



**2025 SkillsUSA Florida
State Leadership and Skills Conference (SLSC25)**

“Fueling the Future”

April 28 to May 1, 2025

Jacksonville, FL

The information in this guide should be used to help plan for participation in the 2025 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 13, 6 PM ET; January 14, 10 AM ET - Virtual Advisor Meeting - SLSC25 Orientation

February 1 - Registration opens

February 1 - State Officer Application Due

February 28 - State Awards and Recognition Nomination Deadline

March 1 - Full contest schedule released

March 1 - Chapter Excellence Program (CEP) applications due

March 3 - Courtesy Corps, Glam Squad, and Social Media Ambassador applications due

March 10 - Registration closes; no drops or refunds after this date

March 17 - Bus parking requests due

March 17 - Accommodations requests due (including ADA needs and dietary restrictions)

March 17 - Deadline to book hotel rooms

March 24 - Registration payment due to the state office

March 24, 6 PM ET; March 25, 10 AM ET - Virtual Advisor Meeting - Championships Orientation

April 7, 8 AM ET to April 18, 5 PM ET - Online testing window - complete online exams

April 18 - Name changes and substitutions due

April 28 - Onsite registration and packet pickup, Code of Conduct Forms due

April 28 - May 1 - State Leadership and Skills Conference 2025 (SLSC25)

May 1 - SLSC25 Closing Ceremony and mandatory NLSC Delegation Meeting

May 6 at 6 PM ET - NLSC25 Delegation Virtual Orientation Meeting

May 12 - NLSC25 registration and rooming list deadline

May 23 - NLSC25 payment deadline

June 24-28 - National Leadership and Skills Conference 2025 (NLSC25), 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 signup links to receive the Zoom link via email or ask specific questions.

SLSC25 Orientation - Review the SLSC25 Guide, including registration procedures, conference agenda, and other details related to the state conference.

January 13 at 6 PM ET or January 14 at 10 AM ET

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

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82421192002>, Meeting ID: 824 2119 2002

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

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

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

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81324686599>, Meeting ID: 813 2468 6599

CONFERENCE AGENDA - TENTATIVE

The schedule below is tentative and subject to change. The full contest and conference schedule will be available by March 1. Check out the [Competition Venues](#) for more general information.

MONDAY, APRIL 28

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

7 AM to 4 PM	Shuttle buses between hotels and offsite venues	Hyatt and Doubletree
7 AM to 4 PM	Advisor Lounge	Hyatt, Prime Osborn
8 AM to 4 PM	Competitions	Hyatt, Prime Osborn, FSCJ
9 AM to 2 PM	CareerEXPO	Prime Osborn
3 PM	Delegate Sessions	Hyatt
TBD	Professional Development Sessions	Hyatt
TBD	Community Service Project	Prime Osborn
5 PM to 7 PM	Meet the Employer	Hyatt
11 PM	State curfew	Hyatt

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

7 AM to 4 PM	Shuttle buses between hotels and offsite venues	Hyatt and Doubletree
7 AM to 4 PM	Advisor Lounge	Hyatt, Prime Osborn
8 AM to 4 PM	Competitions	Hyatt, Prime Osborn, FSCJ
9 AM to 2 PM	CareerEXPO	Prime Osborn
12 PM to 2 PM	Framework Luncheon and Advisor Business Meeting	Hyatt
3 PM to 5 PM	Delegate Sessions	Hyatt
TBD	Professional Development Sessions	Hyatt
TBD	Community Service Project	Prime Osborn
6 PM to 10 PM	Champions' Festival	Hyatt
11 PM	State curfew	Hyatt

THURSDAY, MAY 1

7:30 AM	Doors open for Closing Ceremony	Hyatt
8:30 AM	Closing Ceremony begins	Hyatt
Immediately after	NLSC25 Delegation meeting	Hyatt
1 PM	Adjourn/ Travel Home!	

