

# AMERICAN SPIRIT NYS

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## PURPOSE

To evaluate local chapter activities for community service, citizenship projects and those with patriotic overtones that demonstrates a belief in the American way of life.

## ELIGIBILITY (Team of 3)

Open to all active SkillsUSA members. Each state may send one high school entry

## CLOTHING REQUIREMENT

**NYS Official attire for men:** Official red blazer, NYS Black Jacket, the older red national windbreaker or older red sweater and the Black Carhartt Jacket from Nationals. Black dress slacks; white dress shirt; plain black tie with no pattern or a SkillsUSA black tie. Black socks and black shoes.

**NYS Official attire for women:** Official red blazer, NYS Black Jacket, the older red national windbreaker or older red sweater and the Black Carhartt Jacket from Nationals. Black dress slacks or skirt with businesslike white, collarless blouse or white blouse with small, plain collar that may not extend on to the lapels of the blazer; black sheer or skin-tone hose and black shoes, that are not backless or open toe.

**Note:** Contestants must wear their official contest clothing to the contest orientation meeting.

## SCOPE OF THE CONTEST

### Knowledge Performance

There is no written exam for this contest.

### Skill Performance

The contest evaluates local chapter activities for community service, citizenship projects and those projects with patriotic overtones that demonstrate a belief in the American way of life.

**Notebooks must be picked up between 2 and 3 pm on Thursday.**

## Contest Guidelines

### How to Enter the Competition

1. All entries will need to be brought to the orientation meeting.
2. Interview: Interview time will be given at the time the scrapbook is submitted.
3. Exhibition of Entries: Entries will be displayed in a secure area following the judging. Observers will be allowed to view them at designated times throughout the conference.
4. Entries will be picked up no later than 3:00 pm on competition day. Entries will not be released to an unauthorized person. **NYS SkillsUSA will not be responsible for any notebook that is not picked-up on contest day. (Thur.)**
5. Procedure: Chapters must conduct three separate projects that demonstrate community service, patriotism and citizenship, and promotion of career and technical education. Only one project per category may be entered. Students must plan, organize, prepare and execute all projects.
6. All competitors must create a one-page résumé and submit a hard copy to the technical committee chair at orientation. Failure to do so will result in a 10-point penalty.

**Note:** Your contest may also require a hard copy of your résumé as part of the actual contest. Check the Contest Guidelines and/or the updates page on the NYS SkillsUSA Web site: <http://www.nysskillsusa.org/>

## Documentation Guidelines

1. Entries must be typed and submitted in an official three-ring SkillsUSA notebook or scrapbook. The notebook/scrapbook will contain no more than 75 sheets of paper the size of the official SkillsUSA notebook/scrapbook paper. Both surfaces of the 75 sheets, may be filled, for a maximum of 150 surfaces.

**Penalty:** Five points per surface (10 points per sheet of paper) will be deducted for exceeding these maximums.

**Note:** A surface is only that material which can be pasted or glued to the basic notebook/scrapbook paper. Any pockets, foldout pages, multiple pages or similar features will count as additional surfaces and will be subject to penalty, except where specifically stated otherwise. Pages may be plasticized without affecting the scores. Original copies of newspaper articles must be submitted. Photocopies of articles, letters or digital communications are not acceptable. Dates of articles must be within the article, letter or digital communication or the date must be attached to the newspaper article, letter or digital communication (digital communication should contain the URL link as well).

Documentation must include the following in this order:

### a. Title Page

Include name of chapter, name of chapter president, school name, school address and school telephone number, a complete list of all credentials or certifications offered through the school's program of study.

### b. Table of Contents

*(This should be Page 1.)* The table of contents will follow the presented order list with page numbers. (It is better to itemize each section with page numbers for the item rather than a range of pages for the section.)

### c. Section I: Community Service

1. A single project description
2. Indicate the applicable SkillsUSA Framework component (Personal Skills, Workplace Skills, Technical Skills Grounded in Academics) and essential elements for the project
3. Objectives for the project
4. Evidence of planning for the project
5. Methods of implementation
6. Number of members involved in the activity and the total membership (if the activity was one by a single pathway, use the pathway membership; however, if the entire chapter participated, use the total membership numbers)
7. Letters (two or three) of recommendation or recognition
8. Photographs (at least three and no more than six)

### d. Section II: Patriotism and Citizenship

1. A project description
2. Indicate the applicable SkillsUSA Framework component (Personal Skills, Workplace Skills, Technical Skills Grounded in Academics) and essential elements for the project.
3. Objectives for the project
4. Evidence of planning
5. Methods of implementation
6. Number of members involved in the activity
7. Letters of recommendation or recognition
8. Photographs

### e. Section III: Promotion of Career and Technical Education

1. A project description
2. Indicate the applicable SkillsUSA Framework component (Personal Skills, Workplace Skills, Technical Skills Grounded in Academics) and essential elements for the project
3. Objectives for the project
4. Evidence of planning for the project
5. Methods of implementation
6. Number of members involved in the activity

- 7. Letters of recommendation or recognition
- 8. Photographs

visual aids other than the notebook may be referenced during the interview.

## 2. Letters of Recommendation

- a. Letter from a school administrator will be required for each project on school letterhead stationery with a signature.
- b. Letter from a business, organization or industry representative will be required for each project, on official letterhead stationery with a signature.
- c. Letter from local newspaper or radio station verifying that articles have been submitted and/or published to publicize the activity conducted by the SkillsUSA chapter. Original copies of the newspaper articles must be submitted. Date(s) of the project must be within the article or attached to the article. Photocopies of the articles are not acceptable.

## 3. Photographs

- a. At least three good photographs of each project must be submitted to show events as they were conducted. (A collage-type picture is acceptable but must be printed as a single item.)
- b. Photos should be affixed in the scrapbook/notebook and identified.
- c. Photographs should be labeled with a description of the event taking place. Names (use only the person's first or last name) of people in the photograph should be included.

## 4. Interview

- a. An interview will be set up with the team of three students. Students will have an opportunity to explain how they approached various activities and how the project benefited their class. The interview will be used to help verify points awarded by the judges and to answer any questions they may have. No PowerPoint presentations or

## Standards and Competencies

### **AM 1.0 — Conduct, plan and participate in three separate projects during the school year and provide evidence by creating a professional notebook/scrapbook with the title page, table of contents and three required sections**

- 1.1 Describe the project using correct grammar, punctuation and spelling
- 1.2 List the objectives for the project
- 1.3 Write obtainable goals for the project
- 1.4 Provide evidence of planning for the project
- 1.5 Describe how the project was planned
- 1.6 Describe who helped to plan the project
- 1.7 Describe the methods of implementation used
- 1.8 Provide a description of how the project was conducted in a sequential order
- 1.9 Explain how each member participated in the project
- 1.10 List the total membership number in the chapter and how many members were involved in the project

### **AM 2.0 — Complete a five- to 10-minute oral presentation/interview explaining the entry to the judges**

- 2.1 Create an effective, clear and strong opening
- 2.2 Organize the presentation according to the sequence of projects in the scrapbook
- 2.3 Communicate information about each project in a compact and complete manner
- 2.4 Display various verbal techniques and exhibit poise in behavior
- 2.5 Close speech with an effective ending that ties all of the elements together
- 2.6 Complete the interview within the time limits set by the contest standards