

May 17, 2024



### »» Ready for America's Career and Technical Education Hotspot? NLSC is Coming!

SkillsUSA's National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC) is the nation's top workforce destination event, the premier career and technical education hotspot and the largest gathering of America's future workforce. The 2024 NLSC happens in Atlanta from June 24-28 and this is the one event where ALL SkillsUSA members can CONNECT with a supportive community, BUILD career readiness skills, and CELEBRATE the achievements of our skilled



professionals, career-ready leaders and responsible community members. Whether you're there to compete, lead, learn, support or all the above, there's no place you'll rather be this summer. Visit [nlsc.skillsusa.org](https://nlsc.skillsusa.org) to stay updated on all-things-NLSC and [check out this video](#) to get a taste of what to expect!

### »» SkillsUSA Celebrates Our Biggest National Signing Day Ever

SkillsUSA National Signing Day on May 7 was the largest in SkillsUSA history, with 3,039 students in 202 schools! That's more than double last year's numbers! Why the growth? Because word is spreading: There's never been a better time to be skilled. At Signing Day, students publicly signed letters of intent to pursue career paths in the skilled trades while parents, teachers, partners and more cheered them on. The boundless pride of the day was evident in the glowing faces of the attendees. See the [Signing Day recap spotlight story](#) and the [photos and videos](#) we've received so far, and continue to [share your photos, videos and stories](#) so we can highlight your chapter on our news and social media channels. The 2024 SkillsUSA National Signing Day was sponsored by the Lowe's Foundation, State Farm and Constellation Energy.

### »» Sparks Memorial Scholarship for NLSC — Apply by May 17

The Sparks Memorial Scholarship has been established to help SkillsUSA state gold medalists attend the 2024 NLSC in Atlanta. There are five scholarships being awarded at \$250 per scholarship. Any high school or college/postsecondary state champion in the Criminal Justice, Crime Scene Investigation, Emergency Medical Technician or Firefighting competitions may apply. The scholarship funds will be paid to the student's school or school district to help pay for registration and other costs (unless designated by the school to be dispersed differently). This scholarship is for an individual student, and each member of a team (CSI or EMT) may apply. The application deadline is **Friday, May 17**. [See the guidelines and application for more information](#).

## »» Clifford H. “Ted” Rees, Jr., Scholarship Awards Announced

The Clifford H. “Ted” Rees, Jr. Scholarship Foundation, an Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) Charitable Foundation offered four one-time, merit-based \$2,500 scholarships to SkillsUSA members in 2024. The scholarship is intended to provide postsecondary tuition support for students pursuing further education and training in HVACR. The winners are:

- Dylan Demers, Northwest Tech, N.Y.
- Cadin Blais, Mitchell Technical College, S. D.
- John Chaney, Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Knoxville, Tenn.
- Scott Mull, Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Knoxville, Tenn.

## »» SkillsUSA Students Named Presidential Scholars

SkillsUSA congratulates our two members recently named 2024 U.S. Presidential Scholars in career and technical education: **Caitlyn Haein Park**, a student at Saugus High School in Santa Clarita, Calif., and **Sarah Jane Johansen**, a student at Shawsheen Valley Vocational Technical High School in Tewksbury, Mass. The 2024 U.S. Presidential Scholars are comprised of two students from each state along with 20 scholars in the arts, 20 scholars in career and technical education and 15 additional scholars chosen at large. [See the complete list of this year’s scholars online.](#)



## »» The SkillsUSA Store — Free Shipping

With the National Leadership & Skills Conference approaching, now is the perfect time to take advantage of FREE SHIPPING on all orders at the [SkillsUSA Store](#) to stock up for all of your pre-conference needs, including gifts, polo shirts, uniforms or official SkillsUSA blazers.



## »» SkillsUSA Scholarship Application Deadlines Coming Soon

Please encourage your students to take advantage of SkillsUSA’s incredible scholarships. Applying is an easy process. Members can review scholarship eligibility criteria, award amounts and complete their applications in one location: [SkillsUSA Scholarship Application Hub](#).

