



Friday Flash

November 4th, 2016

Happy November !!!

Calling All Members! Register by Nov. 15 to Receive Membership Incentives

As a special membership incentive, if advisors register at least 15 student members in their training program plus one or more professional members by **Nov. 15**, they will receive a SkillsUSA Framework podium banner. And, professionals registering by Nov. 15 will receive a professional membership card before the holidays. Professional membership cards are printed only two times a year. Make sure to get yours first! Otherwise, the second run of professional membership cards will be shipped in the spring.

Professional membership that is submitted at any time during the school year grants advisors to the following: *2017-2018 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards* (new benefit), *Jump into STEM!* curriculum and *Career Readiness Curriculum* (CRC). As a free member benefit, professional members receive these items when they have submitted a current and accurate email address along with their membership details. For more details on these incentives, see the membership kits or visit the SkillsUSA website: www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/membership-kit-2/.

Are You Leading or Advising Your Chapter? Organize for Success

As we continue to dive into the keys to a successful chapter, one of the hallmarks is how well it is managed. Teachers should consider the SkillsUSA chapter as the training ground for students to learn personal, workplace and technical skills. A chapter only exists to provide rich experiences that prepare students for career success. To make that a reality, *students must be the ones organizing and leading the chapter at the advisement of their teacher*, known as the advisor.

Organizing your chapter management structure is one of the most important steps you can take. Follow the points below to ensure success for yourself and your students:

Conduct well-planned, regularly scheduled chapter meetings

Consider all options when scheduling chapter meetings. It is essential to hold meetings on a regular basis and to inform students when meetings are scheduled. The meeting times and locations can take a variety of forms to meet the needs of your student body. Because of the integral nature of SkillsUSA to CTE programs, many chapters will hold their meetings during the school day within each class period to give everyone an opportunity to be involved. With the structure of the school day shifting, though, many advisors have become creative in when and how they hold chapter meetings:

- Mirror the chapter meeting by holding it once in the morning and again in the afternoon so all students can be involved in at least one of the meetings.
- Assemble the chapter members for a large group meeting in the cafeteria, commons area or gym, and then schedule committee meetings for working on projects as smaller teams.
- Conduct chapter meetings either before school or after school on a regular basis.
- Conduct evening meetings.
- Gather the group for a virtual meeting using a webinar or similar setting.

Meetings are where the work of the chapter is accomplished and decisions are made by the members. The [Sample Meeting Agenda](#) will help you to understand the flow of the meeting, and the Membership Interest Survey serves as a great tool to determine the interest areas of members.

Develop a Chapter Program of Work Calendar for the year

Each chapter is encouraged to complete at least one activity from each of the seven areas of the SkillsUSA Program of Work. This ensures each student participates and gets the most out of SkillsUSA membership. A balanced program of work is essential for a chapter to function effectively. For example, if a chapter devotes too much time to social activities and not enough to fundraising, it might run short on funds. A successful program of work assists a SkillsUSA chapter in succeeding through:

- Selecting activities that are meaningful to the students
- Establishing a chapter calendar to be used as a plan of action for the year
- Evaluating chapter progress to ensure continued success and improvement

Use the following seven major goals outlined in the SkillsUSA [Program of Work](#) and these sample events as a guide for identifying and selecting a balanced calendar of activities for your chapter:

1. Professional Development — attend a local government meeting, invite local professionals to speak to the chapter
2. Community Service — conduct a coat drive, collect canned goods for a shelter
3. Employment — host a career fair, hold a résumé writing workshop
4. Ways and Means — host a fundraiser that uses student technical skills
5. SkillsUSA Championships — participate in a local, regional, state and/or national championships
6. Public Relations — submit articles and photographs to local media, present to the local board of education or civic club
7. Social Activities — sponsor a picnic or pizza party, host a teacher appreciation luncheon

After you have selected the right activities for your group, you can begin compiling a [chapter calendar](#) to serve as a plan of action. As students begin planning, encourage them to make certain the calendar includes at least one activity from each of the seven keys for the SkillsUSA Program of Work.

Act Now: National Career and Technical Scholarship Program

High-school graduates who are currently or soon pursuing postsecondary CTE studies may be eligible for up to \$2,500 through a new career and technical education scholarship program. By completing a simple 45-minute application, they will be considered for one of 510 scholarships being awarded in 2016.

Applications for the Horatio Alger CTE Scholarship Program are being reviewed now, with all awards being finalized by this December. Act now to take advantage of support for your CTE pursuit. The educational program must result in a certification, credential or degree. For more information or to apply, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/gmwm171>

If you have any questions or would like more information about the scholarships or the Horatio Alger Association, email Kristen Law at klaw@horatioalger.org or call 703-684-9444.

Cradle to Cradle Product Design Challenge IV: Now Open for Submissions

Cradle to Cradle and our friends at the Alcoa Foundation and Autodesk want you to envision innovative products that can remain in perpetual cycles of use and reuse. Enter the challenge to win \$2,000!

The Cradle to Cradle Product Design Challenge engages designers and students to help design a sustainable future by applying Cradle to Cradle principles to envision innovative products that can remain in perpetual cycles of use and reuse.

To participate, go to: www.c2ccertified.org/connect/design-challenge. Entries must be received by **Dec. 1**.

Visiting with the State Director

The State Director is happy to come out and visit and meet with Students and Advisors at their schools. If you wish to have the State Director come out and meet at your school, please send an email to SDSkillsUSANH@gmail.com with dates that you would like to have the State Director come. The State Director will respond with a date that works.

2016-2017 National & State Dues:

Student: \$16.00 (\$8 National & \$8 State)

Professional: \$30.00 (\$20 National & \$10 State)

Deadline: Feb. 1, 2017 Dues must be paid by state deadline. Students' home addresses requested

2017 SkillsUSA NH State Leadership and Skills Conference

As of Oct 28th, 2016, competitions for the 2017 State Leadership and Skills Conference will be March 13th, 15th, 16th and 17th, 2017. More information will be forthcoming about the State Conference

Mark Your Calendar: Corrected Dates of Future National Conferences

Here are the dates of the annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference through the year 2020.

- June 19-23, 2017 (53rd)
- June 25-29, 2018 (54th)
- June 24-28, 2019 (55th)
- June 23-27, 2020 (56th)

Big Improvements at the SkillsUSA Store

What's new at the SkillsUSA Store?

Everything! A revamped online store, launched this fall, is now mobile device friendly. A variety of new and exciting features will enhance your shopping experience: a home page with multiple rotating banners, multi-view angles of products and enhanced payment functionality with eCheck. These features will make shopping online for all things SkillsUSA a breeze.



Be sure to share this with your members so they can spread the word through the store's Facebook and Twitter applications by liking or tweeting out their favorite products, There are a lot of new and fun products for everyone this year, so don't miss out. Be sure to visit the SkillsUSA Store — www.skillsusastore.org — or everything you need to “Live. Play. SkillsUSA”!