Scope of the Contest
The contest includes an assignment to produce a final project as determined by the state technical committee. The team consists of an Audio Technician and a Radio Technician, each with specified tasks to complete.

Knowledge Performance
The contest will include a Resume, and Video with Oral Presentation. See SkillsUSA Virtual Technical Standards for competencies measured.

Contest Information (All items must be received by due date)

PDF Resume, Written Submission and Video of Demonstration Procedures
- By April 1st links will be provided for sending all components of your contest.

Scoring Information
The following pre-submission items will be judged by industry professionals prior to virtual in-person Zoom session
1. Resume with embedded links documents
2. Video
3. Professional audio recording of all components

2021 SkillsUSA Audio/Visual Contest Theme

- **Theme** to communicate will be given precontest.
  - **Ad Spot**-Create a 30-second ad spot that targets potential college students and encourages them to not delay pursuing their postsecondary education at a TBR institution due to COVID-19.

1. Audio and information will be gathered on location (school/college) as needed to convey the assigned theme or objective.

2. Students are to fully produce (plan, write, voice, record, edit, render, etc.) a **five-minute** radio production such as a PSA, NPR-style soundscape, sound-rich/NPR-style news story, sound, and interview only news story, etc. A **30-second** ad spot will be produced and inserted into the production. The complete production requires students to demonstrate their ability to plan a project that meets a specific prompt and run time; gather, edit and mix a variety of audio sources; and render the completed project to a specified audio file.

3. The completed production must meet the assigned run time and convey an adequate representation of the subject or theme.

4. Designated time periods over two days will be provided for script research and development, rehearsal of the script, generation of written copy, field recording, booth voiceover recording, and editing the final project.

5. Emphasis will be placed on:
   - a. Professional production of the audio/radio production by industry standards
   - b. Quality of the audio
   - c. Conveyance of the subject, theme, and information to the listener

Zoom Interview/Role Play
You will receive a specified date/time to participate in a virtual interview/role play via Zoom with industry professionals. You should be dressed in your SkillsUSA attire for this session.

*During your Zoom Session, you will be asked questions technical and project management questions related to the process used to create your Audio/Radio production.
NYS Audio/Radio Production (Virtual)

Purpose
To evaluate each contestant’s preparation for employment and to recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism in the field of audio/radio production.

Eligibility
Open to a team of two active SkillsUSA members enrolled in career and technology programs with audio/radio production as an occupational objective.

Clothing Requirement
Class E: Contest specific — Business Casual
- white polo shirt.
- Black dress slacks (accompanied by black dress socks or black or skin-tone seamless hose) or black dress skirt (knee-length, accompanied by black or skin-tone seamless hose).
- Black leather closed-toe dress shoes.

Contest Clothing Notes (Apply ONLY to Virtual Competitions):
- Official SkillsUSA Competition Clothing recommended but NOT required.
- Contestant clothing options include the following:
  o Official Competition Clothing.
  o Trade Appropriate Clothing.
  o Professional Dress.
  o Business Casual.
- Clothing must meet industry safety standards.
- No identification of the contestant, school or state is allowed on clothing.
- No offensive, vulgar or inappropriate images or text are allowed on contestants clothing.
- No shorts or sleeveless shirts are allowed.
- Skirts must be at least knee-length.
- Proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn by contestant to meet all state, local and school requirements due to COVID-19.
- Scoring deductions may only be given and/or disqualification of contestant if clothing safety standards are not met.

Equipment and Materials
1. Supplied by the technical committee:
   a. Theme and objective for production
   b. Additional/updated information to assist students in preparing for the contest may be posted online annually at: http://updates.skillsusa.org/.
2. Supplied by the contestants:
   a. Computer with high-speed internet capability and camera to use applications such as Zoom, Teams, etc. The minimum recommended internet bandwidth speeds for joining Zoom meetings, accessing on-demand curriculum and other online operations is 2.0 Mbps up and down. You can test your current internet speeds by following this link: www.speedtest.net. Allow the page to load and click on GO.
   b. A secondary camera(s) may be required to provide judges with the ability to view contestants from different angles. Additional camera requirements will be located on the SkillsUSA website at http://updates.skillsusa.org.
   c. A contest Proctor will be required to be on site to assist judges. A local industry expert is preferred to serve as the Proctor and shall not be an individual that has been involved with the training of the contestant(s). The Proctor will serve as the onsite “hands and eyes” for the judges. Proctor will follow instructions from the judges for safety and operations related to the competition. Proctor may be asked by judges to perform several tasks such as operating a portable camera to show
specific components or steps, measure parts, or any task that will provide judges with information needed to assist in accurate scoring of the contestant’s work or presentation. However, the Proctor shall not serve as a judge nor have any influence on contestant scores.

