



»» SkillsUSA Member Benefits for Students

Participation in SkillsUSA can be life-changing for students. Membership offers new opportunities, the encouragement of an advisor and increased confidence through engaging in conferences, competitions and SkillsUSA Framework development. Here are some of the benefits students receive:



- Recognition for individual or chapter achievement through SkillsUSA Career Essentials suite, the SkillsUSA Chapter Excellence Program (CEP) and the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA)
- Opportunities to build valuable skills through an annual Program of Work that allows members to grow within the classroom, workplace and chapter
- Opportunities to form meaningful relationships with other students who share common interests and come from diverse backgrounds
- Access to a broad array of SkillsUSA programs where they can grow personal and professional skills while having fun
- Ability to advocate for career and technical education and SkillsUSA
- Opportunities to learn and practice real-life application of leadership skills through chapter initiatives and programs
- Application of leadership skills as a committee leader or chapter, district, state or national officer
- Recognition for individual achievement through local, state and national career competitions

»» Apply for SkillsUSA Aerotek "Make Your Mark" Scholarships

SkillsUSA members nationwide in select trade areas are encouraged to [apply for the SkillsUSA Aerotek "Make Your Mark" scholarship](#). The scholarship is for SkillsUSA members with direct educational costs for the spring 2025 term at a community college, technical college, certificate program or apprenticeship program. Applications are being accepted until **Nov. 4**. Scholarship winners will receive up to \$5,000 toward tuition, books, tools, on-campus housing or other approved direct educational expenses. Applicants must be enrolled in continuing education or career training in one of these pathways: Construction; Manufacturing; Transportation, Distribution & Logistics; Telecommunications Cabling Training; and Electronics Technology or Industrial Engineering Technology. For more information, review [all eligibility criteria and the flyer](#). For questions, contact [Jordan Sewell](#).

»» SkillsUSA Recruitment Week Resources Available

[SkillsUSA Recruitment Week resources](#) are available to enhance your chapter events, support your chapter officers and provide valuable tools for engaging students throughout the week. The new materials include officer and advisor resources and guides, marketing materials and recruitment practice materials. We encourage you to host a Recruitment Week before the Nov. 15 membership incentive deadline, so your chapter can receive a free resource. For questions, contact [Madison Kraemer](#).

»» Career Essentials Support for Instructors

If you are beginning your SkillsUSA Career Essentials journey, support is available every step of the way! Instructors can call 844-875-4557 or [email the Customer Care Team](#) for assistance with ordering Career Essentials, developing an implementation plan, creating administrative accounts for new instructors, logging into your account, using the dashboard to monitor progress or learning more about the Absorb learning management system. Learn how using Career Essentials with your students will help them define, implement and measure the development of career-readiness skills in your classroom this year.

»» Join by Nov. 15 for Full Member Benefits

As a special membership incentive, instructors who register at least 15 student members in one technical program plus one or more professionals by **Nov. 15** will receive a free SkillsUSA resource, *Leveraging Your Leadership with Effective Chapter Meetings* (booklet and teacher's guide). When you join an additional 25 members over and above what you registered last year by Nov. 15, your chapter will receive a SkillsUSA Framework podium banner. If you register 50 or more members than you had last year by Nov. 15, your chapter will receive two SkillsUSA Framework podium banners.

Professional members receive numerous resources including the SkillsUSA Framework Integration Toolkit, Program of Work Toolkit, SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards, E-Courses and opportunities for professional development. National membership dues for professional members are \$20 plus state dues, which vary. Be sure to sign up with an email address you regularly check! [State dues and deadlines can be found here](#). If you need help finding membership information on the SkillsUSA website, our [crosswalk document](#) will help you locate what you need!

»» Celebrate National Apprenticeship Week: Nov. 17-23

Join us in recognizing National Apprenticeship Week (NAW), a nationwide effort led by the U.S. Department of Labor. This week unites business leaders, educators, apprentices, and others to spotlight the important role apprenticeships play in closing the skills gap and preparing the future workforce. Your chapter can participate by hosting high school career fairs, industry roundtables, apprenticeship graduations, or submitting state or local proclamations in support of NAW and apprenticeships. With the SkillsUSA guide, you can also organize a fun, engaging event where businesses and alumni visit your school to share apprenticeship information and success stories, creating a memorable experience for students. SkillsUSA is offering resources to help your chapter including social media graphics, a SkillsUSA Guide for inviting industry into your chapter and a NAW Guide for hosting off-site events at company locations. You'll also receive fact sheets, success stories, proclamation templates and more. Be sure to share your event afterward!

