Happy Thursday! We are quickly drawing near this year’s Fall Leadership Conference; today is the registration deadline. We are going to extend this until tomorrow so don't miss out on this great opportunity! This is a great way to kick off your chapters, train local officers, or get your students excited about SkillsUSA. This year will be a year of new programming and opportunities for students and advisors alike! This year’s conference is November 8-9 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. I have included the agenda for this year’s event. We hope to see everyone there. Help us make this year’s conference the biggest and best ever! We have been getting a lot of requests for SkillsUSA “swag” and are pleased to announce we will be hosting a SkillsUSA Store this year at Fall Leadership Conference. Please click on the link below to view all of the great items we will have available.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sSuMdd_5L9hcT2LQKvv57Jt6JCeD93z/view?usp=sharing
As we draw closer to competition season, please make sure you fill out the intent form to let us know what contests your school intends to compete in. This will help us determine what contests to hold at the Regional Level and also will help us with supply needs at the State Level to provide the best experience for your students. Please click on the link below to complete the form.

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QFBOQQR5](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QFBOQQR5)

As many of you know, SkillsUSA has a long standing partnership with CTEP and we would like to remind and invite all CTE Administrators to attend this year's Fall Meeting. SkillsUSA Ohio will be doing an update on all things SkillsUSA. Along with us, there are many great presenters to keep you in the loop about Career and Technical Education in Ohio. The meeting will be held on November 15-16 at the Embassy Suites, 2700 Corporate Exchange Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43231. Please refer to the following link for more information and to register.

[http://ohioacte.org/event-2886663](http://ohioacte.org/event-2886663)

Thank you for your continued support of SkillsUSA Ohio and the great work you do with your students! Have a great week!

Jackie Walker
State Association Director

**Fall Leadership Conference - Nov. 8-9**

Registration is open for Fall Leadership Conference. This year's theme is SkillsUSA Champions at Work: Career Ready Starts Here! This is a great way to get your students excited about SkillsUSA while getting a chance to meet and network with their peers across Ohio. After a great success last year with giving students a chance to choose their sessions, we will be continuing that model this year. We will have industry panels to give students a chance to interact with our business and industry partners, leadership sessions facilitated by the Ohio Army National Guard, SkillsUSA 101, Framework Sessions, Chapter Excellence Sessions, Chapter Planning Sessions and much more. Students will get a chance to develop a chapter while on site.
Registration is open and more details are available on the website at [www.ohioskillsusa.org/fall-leadership-conference](http://www.ohioskillsusa.org/fall-leadership-conference).

[Click here for the Fall Conference Agenda](http://www.ohioskillsusa.org/fall-leadership-conference).

Regional Officer Candidate Information is also available on the website. Please make sure to refer to the instructor's guide for specific details.

The Hyatt is our official SkillsUSA Ohio hotel this year. Make sure to mention SkillsUSA Ohio when you book to receive special rates.

Change for 2018: Parking Passes will need to be reserved as they were with last year's State Championships. The link to purchase bus passes is:


Parking passes will go quickly. Overflow parking will be available. These are first come first serve.

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**SkillsUSA Ohio and the Columbus Blue Jackets**

You are invited to attend the SkillsUSA Day with the Blue Jackets on Tuesday, December 4, 2018. The event will run from 1:00 to 4:00 pm and will include a ticket to that evening's hockey game. Our format this year will include a Hockey 101 lesson, an on-ice skate, and a Q&A with a panel of professionals. The first ten schools to register get to select two students to high-five the players as they take the ice.

The cost is $29 per person and the deadline to register is November 20.

For more information and to order your tickets, [click here](http://www.ohioskillsusa.org/fall-leadership-conference).