**NLSC travel scholarship closing on May 22:** Harbor Freight Tools for Schools (applicants can receive up to \$1,500 to attend the 2024 National Leadership & Skills Conference)

**Closing May 31:** The Bob Westphal Memorial Scholarship

To learn more about these scholarships and how to submit a quality application, visit the [SkillsUSA Scholarships and Grants webpage](#). If you have questions, contact [Jordan Sewell](#).

## »» EXTENSION: Skills Jam Casting Call Still Open!

The 2023 Skills Jam cast and docu-series were amazing! Now, we're ready to do it again, bigger and even better, with Skills Jam 2024! Skills Jam needs your help to find the best **student** stories around the country — **and you don't need to be an NLSC competitor**. Skills Jam is offering two **chapter** grants of \$2,500 **just for entering a video**. Even if your students aren't cast **for Skills Jam**, entering **a video gives your chapter a chance to win a grant**. Find the details in the [Skills Jam Casting Overview](#) and the [student flyer](#) and [presentation slide](#). If you missed the 2023 docu-series, you can still [catch last season's Skills Jam episodes on YouTube](#). The tide is turning when it comes to the perception of skilled trades across the nation. Don't miss this great opportunity to build that momentum for your program and your students! For questions, contact [Maria@SkilledCareers.org](mailto:Maria@SkilledCareers.org).



## »» Volunteers and Judges Needed at NLSC

The National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC) — the largest gathering of America's future skilled workforce — will be held in Atlanta from June 24-28, 2024. The Office of the SkillsUSA Championships is looking for unpaid volunteers who can serve as competition judges or assist the management team to support various NLSC programs and experiences.

Volunteers should be available to serve at the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC) in Atlanta on both Wednesday, June 26 and Thursday, June 27 (schedule TBD). Some of the areas where volunteers are needed include judging Leadership and Occupationally Related competitions including:

- Chapter Business Procedure
- Chapter Display
- Community Service
- Extemporaneous Speaking
- Job Skill Demonstration A & Open
- Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- Promotional Bulletin Board
- Quiz Bowl

If you are an educator or partner who will be at NLSC but you do not have student competitors and would like to assist, please complete the [SkillsUSA Volunteer Interest Form](#) and indicate your expertise and the area(s) in which you are interested in volunteering. If you have questions, contact [Brandon Hudson](#). Thank you for your interest and support of SkillsUSA!

## »» Got Story-Worthy Champions?

At the national conference in Atlanta, the staff of SkillsUSA Champions digital magazine will be on the lookout for interview subjects. If you know of a SkillsUSA student, advisor, industry representative or alumnus who will be at national conference and whose story would be motivating and inspirational, please [submit your information through this form](#). You are also invited to stop by the Media Room in GWCC B-209 anytime on Monday, June 24, through Thursday, June 27, to share story ideas and contacts. We look forward to meeting your champions!

## »» TechForce Awarding \$4 Million in Scholarships!

The TechForce Foundation awards scholarships and grants year-round to help students obtain their technical education. From tuition scholarships to relocation and emergency grants, TechForce helps students stay in school, get trained and become workforce ready. TechForce is committed to the career exploration and development of professional technicians across all sectors, including (but not limited to) automotive, aviation, collision, diesel (trucking, agriculture, construction, heavy-duty, stationary engines, and rentals), fleets, marine, motorcycle, motorsports, restoration, welding and emerging technologies. TechForce Foundation will award \$4 million in scholarships this year. [Create a free account in TechForce™](#), then click “Scholarships” to apply.



TechForce Foundation is also conducting a survey to better understand the perceptions of Gen Z future techs and working techs in their first two years of employment as aviation, automotive, collision repair, diesel and welding technicians. Ever wanted to tell your boss, instructor, parent or co-worker something but felt they wouldn't understand? Please submit your anonymous feedback on [this survey](#) no later than **June 14**.