ADVISOR TO DO LIST

Use as a guide to prepare for SLSC25. *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 each competitor's instructor.
 - Review the Technical Standards at a Chapter Meeting.
 - Check the state [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. (Reminder: Construction and Transportation contests will be provided competition uniform shirts!)
 - Manage [online testing procedures](#) and plan for administering the online exams.
- State Registration and Conference Logistics:**
 - [Register for state competitions](#) by March 10.
 - Submit the [Oversized Vehicle Request](#) by March 17. Pay bus invoice, if needed.
 - Make [hotel reservations](#) by March 17.
 - Arrange payment for hotel reservations and submit tax-exempt forms to the hotel.
 - Pay state [registration invoice](#) by March 24.
 - 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](#) by February 28.
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

REGISTRATION FEES: \$150 per registrant, \$50 for Courtesy Corps

REGISTRATION CLOSES: MARCH 10, 2025 AT 11:59 PM ET

****NO DROPS FOR A REFUND AFTER THIS DATE. INVOICES ARE FINAL.**

PAYMENT DEADLINE: MARCH 24, 2025

Register online at register.skillsusa.org for the 2025 State Leadership and Skills Conference! All contestants and chaperones must register for the conference to receive credentials that allow access to all conference activities.

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. SLSC25 is a ticketed event requiring an admission fee. Credentials (official SkillsUSA name badge and lanyard) will be provided for each school-registered participant during onsite registration on Monday, April 28. Failure to provide credentials will result in removal from the conference facility. Replacement name badges are available for \$35 per occurrence.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Payment Deadline: MARCH 24, 2025

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

Registration invoices may be combined to make one payment. Be sure to list any invoices covered by the payment so it is applied to the correct account. Provide [this sheet](#) to your bookkeeper with more information about processing payment for registration and hotel.

Checks and credit card payments are accepted. 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>

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.

SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS

SkillsUSA provides security and supervision for conference activities; however, primary supervision of students is the responsibility of the school or chapter. All participating schools must register and pay for at least one advisor or chaperone to attend the conference who will actively supervise students.

Security provided is not intended to be chaperone supervision during events like the Champions Festival. Their presence is primarily to prevent unwanted individuals from entering the facility or event space. It is expected that at least one advisor or chaperone per school will be present and available for all conference activities the chapter's students are participating in.

Please ensure you have adequate supervisory coverage for all contest venues and conference activities. [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.

CHAPERONE CERTIFICATION FORM

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; specific requirements are at the discretion of the school or district. Schools/ districts are responsible for maintaining records of certifications and background checks, as appropriate. Do not submit copies to the state office.

VISITOR/ OBSERVER DAY PASSES

There are three options for parents, administration, and other supporters to visit the conference: Conference Badge, Competition Day Passes, and Closing Ceremony Tickets. Ticket sales begin at 12 AM ET on April 1, 2025. Use the link below to review costs and information before sales begin. Please share the information with any parents or other individuals who want to attend in support of their students. **This registration should only be used for individuals attending outside of your school's official delegation.**

Get more information and purchase admission here: <https://skillsusaf1.square.site/>

All purchases are final, and no refunds will be issued. Children under age 12 are admitted at no cost, and must attend with and be supervised by an adult (age 21+). By purchasing admission, individuals agree to abide by all posted rules and regulations, including but not limited to the [Inclusivity Statement and Expectations](#). Entry to events is permitted only with proper credentials. Some competitions may not be accessible, and purchasing admission does not guarantee that any specific event may be viewed.

Download an information sheet with purchasing information here:

<https://www.skillsusaf1.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/SLSC25-Visitor-Access-to-Conference.pdf>

COMPETITION DAY PASS

To view competitions, purchase a Competition Day Pass for each attendee age 12 and older. The pass provides access to the Hyatt and Prime Osborn Convention Center from 8 AM to 4 PM on Tuesday, April 29 and Wednesday, April 30 for \$35. Each pass is valid for both days of competition. They are available for advance purchase via online link, and on the day of the event with payment by cash or credit card. Access at other offsite contest venues is not guaranteed. Day passes do not provide admission to the Opening or Closing session, conference transportation, meals, Champions' Festival, 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 28 to May 1, including Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

CLOSING CEREMONY TICKETS

Attending the Closing Ceremony requires a conference name badge or purchased ticket for entry. Tickets are \$25 per person, and are available for advance purchase and onsite. Onsite ticket purchases are discouraged, as our capacity to handle walk up registrations is limited and may delay entry to the event.

For the Closing Ceremony, ticket holders will enter through a designated entrance to the ballroom, and are provided with specific seating. Five minutes prior to the start of the ceremony, an announcement will be made for ticket holders to fill remaining seats near schools. This helps ensure that students and teachers have access to preferential seating during the session.