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**State Advisor Program**

Want to be more involved with SkillsUSA? Would you like to gain the skills to facilitate SkillsUSA Sessions in other schools as well as your own? Do you really enjoy chapter development and you want to pass on your knowledge to help developing chapters? This position is for you! The State Advisor Program is an integral part of our success; they play leadership roles in every event. The State Advisor Program has recently been upgraded and we have a need for 5-6 advisors in each region. This year we are proud to announce Crown Equipment will be sponsoring this program and each State Advisor, after going through training, will receive SkillsUSA Ohio Professional Dress sponsored by Crown. Thank you to this new partner!
If this sounds like you, please visit the link below and fill out the application.

More details can be found on our website at www.ohioskillsusa.org/becoming-a-state-advisor.

For more questions, please email Jackie Walker at skillsusaohiojw@gmail.com.

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**School Visits**

Have questions? Want to give your school a great kick-off for your SkillsUSA year? We have dates available to come and meet with your school, students, administration etc. If you are interested in a time please email Jackie at skillsusaohiojw@gmail.com. These will be first come first serve and we will accommodate as many as possible. We also have State Advisors in every Region to assist with any of these needs as well.

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**Sponsors and New Industry Partners**

As we grow, there is continued need for new and involved industry partners; many of you have them sitting right in front of you on Advisory Committees. If you know of a contact or have someone you would like us to meet with, please email Jackie Walker at skillsusaohiojw@gmail.com.

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**SkillsUSA Membership**

We encourage everyone to try and take advantage of the November Early-Bird Deadline for membership of November 15.

We do have some changes. For those of you that have visited the Website, you will notice some membership deadlines that were not previously there. These were enacted to make sure that we are serving the students of SkillsUSA Ohio to the best of our ability by providing high quality contests.

So, that being said, the membership deadline for ALL CONTESTANTS competing at the REGIONAL LEVEL is January 28, 2019.

Straight to State Competitors will still have until the March 1 Deadline.

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**Career-Based Intervention (CBI) and Middle School Membership**

Last year the CBI Board in conjunction with SkillsUSA Ohio voted to abolish the affiliation program.
For more information about the new program for CBI students and Middle School students, please email Jackie at skillsusaoiojw@gmail.com.

**State Championships Contest Changes**

*This year we will be looking into the following contest changes for the State Championships:*

**Demo Contests:** Broadcast News, Cyber-Security, Maintenance and Light Repair (MLR) - We are looking for coordinators and sponsors for all three of these contests. These will only be demo contests if all needs are met. Please contact Jackie Walker at skillsusaoiojw@gmail.com if you have anyone that may be interested in coordinating or sponsoring one of these contests.

**Demo Contests advancing to full contests:** Screen Printing and Computerized Collision Appraisal

**Discontinued Contests:** Chapter Business Procedure - We are sad to see this go but due to lack of teams over the last 5 years, we cannot support this contest any longer.

**We need your help!** We recently had vacancies in the Coordinator Positions for Team Works, Basic Healthcare, Building Maintenance, Nurse Assisting, Quiz Bowl, Prepared Speech and Extemporaneous Speaking. We are looking for industry partners willing to coordinate these contests. Please contact Jackie Walker at skillsusaoiojw@gmail.com if you have anyone that may be interested.

**Chapter Excellence Program**

Please make sure you are starting your SkillsUSA Chapters off on the right foot by completing the Chapter Excellence Program and using as your guide to have your students take the lead in your activities throughout the year. More information about this program can be found at:

[https://www.skillsusa.org/programs/chapter-excellence-program/](https://www.skillsusa.org/programs/chapter-excellence-program/)

**SkillsUSA and Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Team Up to Support Outstanding Skilled Trades Students and Chapters**

SkillsUSA has partnered with Harbor Freight Tools for Schools on a new grant opportunity for SkillsUSA chapters. Eligible programs can receive up to $5,000 to strengthen their local SkillsUSA chapter. Applications will be accepted through Nov. 15, 2018, and grant recipients will be announced Dec. 1, 2018. The grants are intended for
SkillsUSA chapters established within the past three years that serve students enrolled in one of 29 construction, transportation or manufacturing occupational programs or contests.