[Check out our website and download the flyer](#). For questions, contact [Amanda Crawley](#).

»» Learn and Earn with LifeSmarts Challenges

LifeSmarts is partnering with SkillsUSA to provide fun challenges for student teams to practice their skills. LifeSmarts provides real-world education for students to learn about core consumer topics as they develop critical thinking skills on consumer rights and responsibilities, the environment, health and safety, personal finance and technology. In November, SkillsUSA Health Knowledge Bowl teams can enter the LifeSmarts health and safety challenge and win cash prizes for their team or chapter. Participate as a team of four and complete an online health and safety quiz of 50 multiple-choice questions. This is great practice for the SkillsUSA Health Knowledge Bowl competition. The top scoring teams in the competition will earn cash prizes! To compete, [chapter advisors can register here](#).

In December, SkillsUSA Quiz Bowl teams can enter the LifeSmarts SkillsUSA Quiz Bowl Preparatory Quiz to prepare for the LifeSmarts topic in the SkillsUSA Quiz Bowl competition. SkillsUSA teams can also compete in Varsity LifeSmarts, which teaches health and safety, technology, workforce preparation, leadership and more through fun activities. SkillsUSA teams can earn \$100 in the monthly TeamSmarts competition from now through February. [Learn how](#).

LifeSmarts provides real-world education for students to learn about core consumer topics and develop critical thinking skills. Participants focus on five topic areas: consumer rights and responsibilities, the environment, health and safety, personal finance and technology. The goal of LifeSmarts is to create consumer savvy young people who are equipped for adult life in today's complex, global marketplace.

»» Join the JAMBassadors and Support Skills Jam!

Skills Jam is looking for additional JAMBassadors! The program empowers skilled trades enthusiasts to inspire the next generation of creators, fixers, builders and makers through their own content creation, social amplification and advocacy by working with the Skilled Careers Coalition. JAMBassadors receive fun training, unique paid opportunities and some cool limited-edition merchandise! [Sign-up here](#).

Skills Jam Season 2 is rolling out NOW with LOTS more content. Check out this sneak peek, [Skills Jam Preview](#). Follow [@SkillsJam](#) on You Tube, Instagram and TikTok to be the first to watch!

»» Membership Registration Training is Available

The SkillsUSA Customer Care Team (CCT) now offers membership registration training sessions. Whether you are a new or experienced advisor, these sessions will guide you step-by-step through the process of registering your members. It's also a great opportunity to ask questions and receive personalized assistance from our team. [Sign up](#) for a session that fits your schedule. For questions, contact the [Customer Care Team](#).

»» Fall Professional Development for Instructors

SkillsUSA has a series of new virtual [Professional Development Training Sessions](#) for September, October and November. Check out the [newly updated Professional Development page](#) on our website. You'll find valuable training information and our featured Activity of the Month available for free. Don't miss out on these resources to enhance your chapter's programming! Class space is limited, so be sure to secure your place. Participants will earn a Professional Development (PD) certificate. For questions, contact [Karolina Belen](#).

»» Apply Now for ACTE Teacher and Lifetime Achievement Awards

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), in partnership with SkillsUSA, is seeking nominations for the National Trade and Industrial Education Division Awards to be presented during the ACTE CareerTech VISION conference, Dec. 4-7 in San Antonio, Texas. The deadline for nominations is **Nov. 1**. Qualified individuals may be nominated for **Teacher of the Year, New Teacher of the Year** or **Lifetime Achievement**. You are welcome to nominate yourself. (If you nominate someone, be sure to notify the nominee.) [Nominations must be submitted online](#). For additional conference information, please visit [ACTE CareerTech VISION](#). (Please note the Trade and Industrial VISION Awards are separate from the ACTE Excellence Awards.)