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** - Student competitors. Must be joined as members by February 1 and have qualified, either through regional competition or advancing straight to state.
 - **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 transferred 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 availability.**
- 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 igraber@skillsusafl.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 10, 2025, and schools are responsible for the associated fees. Be sure to delete registrations for individuals no longer attending.

HOTEL AND LOGISTICS

OFFICIAL CONFERENCE HOTELS

Per SkillsUSA Florida policy, schools are required to book and stay within official SkillsUSA Florida hotel blocks. Each school must make reservations according to the published procedure (available in February) and arrange payment directly with the hotel, including tax exemption. Any school violating this policy risks disqualification without a refund. See below for commuter information.

[Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront](#)

Room rate: \$190/night, up to 4 people per room
Parking: \$20/vehicle (overnight); Garage clearance: 6'7"
Address: 225 E Coastline Drive
 Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 588-1234

[Hilton Doubletree Jacksonville Riverfront](#)

Room rate: \$149/night, up to 4 people per room
Parking: \$20/vehicle (overnight); Garage clearance: 6'4"
Address: 1201 Riverplace Blvd
 Jacksonville, FL 32207
Phone: (904) 398-8800

DEADLINE TO BOOK HOTEL ROOMS: MARCH 17, 2025

COMMUTERS - *Schools that do not stay at the hotel.*

Schools located near Jacksonville that commute instead of staying overnight at the hotel are subject to a \$25 per person fee, due before arrival. Exceptions will not be made for commuter contestants arriving late. Schools must provide registered onsite supervision for commuter students. Commuter fees will be billed after hotel reservations close on March 17, 2025.

COMPETITION VENUES

VENUE NAME	ADDRESS	CONTESTS HELD	DISTANCE FROM HYATT/ DBLTREE
Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront	225 East Coastline Dr Jacksonville, FL 32202	All remaining contests not listed below	0.0 mi (0 min) / 0.9 mi (5 min)
Prime Osborn Convention Center	1000 Water Street Jacksonville, FL 32204	Construction, Transportation contests	1.3 mi (5 min) / 1.9 mi (5-10 min)
Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) - Downtown	101 West State Street Jacksonville, FL 32202	Welding, Welding Fab Internetworking, ITS Auto Refinishing, Collision	1.0 mi (5 min) / 1.6 mi (5-10 min)
FSCJ - Deerwood	9911 Old Baymeadows Rd Jacksonville, FL 322561	Video News Production	10.7 mi (15-20 min) / 10.4 mi (15-20 min)
FSCJ - Betty P Cook Nassau Center	76346 William Burgess Blvd Yulee, FL 32097	Culinary Arts, Baking and Pastry Arts	23.7 mi (25-35 min) / 24.4 mi (30-40 min)

CONFERENCE TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING

Conference transportation is provided between the official conference hotels and all offsite contest locations. Check the conference app for a full schedule and detailed maps. Transportation is NOT provided to the Opening Ceremony.

PARKING - DAILY PARKING

Reduced Daily Rate (Hyatt): \$10 cash (\$11 credit). Purchase parking passes at the Hyatt.

Note: Schools staying at the Doubletree will pay the Hyatt daily parking rate for any vehicles needing to park at the Hyatt during events and activities. Contact the state office to pre-purchase.

Offsite Venues: Ample parking is available at no cost.

PARKING - OVERSIZED VEHICLES

Oversized vehicles require off-site parking with an additional fee. Buses are not permitted to park at either hotel, including on streets surrounding the hotel; subject to ticketing and towing.

OVERSIZED VEHICLE PARKING: \$100 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center

INCLUDES: April 28 to May 1, in and out privileges, and bus driver transport on arrival and departure (via rideshare credit). Bus drivers may also utilize conference buses, which loop regularly from 7 AM to 4 PM on April 29 and 30, 2025.

REGISTER: Complete this form to request Oversized Vehicle Parking no later than March 17, 2025: <https://form.jotform.com/213625465474056>

FOOD AND MEALS

Provided Meals:

- Lunch for contestants on the day(s) they are required to report to their competition.
- Lunch for Advisors during the Framework Luncheon and Advisor Business Meeting on April 30.
- Coffee and light snacks for Advisors in the Advisors Lounge on April 29 and 30.
- Dinner for all registered participants during Champions' Night on April 30.