d. The contestant’s instructor or advisor shall be on site to observe all competition activities to ensure a safe and healthy competition experience for all participants. That instructor or advisor will not be allowed to interact or interfere with the competitor unless a safety issue arises that requires interaction. Any other support or interaction between the contestant and the instructor/advisor will result in disqualification.

e. All competitors must create a one-page résumé and submit an electronic copy to the technical committee chair at least seven (7) days in advance of the competition. Failure to do so will result in a 10-point penalty. Instructions for submission of the electronic résumé copy will be provided on the SkillsUSA website at http://nysskillsusa.org.

f. Facilities and power to edit final product

g. Audio equipment, cables and connectors

h. Portable digital audio recorder with removable recording media

i. Microphone with audio cable

j. Method of importing digital audio from field recorder to editing system

k. Audio editing software/system (use of laptops is strongly encouraged)

l. Writing implement (pen, pencil, marker, etc.)

m. USB flash drive

n. Scratch paper for notes

o. Headphones (not ear buds)

p. One-page typewritten résumé

q. Production music CD (see note)
r. Surge-protected power strip

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 SkillsUSA website at http://nysskillsusa.org.

Note: Production music is not commercial music purchased in stores. It is music created for audio and video productions. Some production music companies are: Music Bakery, Production Garden, TM Studios and Omnimusic. Production music may also be created using programs such as GarageBand, Soundtrack or ACID.

Scope of Contest
Each team will be comprised of two student members from the same school and same division, one specializing in Radio and the other in Audio Production.

Knowledge Performance
A written knowledge exam of as many as 50 questions will be given covering the standards and competencies of listed on the following pages, including basic digital audio recording and editing, equipment, cables and connectors, and terminology.

Skill Performance
The contest includes an assignment to produce a final project on site as determined by the national technical committee.

Contest Guidelines

Note for Virtual Competitions: Contestants may not be required to perform all the standards and competencies listed in this and the following sections. However, contestants should be prepared to perform components in all areas. Prior to the competition, the technical committee may determine which standards and competencies contestants will be perform for the virtual contests. The technical committee will determine if additional information is needed for contestants prior to the competition. These changes will be posted on the SkillsUSA Championships contest update website at: http://updates.skillsusa.org.

Written Exam
1. Contestants will take the exam individually.
2. Both teammates’ scores will be averaged together on the score sheet.
3. Contestants competing as “Radio Talent” will be responsible for knowledge
including radio production, mass communications and radio history.

4. Contestants competing as the “Audio Technician” will be responsible for aspects of producing quality audio.

5. Contestants may use any textbook or other materials to prepare for the exam. The technical committee and NET recommend using one or more of the following textbooks:
   e. Cyber College, (www.cybercollege.com). Use both the “TV Production” (TVP) and “Elements of Mass Communication” (EMC) online texts (TVP: the “Scriptwriting Guidelines” module and all of the modules in the “Audio” section; EMC: the modules in the “History and Development of Radio” section).

6. Both teammates’ scores will be averaged together on the score sheet.

While specific chapters generally aren’t mentioned in these textbooks, competitors are encouraged to use the following standards and competencies to guide their studying.

**Contest Assignment**

1. Audio and information will be gathered on location as needed to convey the assigned theme or objective.
2. Students are to fully produce (plan, write, voice, record, edit, render, etc.) a five-minute radio production such as a PSA, NPR-style soundscape, sound-rich/NPR-style news story, sound and interview only news story, etc. A 30-second ad spot will be produced and inserted into the production. The complete production requires students to demonstrate their ability to plan a project that meets a specific prompt and run time; gather, edit and mix a variety of audio sources; and render the completed project to a specified audio file.
3. The completed production must meet the assigned run time and convey an adequate representation of the subject or theme.
4. Designated time periods over two days will be provided for script research and development, rehearsal of the script, generation of written copy, field recording, booth voiceover recording, and editing the final project.
5. Emphasis will be placed on:
   a. Professional production of the audio/radio production by industry standards
   b. Quality of the audio
   c. Conveyance of the subject, theme and information to the listener
6. Location of contest will be determined by the national technical committee.
7. All teams will submit their projects including final production and script on a USB flash drive with a file name and format chosen by the technical committee.
8. Contestants will demonstrate their ability to perform jobs or skills selected from the following list of competencies as determined by the technical committee:

**Audio Technician:**

a. Demonstrate knowledge of audio production technology, including proficiency in digital audio recording, editing and mixing.
   b. Demonstrate knowledge of terminology for mic level, line level, dynamic range, microphone preamp, compressor/limiter, XLR cable, XLR connector, EQ, time-based processing, send, return, input, output, balanced, and unbalanced.
   c. Demonstrate working knowledge of microphones, microphone preamps, compressor/limiters, EQ, send, return, level control, and digital audio editing on a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation).
Standards and Competencies

