



»» Join Ariat in Supporting SkillsUSA this Labor Day Weekend!

Shop [Ariat Work](#) and support SkillsUSA! This Labor Day weekend from **Aug. 30 to Sept. 2**, our valued partner Ariat is donating 5% of all sales of Ariat Work apparel to SkillsUSA. Members and stakeholders can support SkillsUSA by shopping online. [Check out our social media toolkit and learn how to spread the word!](#)



Another way to support SkillsUSA is through the ongoing Ariat “Change for a Good Cause” effort. Donate at checkout by simply rounding up your purchase and select SkillsUSA as the organization you wish to support.

Ariat is committed to product quality and core values like innovation, quality, integrity, teamwork and respect. These values helped build Ariat into the one of the top outdoor and work brands in the world. With a passion for helping others, Ariat is proud to support SkillsUSA and we value collaborative partnerships, so this is a win-win.

»» New Local SkillsUSA Chapter Resources

SkillsUSA now has new [local membership resources](#) available to support the growth and development of your SkillsUSA chapter. They are designed to enhance the membership process, support your chapter officers and provide valuable tools for engaging students. The updated resources include:

- Officer Resources and Guides
- Editable Templates and Scripts
- SkillsUSA Website Scavenger Hunt



We encourage you to explore these new materials and share them with your chapter officers to maximize their impact.

»» Save the Date for ELEVATE!

The SkillsUSA Elevate Chapter Officer Development Conference is **Wednesday, Oct. 9** from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET. This virtual interactive experience for local chapter officer teams focuses on building successful chapters by equipping officers with the skills to lead and serve their local members. Elevate is open to all SkillsUSA local chapter officers and an advisor must participate with each registered team. Participate right in your classroom, and the cost is only \$10 per participant. [Download the Elevate flyer](#) to share with your chapter officers and register starting Sept. 1 by visiting: skillsusa.register.org.

»» SkillsUSA Technical Thursdays Start in September

Join us for Technical Thursdays, SkillsUSA workshops led by industry experts helping teachers develop specific technical skills relevant to their career fields of interest.

Leave the free virtual sessions with a new skill to implement in your classroom. On Sept. 26, from 4-5 p.m. ET, we will welcome Jeff Powalisz from Heidelberg North America. During the session, we will give a brief history of printing, see various offset printing samples, and learn how ink and water work together on a lithographic plate to create an image that can be transferred to a sheet of paper. [Learn more and register for the workshops here](#) (space is limited). For questions, contact [Karolina Belen](#).



»» Payments for SkillsUSA Invoices

As we start a new membership year, please take a moment to be sure your school knows where payments for SkillsUSA membership or materials should be sent. Each SkillsUSA office (national and state) operates separately for your invoice payments. You (or your school's accounting office) should have two SkillsUSA vendors in your A/P system: SkillsUSA Inc. (the national headquarters in Leesburg, Va.) as well as your state office.

Before you issue a payment, please double check where the invoice is from and where the payment is to be mailed — this information is right on the document. Include your invoice number when you issue payment to be sure your account is properly credited. Careful checking on the front end will save time and problems later!

To help clarify the SkillsUSA payment process, take time now to ensure your vendors are set up properly in your school system and keep this [Where to Pay and How to Shop](#) document as reference. If you have questions, contact our Customer Care Team at customercare@skillsusa.org or 844-875-4557, and they are glad to assist.

»» National STEM Festival Submissions Open

The submission period for the 2025 [National STEM Festival](#) is now open through **Oct. 20**. Students can create a project that addresses a real-world problem, aligning with one of six categories: Environmental Stewardship, Future Food, Health and Medicine, Powering the Planet, Aerospace Innovation and Tech for Good. Students can utilize the scientific method or the engineering design process to develop a solution. Students from across the nation have the chance to be recognized, with up to 150 students earning a trip to Washington, D.C., to present their project at the STEM Festival. This opportunity is for 7th-12th grade students across the U.S. states and territories. The STEM Festival is sponsored by EXPLR, an online learning platform offering virtual and hands on experiences to inspire young people to drive change.

»» Plan Now for Manufacturing Day

Many SkillsUSA chapters participate in Manufacturing Day, a celebration of modern manufacturing meant to inspire the next generation. While the official 2024 [Manufacturing Day](#) is celebrated on Oct. 4, you can hold events on any date in October. Activities for students may include a plant tour, a virtual industry tour or an event on campus that highlights manufacturing. SkillsUSA chapters can share their Manufacturing Day photos and stories with [Brooke Gatchell](#), SkillsUSA's social media specialist.



»» Fall Professional Development Offerings

SkillsUSA has announced a series of new virtual [Professional Development Training Sessions](#) for September, October and November. Offerings include new advisor training, SkillsUSA Framework integration, member recruitment resources and Chapter Excellence Program training. Don't miss this convenient and free opportunity to enhance your skills and gain SkillsUSA knowledge that will support your chapter's success! Class space is limited, so be sure to secure your place early. Participants will earn a Professional Development (PD) certificate upon completion. For questions, contact [Karolina Belen](#).

»» Share Your Champions

The [SkillsUSA Champions](#) magazine staff is always looking for potential feature stories to share with SkillsUSA Nation. If you know of a SkillsUSA student, advisor, industry partner or graduate whose story would be motivating and inspirational, please submit the information [through our online form](#).