Onsite Purchase Options:

- Hyatt: Various outlets/ stands. Food truck-style options available (\$13-\$17, menu/ pricing TBD).
- Doubletree: Discounted options available for cash purchase from the hotel's regular outlets
- Prime Osborn: Concessions available for purchase.
- FSCJ (all): None (food delivery is available - DoorDash, etc)

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/>

Food Delivery is available from DoorDash, UberEats, and similar services.

BRINGING OUTSIDE FOOD TO THE HOTEL

While we understand that it may be a cost-effective option to order bulk food for your students, our contract with the hotel does not allow outside food to be brought into meeting room spaces. Please do not consume outside food in meeting room areas of the hotel. Any school in violation is subject to fees and penalties assessed by the hotel and/ or SkillsUSA Florida.

ONSITE REGISTRATION - WHAT TO EXPECT

Onsite registration and packet pickup will be on Monday, April 28, from 2 PM to 6 PM. Packet pickup is not available before 2 PM. Schools arriving by charter bus should drop off at the Newnan Street entrance of the Hyatt, and may drop off at the front of the Doubletree. 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 at the Hyatt and 4 PM at the Doubletree, 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 of the Hyatt 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 AND SPELLING CORRECTIONS

If you have additions, spelling corrections, or substitutions after registration closes, download and complete [this form](#), or [use this link](#) to complete the form online and email it to jaydea@skillsusaf.org no later than Monday, April 18.

Contestant substitutions may only be made with a current SkillsUSA member who joined before February 1 and meets the eligibility requirements for the contest. Substitutions must complete the [Personal and Liability Release Form](#) (Spanish version [available here](#)) and submit at onsite registration.

A completed Code of Conduct form for any substitutions and late additions is due at onsite registration, along with payment. Contact the State Director for written approval to add 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, contact the Customer Care Team at 844-875-4557, or email customercare@skillsusa.org. The Technical Standards provide 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. Students should be prepared to perform any skills outlined in the technical standards.

Any changes or supplemental information to the Technical Standards for state-level competitions, 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.

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

WRITTEN EXAMS/ ASSESSMENTS

PLEASE NOTE: TESTING PROCESSES HAVE CHANGED THIS YEAR, AND WILL DIFFER FROM PROCEDURES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. PLEASE REVIEW DETAILS BELOW. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE SHARED AT THE [SLSC25 ORIENTATION MEETING](#) IN JANUARY.

NEW THIS YEAR: All contestants will complete the Professional Development Assessment online before the conference. **REQUIRED FOR ALL CONTESTANTS.** [Study Guide Available Now!](#)

Professional Development Assessment scores will be used as a tie-breaker. A penalty will be assessed for failure to complete the exam. Advisors may request a copy of their school's scores following the state conference.

TESTING WINDOW: April 7 at 8 AM ET to April 18 at 5 PM ET.

PROCTORS: 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 to registered schools. The Lead Advisor is responsible for arranging proctors for students to take exams on campus. Remote testing is not allowed. Additional proctor instructions will be provided soon.

Models are exempt from testing. Middle school contestants will complete their exam in person at the competition. Not all contests will require a technical knowledge assessment; any additional assessments will be completed onsite at the competition.

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 may be allowed assistance as determined by the complexity of the assignment.
4. Readers are not allowed in contests requiring technical manuals.
5. The school may provide sign language interpreters for deaf and hard of hearing contestants and language interpreters at orientation, 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. Interpreters must be approved in advance by the state office, and complete the necessary registration process.

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 17, 2025. 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 (NLSC25) 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 NLSC25 is due by May 12.

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 [2025-2026 State Officer Team](#) and the [2025 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.

Credentials are required to enter the session. [Check out information for ticket purchases here](#).

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, 2025.

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 the fall
- 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 2025-2026 State Officer Team will occur at SLSC25 during [Delegate Sessions](#). Review the State Officer Program Guide for more information. Delegate Sessions include a Meet the Candidates session on April 29 and introductory speeches and problematic questions on April 30 at 3 PM. Specific schedule information will be provided to qualified candidates.

- [DOWNLOAD THE PROGRAM GUIDE](#) or visit skillsusaf1.org/about/state-officers/
- *Applications are due February 1, 2025! 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, judge support, and so much more. This unique behind-the-scenes experience is ideal for students interested in event planning, project management, or other careers requiring logistical coordination. Courtesy Corps is also great for any student interested in competition but not quite ready, or students who missed qualifying at the regional level but still want to get involved and participate in the state conference. **Registration is ONLY \$50 for students (and advisors!) interested in participating!** Students may not compete in any other event or serve as a model, and 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 3.

