

Feb. 7, 2025



### »» Happy SkillsUSA Week!

Cheers to a great 2025 SkillsUSA Week! In the past few days, chapters across the country engaged in experiences that honored their community supporters, connected with local business and industry professionals and shared SkillsUSA with their administrators. Our national officers have been busy, too, making visits to partners, advocating in D.C. and more!



We encourage you to [share your stories with the SkillsUSA headquarters](#) and we just may feature your chapter on the [SkillsUSA Champions digital hub](#) or on our social media. We would also like to feature your photos in a Flickr gallery on our website. Send your photo links to [Craig Moore](#) or [upload them here](#). In the meantime, check out the photos we've already received on our [SkillsUSA Flickr page](#). Thanks for being an advocate for SkillsUSA and career and technical education and look for a "SkillsUSA Week 2025 Recap" soon.

### »» SkillsUSA Champions Celebrates Black History Month

As we celebrate Black History Month, we honor trailblazers like SkillsUSA alum Cory James, whose journey continues to inspire the next generation of diverse leaders in skilled careers. From competing in Broadcast News Production as a high school student to becoming an award-winning journalist in Washington, D.C., Cory's path wasn't a straight line—but it was built on persistence, self-belief, and trusting the process. At the 2024 SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference, Cory took the stage to share his story, reminding students that success isn't about perfection—it's about resilience. His journey proves that setbacks aren't roadblocks; they're steppingstones to something greater. [#BlackHistoryMonth](#)  
[#SkillsUSA](#)



## »» Register by March 1 to Meet Eligibility Requirements

The national SkillsUSA membership deadline is **March 1**. Student members must meet both their state deadline and the national membership deadline to be eligible for national competitions; to serve as voting delegates; to run for national office; or to apply for national scholarships, awards and honors. See the [state dues and deadlines](#). Learn how teachers can access their professional membership benefits in this [video tutorial](#).

## »» SkillsUSA Advisor Action Tip

It's competition season! Here are some best-practice tips to help you assist your student competitors:

- Make sure you [access the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards](#) and share them with your students.
- Cross-check the Technical Standards with your own state guidelines (these can be found on your state website or via your state update emails).
- Access the [SkillsUSA Store](#) to find competition uniforms and supplies.

## »» SkillsUSA Technical Thursdays in January

Join us for Technical Thursdays, SkillsUSA workshops led by industry experts who help teachers develop specific technical skills relevant to their career fields of interest. Leave these free virtual sessions with new skills to implement in your classroom. On **Feb. 20**, from 4-5 p.m. ET, Jill West, a Cengage author and IT certification expert will share insights on AI in education, cloud computing and networking. This session will explore how AI is transforming career paths, unconventional ways to upskill, and the challenges of preparing students for AI-augmented roles. We will discuss the real-world impact of AI across industries and strategies to help students stay ahead. Participants will earn a Professional (PD) certificate upon completion. [Learn more and register for the workshops](#) (space is limited). For questions, contact [Karolina Belen](#).



## »» Honor Your Champions: National Award Nominations Still Open

If you would like to nominate someone for recognition as a SkillsUSA [Honorary Life](#) member or [Outstanding Educator](#), please complete the online applications. Be sure to notify those you nominate and provide all of the information that is requested. Learn more about these awards and eligibility by visiting the [Awards Programs page](#) on the SkillsUSA website. The deadline is **Feb. 14, 2025**. For questions, contact [Madison Kraemer](#).

## »» Seeking Musical Talent for NLSC: Final Reminder

If you have a musical gift to share with the SkillsUSA community and love to perform, apply to sing the national anthem at the Opening Session of the 2025 National Leadership & Skills Conference. The selected singer will be offered a spotlight performance opportunity on the big stage in front of over 15,000 people plus complimentary conference registration if your sole purpose of attending the conference is to perform the national anthem. [Apply here](#) by 5 p.m. ET on **Feb. 14, 2025**. For questions, contact [Melinda Lloyd](#).

## »» SkillsUSA College/Postsecondary Scholarships Open

SkillsUSA members anticipating tuition expenses for the summer or fall 2025 academic terms can apply for scholarships from SkillsUSA and our generous industry partners. SkillsUSA uses the Kaleidoscope scholarship platform for a streamlined application experience. Scholarship applications require a letter of recommendation from a SkillsUSA advisor or another instructor, a resume and a brief essay. Scholarship recipients are notified by email and must submit an acceptance form. Funds for scholarship awards are remitted directly to the recipients' postsecondary institutions and applied to the student's account balance. These scholarships are competitive and applying for a scholarship does not guarantee your selection. To get started, visit the [scholarships page on the website](#) to see scholarship opportunities, award amounts and application deadlines. For questions, contact our [Customer Care Team](#).



## »» New Professional Development for Instructors

SkillsUSA is offering free virtual [Professional Development Training Sessions](#) in January and February. Check out the [Professional Development page](#) on our website where you'll find training information and our featured Activity of the Month. Don't miss out on these resources to enhance your chapter's programming! Class size is limited, so be sure to [register to secure your place](#). Participants will earn a Professional Development (PD) certificate. For questions, contact [Karolina Belen](#).

## »» Take Up the Challenge! NLSC Pin and T-shirt Design

SkillsUSA is offering the 2025 National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC) Pin and T-shirt Design Challenge to all dues-paying student members. The winning designs will become the official conference T-shirt and pin design for the 2025 NLSC. Entries must be received by **March 1 at midnight ET**, and winners will be announced on March 7. [Rules and submission links can be found on the SkillsUSA Website](#).

## »» Presidential Honors for Selfless Service

At the 2025 National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC), SkillsUSA will recognize advisors, students and registered alumni for their community service through the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA). To qualify, SkillsUSA members must submit a record of their service hours. With SkillsUSA's focus on community service, you may have already met the requirements. For details on how to apply, [visit the website](#). Applications must be received by **March 31**, for recognition at the 2025 NLSC.

## »» Seeking Innovative Chapters to Prototype a New Product

SkillsUSA is collaborating with Make48 to bring hands-on innovation challenges to more students in the 2025-26 school year. Beginning in August, teams of students will compete to innovate and prototype a new product for a business over the course of the fall semester. Check out this [sizzle reel](#) showcasing the work of SkillsUSA Wisconsin students in 2024! SkillsUSA hopes to fill 25% of the Make48 national tournament bracket, which would lead to a SkillsUSA-themed competition and TV show for the playoffs and ensure SkillsUSA representation at the finals. Applications for the 2025-26 tournament close on **March 1**. To learn more, visit [www.make48.com/curriculum](http://www.make48.com/curriculum).