter, advisor, city, or school may be visible on contest attire.
29. The policy concerning piercing and tattoos 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 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 comply may result in a penalty.

30. Participants who do not bring the required tools and materials specified in the individual contest regulations will be penalized for missing items. If possible, the contest chair may furnish the required item(s) but will assess the point penalty.
31. 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. The contestant is responsible for moving their toolbox to the contest area.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

32. 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, or college/postsecondary students/teams in each competition, determined by the state office or Regional Coordinator. Contact your Regional Coordinator for more information.
33. Contestants 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 SkillsUSA National Office.
34. Participants must meet the eligibility requirements outlined in each contest description, including, but not limited to, programs of study and occupational objectives.
35. 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.
36. 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

37. 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. 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. The State Director will verify all scores before the Closing Ceremony. By awarding a gold medal, the state association acknowledges that the scores have been verified, and the student is invited to the national competition. Receipt of a gold medal constitutes an invitation to the national championships.

- b. Medals will not be awarded if the performance standard as determined by the technical committee does not justify such recognition.
 - c. If a gold medalist cannot attend the national conference, the silver medalist may be notified and receive an invitation to NLSC within one week of the SLSC Closing Ceremony.
38. Judges' decisions and scores are final.
 39. Prizes may be awarded, contingent on industry support, and are not guaranteed for any contest.
 40. Contestants must attend the Closing Ceremony to receive medals or prizes. No medals or prizes will be distributed following the close of the conference unless approved in writing by the State Director in advance of the conference.
 41. Advisors are not permitted backstage or in the prize distribution area. Students will return to their seats after receiving their awards, and the step-and-repeat will remain in place for photos after the ceremony.
 42. 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.
 43. 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 a note of contestant numbers.
 - a. Conference registrants will receive an email once scorecards are 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.
 - 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

44. 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).
45. Teams must wear the same uniform. All team members must wear the same classification in contests where multiple clothing classifications are acceptable (for example, Quiz Bowl).
46. In team leadership contests, should a team member drop following the regional competitions, schools/chapters may substitute another student, provided they meet the competition's eligibility requirements. 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 last minute issues as soon as possible to gain an exception.
47. 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 can compete with a 25% penalty.
48. 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

49. During the contest, participants must work independently, without assistance from judges, teachers, fellow students, or observers. Contestants may be disqualified for receiving such assistance.

50. It is in the spirit of competition and good sportsmanship to demonstrate professional courtesy to other competitors. Contestants shall not 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.
51. 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 anytime. This is necessary for both safety and to maintain the integrity of the contests.
 - a. Advisors are not permitted in the contest area at any time, including outside the active competition.
52. SkillsUSA Florida reserves the right to remove any contestant, advisor, or observer for disruptive behavior.
53. Advisors or observers will not talk or gesture to contestants. Doing so may result in penalties or disqualification. 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 communicating or aiding a contestant in any way or if safety demands such action.
57. Cameras with flash attachments, cell phones, or recording devices of any kind will not be permitted in any contest area without the consent of the State Director or Technical Committee.

COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY EXPECTATIONS

SkillsUSA Florida's 2024 State Leadership and Skills Conference (SLSC24) 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 and 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 must leave SLSC24 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 conference area if I am experiencing signs or symptoms of COVID-19, including
 - Chills or fever (100.4 F or higher)
 - Cough, congestion, or runny nose
 - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- I will immediately isolate myself, leave the conference area, and notify SkillsUSA Florida Staff if I, or a close contact, is exposed to, exhibit symptoms of, or receive a positive test result of COVID-19.
- I expressly agree to fully comply with appropriate COVID-19 health and safety measures and protocols set for attendance at the SLSC24, including adhering to CDC guidance and applicable state and local requirements related to wearing face masks and maintaining appropriate social distancing.
- While in attendance at the SLSC24, 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 OF 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 SLSC24. 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/ drops are allowed.

Submitting SLSC registration and attending the 2024 State Leadership and Skills Conference indicates your agreement to the above COVID-19 Health & Safety Expectations.