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 20-28, 2025, with **all expenses paid!**

- [DOWNLOAD THE PROGRAM GUIDE](#) or visit skillsusaf1.org/slsc/courtesy-corp
- *Applications are due by March 3. Questions? Contact leadership@skillsusaf1.org*

GLAM SQUAD

Get the State Officer team looking their best before their onstage performances at Opening and Closing Ceremonies. Cosmetology students, including competitors and non-competitors, are invited to apply, and selected applicants will receive complimentary conference registration, dinner on Monday evening, and breakfast on Thursday morning. Conference registration will be reimbursed to the school after the completion of the conference, provided the assigned duties are fulfilled. Contact Jayde Alioto at jaydea@skillsusaf1.org for more information. Applications are due by March 3.

Check out the 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 a full-access press pass for the State Leadership and Skills Conference. All students, including competitors, are invited to apply, and selected applicants will receive complimentary conference registration, dinner on Monday evening, and breakfast on Thursday morning. Conference registration will be reimbursed to the school after the completion of the conference, provided the assigned duties are fulfilled. Contact Jayde Alioto at jaydea@skillsusaf1.org for more information. Applications are due by March 3.

Check out the application: <https://form.jotform.com/213634493960158>

ALUMNI

We love to have our alums involved with our events! 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!

If you know an alum who wants to get involved, have them contact Jayde Alioto at jaydea@skillsusaf1.org for more information!

MORE CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

AIM HIRE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Students can develop their Framework skills during our Aim Hire! Professional Development sessions. Sessions will cover essential elements like Leadership, Communication, and Teamwork, with multiple sessions offered each day (1 hour). A certificate of participation is provided to each participant.

THE CAREEREXPO

CareerEXPO offers 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. Attendees can explore new technologies and products, engage in hands-on career exploration, and connect with industry. Visit Hall AB at the Prime Osborn Convention Center from 9 AM to 2 PM.

CHAMPIONS' FESTIVAL

On Wednesday, April 30 from 6 PM to 10 PM, SkillsUSA students and teachers are invited to celebrate with us! The Champions' Festival 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. Conference name badge is required for entry.

DELEGATE SESSIONS

Each year, delegate representatives from each chapter elect a group of student leaders to serve our state association as [State Officers](#). Participating in the Delegate program is a great way to learn about parliamentary procedure and ensure your chapter has a voice in state decisions. [Get more info here!](#)

EXPEDITION: SLSC

Gather a team from your school and sign up to participate in Expedition: SLSC! Complete tasks, answer trivia, and submit photos and videos to complete challenges and win points - the top team wins a prize!

GIVE AND GROW COMMUNITY SERVICE

Join our state officer team and help give back to the Jacksonville community! A certificate verifying service hours will be provided to each participant. More information is coming soon!

MEET THE EMPLOYER CAREER FAIR

Bring your resume and dress for success at the annual Meet the Employer Career Fair! Network with potential future employers and learn more about careers in a variety of fields. Join us on Tuesday, April 29 from 5 PM to 7 PM at the Hyatt Regency.

ADVISOR-ONLY EVENTS

Advisor Lounge

The Advisor Lounge is a dedicated space open exclusively to registered advisors during the conference on Tuesday and Wednesday from 7 AM to 4 PM at the Hyatt and the Prime Osborn. Grab some coffee and a snack, plug in your laptop, rest your feet, and network with other advisors!

Advisor Champions' Night Reception

During Champions' Night on Wednesday, 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

Join us for a special luncheon and our annual Advisor Business Meeting on Wednesday, April 30, at the Hyatt. We will discuss shifting the Advisor Business Meeting to the fall, share important informational updates, and elect Advisors at Large for the Florida SkillsUSA Inc. Board of Directors.

Advisors at Large are elected in alternating years to serve two-year terms, with two seats up for election in 2025. Nominations are accepted in advance (<https://form.jotform.com/213636519031047>) and from the floor. If you are interested in running or have questions, contact TJ Thoss at thosst@skillsusaf.org.

Advisors at Large:

- Must be a Professional Member of SkillsUSA for the 2024-2025 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 four Board meetings annually (generally, February, May, July, and December).
- Actively participate in local, regional, and state activities and events (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 without regard to, and prohibit harassment on the basis of, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or genetic information. Lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation.

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 or info@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.

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATION

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.

- 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.