To apply, chapters must complete an electronic application and explain how they will use the grant to improve the SkillsUSA program at their school. Applications will be evaluated based on proposed plans, community partnerships and sustainability of program improvements. Schools with 75 percent or more of their enrolled students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunches are encouraged to apply. Grant recipients will be required to complete an evaluation of their implementation during the 2018-19 school year, sign photography/video waivers and provide photos of students and teachers participating in activities funded by the grant.

Danny Corwin, executive director of Harbor Freight Tools for Schools, said, "Harbor Freight Tools for Schools could not be prouder to support excellence in high school skilled trades education through this partnership with SkillsUSA. The outstanding students, advisors and mentors of the SkillsUSA community demonstrate the great promise of the trades as a course of study and career." SkillsUSA executive director Timothy Lawrence added, "Partnerships like these expand opportunities for our members and strengthen relationships between education and industry. SkillsUSA is thrilled to partner with Harbor Freight Tools for Schools on this program, which supports the growth of SkillsUSA chapters across the nation."

The grant opportunity is available to high schools with SkillsUSA chapters established after July 1, 2015, in trade areas that align with the following SkillsUSA Championships competitions:

- Architectural Drafting
- Cabinetmaking
- Carpentry
- Electrical Construction Wiring
- Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVACR)
- Masonry
- Plumbing
- Sheet Metal
- TeamWorks
- Welding
- Welding Fabrication
- Welding Sculpture
- Additive Manufacturing
- CNC Milling Technology
- CNC Technician
- CNC Turning Technology
- Industrial Motor Control
- Major Appliance and Refrigeration Technology
- Mechatronics
- Residential Systems Installation and Maintenance
• Automotive Refinishing Technology
• Automotive Service Technology
• Aviation Maintenance Technology
• Collision Repair Technology

**Grant restrictions:** The grant may not be used for the purchase of tools, hardware, electronics or related items or accessories including automotive and motorcycle supplies or accessories, engines and generators, garage and machinery equipment or accessories, lawn and garden equipment, welding equipment or accessories, or material handling equipment and supplies.

To complete the grant application, go to: [https://skillsusa.wufoo.com/forms/harbor-freight-tools-for-schools](https://skillsusa.wufoo.com/forms/harbor-freight-tools-for-schools)

For more information, contact Cathy Arrington at carrington@skillsusa.org.

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**Use These Tools to Make Recruitment Efforts Count**

The key to a successful chapter is the ability to recruit and retain members. Recruitment is an ongoing process and should involve as many current members as possible. If you are starting a new chapter, all it takes is a few interested students to help get the momentum going. When members and advisors focus on the goal of ensuring that every eligible student has the opportunity to be involved in SkillsUSA, it makes recruitment easy. Many tools are available to help:

• The heavy lifting has already been done for you. Check out the top 10 recruitment ideas that are tried and true from experienced SkillsUSA advisors, found in the Membership Recruitment Ideas document.

• Have students take the lead by personalizing the Meeting Promotional Fliers with information specific to your chapter and then hanging the fliers around the school. Encourage students to talk with other students and teachers about the benefits of SkillsUSA as they travel around the campus.

• Using the posters from the Membership Kit, create a bulletin board in a prominent location in the school. Get a few of your members involved. They will have an incredible time working together and create something that will have an impact on membership recruitment. Incorporate the SkillsUSA theme for the 2018-2019 year into your recruitment activities: **SkillsUSA: Champions at Work, Career-Ready Starts Here.**

• Using SkillsUSA’s Brand Center will guarantee that you create a strong visual identity within the school. The interactive website makes it easy for members to download existing SkillsUSA logos (national, state and slogan art) as well as the SkillsUSA Framework art. Another function allows local members to create their own personalized SkillsUSA logo with the name of the chapter. Members will be asked to register
when first visiting the site, which enables them to save specific sections as favorites. This will be a unique login and password and is not tied to our registration system. Learn more at: www.skillsusabrandcenter.org.