AP 1.0 — Plan an audio/radio production, including the proper commercial script form demonstrating digital audio recording, editing and mixing

1.1 Demonstrate processes in digital audio recording
  1.1.1 Record natural sound on location characterizing the unique sound of that location
  1.1.2 Perform interview on location with an understanding of the purpose and goals of the audio/radio production
  1.1.3 Demonstrate proper techniques in writing the script inclusive of the target audience
  1.1.4 Demonstrate proper techniques in performing voice over on location

1.2 Demonstrate processes in digital audio editing and mixing
  1.2.1 Perform digital audio editing and mixing using a standard application to change and enhance the audio for the target audience
  1.2.2 With full consideration of the script, choose and integrate the appropriate audio/radio elements to enhance the presentation for the target audience

1.3 Define and give appropriate examples of the following audio/radio trade vocabulary: send, return, line level, mic level, analog, scrubbing, digital, mixer, target group, demographics, live tag, format, run time, PSA, ASCAP, BMI, SESAC, SoundExchange, commercial, FCC, voice over

AP 2.0 — Demonstrate knowledge and use of cables and connectors used in audio/radio production

2.1 Show use of the following audio connectors (male and female for each): XLR, 1/4" balanced, 1/2" unbalanced, and RCA/phono plug

2.2 Describe pin configuration of balanced cables

2.3 Describe pin configuration of unbalanced cables

Audio/Radio Production (Virtual), 2021 • 4
AP 3.0 — Implement the skills and knowledge needed to describe and demonstrate audio/radio production

3.1 Differentiate major microphone designs
3.2 Describe directional characteristics
3.3 Identify and describe handheld and personal microphones
3.4 Position microphones
3.5 Describe types and uses of various microphones
3.6 Describe phase cancellation
3.7 Describe methods of creating the stereo effect
3.8 Describe digital audio
3.9 Describe analog audio
3.10 Identify and describe communications system
3.11
VIRTUAL – Audio/Radio Production Competition - (NY)

This year's virtual SkillsUSA competition will be conducted as closely to the live event as possible. The only difference is that we will be communicating via the internet rather than in person. As always, we are very excited to see the incredible talent in your work!

I. APPS NEEDED
1. Zoom: All contest communications will be conducted using the Zoom app.
2. Kahoot: While on Zoom, students will take a 50 question Knowledge Test using the Kahoot platform. Please familiarize your students with the app.
3. DropBox: All required contest materials will be uploaded to a dedicated shared folder. Once we receive your official email, a folder link will be emailed to you.

II. DATES & TIMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prompt Release Date</td>
<td>Thursday April 15, 2021</td>
<td>8am EST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Upload DEADLINE (Dropbox)</td>
<td>Friday April 16, 2021</td>
<td>8am EST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contestant Meeting (Zoom)</td>
<td>Thursday April 15, 2021</td>
<td>8am EST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE**: Students will receive an emailed Zoom meeting invite for the START of the competition. All of the required materials need to be uploaded by the DEADLINE.

III. CONTEST OVERVIEW
On the Zoom meeting, the contest chair will give a clear overview of the contest guidelines, then begin the competition by administering Part 1: Knowledge Test. After the test, the students will receive a Dropbox upload link to upload all required materials.
Part 1: Knowledge Test (150 Points) – **Zoom and Kahoot**
Students will be tested on a wide variety of topics including basic digital audio recording and editing, equipment, cables and connectors, and terminology.

Part 2: Project (850 points)
The contestants will record, mix and edit a Radio Production consisting of one 60sec. Info-mercial applicable to online streaming, a 2min. Radio story, and a 30sec. Commercial spot applicable to Broadcast Radio.

IV. UPLOAD FOLDER (Dropbox)
Each student's shared Dropbox folder should contain the following items PRIOR to the DEADLINE date & time listed above:

- Final Audio File named “Audio-Radio-(your contestant #)” (i.e. “Audio-Radio-001”)
- Your resume (.pdf) named - Resume-(contestant #)
- Permissions folder - this should contain all license information on copyrighted material in your production such as sound effects, music, etc. and permissions to use that material. All documentation should also be in (.pdf) form.

V. CONTESTANT REQUIRED ITEMS

- Computer with your choice of DAW editor installed.
- Microphone, Mic Stand and Cables
- Memory cards & extra batteries (Fully Charged!)
- Audio recording device
- Full Cover Headphones or Monitor Speakers

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Paul Chiacchierini
Owner
Academy For Media Production
238 Main Street
McSherrystown, PA 17344
(800) 661-2981
ptc@amp-school.com