

FRIDAY FLASH

»» Finalize Your SkillsUSA Week Plans

It's time to finalize your plans for SkillsUSA Week, Feb. 2-8! Your chapter should plan activities that build greater awareness of SkillsUSA and increase member engagement as you recognize education and industry supporters. This is the time for members to grow their skills and demonstrate that SkillsUSA is an important factor in their personal and professional development!



To get started, download the [SkillsUSA Week program guide](#) and select activities for each day of the week. The guide includes event ideas, theme artwork, a sample SkillsUSA Week proclamation, a draft school press release and more. Join the fun during SkillsUSA Week with [chapter contests](#)! Get creative and showcase your hard work with these fun challenges as you compete with other chapters for exciting prizes!

Be sure to promote your SkillsUSA Week activities to your local media. Here is an [editable press release template](#) to share on the [Advocacy Site](#). Personalize the message with details about your school, training programs and activities, then select up to six local contacts and click Send a Message. Don't forget to [share your stories and photos with the SkillsUSA headquarters](#) for a chance to get featured on the [SkillsUSA Champions digital hub](#) or on our social media.

»» We Are SkillsUSA Video and Handouts

Need an easy way to explain SkillsUSA to current or prospective members or supporters? Check out the newly updated "We Are SkillsUSA!" video that highlights executive director Chelle Travis and student and teacher members who share SkillsUSA's mission and how students are advancing their skills through the SkillsUSA Framework. This short YouTube video can be shared with students, teachers, administrators, partners or community members and is a wonderful addition to any program or event from your state conference to a local chapter meeting or partner visit.

Watch and share "[We Are SkillsUSA](#)" and download a matching handout from the [SkillsUSA Brand Portal](#) (click on the Fact Resource and One-Sheets folder).

For questions, contact [Scott Price](#).

»» Framework Toolkit Fuels Chapter Success

The SkillsUSA Framework Integration Toolkit is a free resource that offers everything you need to ensure career readiness in your students. The Framework Foundations lesson plans are divided into four chapters and are a great resource for diving into each Essential Element. Through these lessons, your students will develop new skills and learn how to talk about the career-readiness skills they are learning. Professional members can access the Toolkit in SkillsUSA Absorb.

»» SkillsUSA Advisor Action Tip

Are you looking for a quick, no-materials-needed activity that your officers can conduct at the next chapter meeting? Try “What’s on Your Phone” on Page 20 of [Jump Start 2.0](#). This activity allows students to form teams and find items on their cellphones to earn points! The SkillsUSA Framework Essential Elements practiced in this activity are Communication and Teamwork. Buy Jump Start 2.0 and other educational resources in the [SkillsUSA Resources Store](#).

»» Get Recognized for Your Successful Chapter

If your SkillsUSA chapter is having a productive year, be sure to complete the Chapter Excellence Program (CEP) Quality Chapter application and receive the recognition your chapter has earned! Document as your members elect officers, hold regular chapter meetings, plan a Program of Work and engage in the SkillsUSA Framework to grow personal and professional skills. The online CEP application is located on the SkillsUSA membership registration site. Log into your school account, then follow [these directions for accessing the application](#). See the [“Build a Successful SkillsUSA Chapter Teacher’s Guide 2.0”](#) for tips on completing the application, engaging students in the process and infusing the Framework into chapter activities.

»» We Need Your Input: Chapter Advisory Committees Survey

SkillsUSA is developing new resources to help schools establish or enhance SkillsUSA chapter advisory committees. As a SkillsUSA advisor/teacher, your experience and insights are invaluable. Please take a moment to [complete our brief survey](#) and contribute to strengthening work-based learning for SkillsUSA. For questions, please contact [Amanda Crawley](#).

»» Honorary Life and Outstanding Educator Nominations 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

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](#).

»» 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](#).

»» 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](#).

»» SkillsUSA College/Postsecondary Scholarships Are Open!

If your students are thinking ahead to the cost of college, SkillsUSA offers exclusive scholarship opportunities for postsecondary education. Registered SkillsUSA members with upcoming tuition expenses for the summer or fall 2025 academic term can apply for scholarships provided by SkillsUSA and our industry partners. We've added new WD-40 scholarships and NAPA scholarships will be available soon.

- Bob Westphal Memorial Scholarship (closes May 30)
- Clifford "Ted" Rees Memorial Scholarship (\$2,500, closes April 15)
- Fine Homebuilding #KeepCraftAlive Scholarship (\$2,500, closes April 15)
- Larry Rash Memorial Scholarship (\$2,500, closes April 15)
- Marsha Daves Memorial Scholarship (\$1,500, closes April 15)
- National Automotive Parts Association (NAPA) Scholarship 2025 – (8 - \$2,500 scholarships awarded) OPENING SOON!
- National Technical Honor Society Scholarship (\$1,000, closes April 15)
- Sharon Melton Myers Memorial (\$1,000, closes April 1)
- SkillsUSA WD-40 Scholarship 2025 – Closing April 15, 2025 (10 - \$1,500 scholarships awarded)

SkillsUSA partners with Kaleidoscope to provide a streamlined application platform. Encourage your students to visit the [SkillsUSA Scholarships webpage](#) now to view available opportunities. For scholarship questions or assistance in applying, reach out to [Customer Care](#).

»» 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.

»» 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](#).

»» 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.

[Interested schools must fill out this school commitment/application form](#). Applications for the 2025-26 tournament close on **March 1**. To learn more, visit www.make48.com/curriculum.