- Capture students’ attention with the Kickoff Video and Student Message by SkillsUSA Executive Director Tim Lawrence. Post these on social media or your campus website. Seek creative ways to get the word out about SkillsUSA.
- Hold a membership recruitment drive. Create incentives for students to join, including door prizes, drawings and special snacks. It is amazing what motivates students, so consider putting together a committee to organize and run the membership recruitment drive. Their ingenuity and excitement for SkillsUSA will quickly spread.
- Use the SkillsUSA PowerPoint during class to introduce students to the organization or during an open house when parents are present. If possible, have parents and students seated and present the PowerPoint to them. An extra bonus is to have SkillsUSA members present selected slides or give short testimonials on why they benefit from being involved in SkillsUSA. For additional ideas, check out the Ideas for Using the SkillsUSA PowerPoint.

Ultimately, membership recruitment is an opportunity to showcase your CTE program to the school and community. Don’t miss this opportunity!

Register by Nov. 15 to Receive Membership Incentives

Why is it important to register yourself as a professional member of SkillsUSA? Becoming a professional member of SkillsUSA is one of the best ways you can demonstrate to your students the importance of the organization and the opportunities that membership will provide. As a professional member, you will receive online access to the following: 2019 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards, Jump into STEM! curriculum and SkillsUSA Career Essentials: Foundations.

SkillsUSA professional members, as a no-cost member benefit, receive the aforementioned items when they have submitted a current and accurate email address along with their membership details. The 2019 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards is available online to professional members as part of their paid membership. Once membership has been submitted, an email will be sent to the address on file which will include a pin number to access the items electronically.

As a special membership incentive, register at least 15 student members in your training program plus one or more professionals by Nov. 15, and you will receive a free educational resource item, The Four Pillars: Your Personal Leadership Journey (value $4.95). Instructors who register with 100-percent membership plus one or more
professionals will also receive a SkillsUSA Program of Work calendar (value: $5.95).

For more details on these incentives, see the membership kits or visit the SkillsUSA website:
www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/membership-kit-2/high-school/5-register-students-members-skillsusa or you can begin to register yourself and your students at: www.skillsusa-register.org

**Fall is in the Air! New Issue of SkillsUSA Champions Magazine**

A new issue devoted to SkillsUSA champions recently mailed in hard copy to chapter advisors and professional members. Using their electronic devices, student members can access the issue in responsive digital format at this link: https://read.nxtbook.com/mercury/skillsusa/champions_fall_2018/fall_2018_cover.html

A lesson plan for the Fall issue can be downloaded from the SkillsUSA home page or directly at: https://www.skillsusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Lesson-Plan-Fall-2018.pdf

Please direct students and supporters to the digital edition of the magazine. In addition to the news and motivational content in the print issue, the digital edition includes related videos, student presentations, direct links to external resources and other dynamic material.

A former SkillsUSA national officer and lifetime alumni member wrote last week, "This might be the best edition of SkillsUSA Champions I have ever seen or read. What a good compilation of information, pictures and events. It really shows off the organization, what it has accomplished and students preparing for real work."

The fall issue always focuses on the best of SkillsUSA and the promise of membership, and it can be helpful in recruitment. The latest edition includes articles about successful members and alumni who are "paying it forward," and they come from Virginia, Texas, Wisconsin, Michigan, Washington, Delaware, New Jersey, Colorado and Illinois.

**Help is Only a Call, Email or Chat Away!**

Everyone needs a little help now and then. Let the SkillsUSA Membership Hotline operators help you solve your problems. Hotline operators are ready to answer your questions on how to start a new chapter, engage chapter members and strengthen an existing chapter. Operators are on call from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (Eastern time) Monday, Wednesday and Friday and from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. (Eastern) Tuesday and Thursday. Call the hotline toll free: 844-875-4557.
Don't have time to call? Send the operators an email at operators@skillsusa.org or chat with them online at the membership registration site.

Ohio Trade & Industrial Education | (614) 466-8782 | tamyra.plotts@education.ohio.gov | http://www.ohioskillsusa.org
Ohio Department of Education
25 South Front St. MS 608
Columbus, OH 43215