PURPOSE

To evaluate the contestants’ understanding of the symbolic representation of the colors and assembled parts of the SkillsUSA emblem and to evaluate teamwork and professional presentation skills.

ELIGIBILITY (TEAM OF 7)

Open to a team of seven active SkillsUSA members. The team need not be comprised of officers, and team members may be from more than one section, but team members must be organized under one local charter and active members in the same division.

CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS

Contest Clothing Notes (Apply ONLY to Virtual Competitions):

- Official SkillsUSA Competition Clothing recommended but NOT required.
- Contestant clothing options include the following:
  - Official Competition Clothing.
  - Trade Appropriate Clothing.
  - Professional Dress.
  - Business Casual.
- Clothing must meet industry safety standards.
- No identification of the contestant and school 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.

OBSERVER RULE

No Observers will be allowed.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

1. Supplied by the technical committee:
   a. Copy of SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards for each judge
   b. All necessary information and furnishings for judges and technical committee
2. Supplied by the contestant:
   a. Official SkillsUSA emblem
   b. Easel for emblem
   c. U.S. flag
   d. Gavel and sound block
   e. Speaker’s stand (lectern)
   f. Two tables 8 feet long and 30 inches wide
   g. Six chairs
   h. Computer with high speed internet capability and camera to use applications such as Zoom and 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: https://www.speedtest.net/. Allow the page to load and click on GO.
   i. 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 NYS SkillsUSA website.
   j. 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 in contestant scores.

k. 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.

l. No resume is required

**ARRANGEMENT OF DEMONSTRATION ROOM**

The room will be set up by the host school prior to the competition according to the diagram at the end of these standards, as closely as possible and based upon the confines of the facility. The tables will be placed 8 feet from the wall, depending on what the facility permits. The chairs will be placed 8 feet back from the table and will be spaced 6 feet apart which means they will extend beyond the tables to meet local and state safety protocol. The emblem will be placed 4-8 feet from the front corner of the table depending on what the facility permits. The flag will be placed 4-8 feet from the front corner of the table depending on what the facility permits. Both the emblem and the flag will be placed at the same distance. **The room will contain one side aisle on the left side (left side from view point). Teams will enter and exit using this left side aisle.** The main camera will be set up in where a center aisle would be.

*Note for 2021 Virtual Competition:* Due to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines, team members must maintain at least six feet of distance from all other team members. **TEAMS MUST OBSERVE ALL (LOCAL) SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES THAT APPLY.**

**SCOPE OF CONTEST**

This is a teamwork and oral presentation contest that evaluates teams’ understanding of the symbolic representation of the colors and assembled parts of the SkillsUSA emblem. Each team includes seven registered members in the roles of president, vice president, parliamentarian, reporter, treasurer, secretary and historian.

**Knowledge Performance**

There is no written test.

**Skill Performance**

The contest is a demonstration of the SkillsUSA Opening and Closing Ceremonies conducted according to the script and description as printed in the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards.

**Contest Guidelines**

1. A video camera for the virtual competition must be set up so that all contestants can be seen by the judges during presentation. It should be places where a center aisle would be. Time will be provided to allow for camera adjustment prior to the team’s presentation.

2. The official script and description for the contest shall be the one printed in the SkillsUSA Championships VIRTUAL Technical Standards. No other method of performing the ceremony will be allowed for the purpose of the contest demonstration.

3. The day, time and instructions for the team to compete will be sent to advisor by email in advance.

4. Each team must consist of seven registered members in the roles of president, vice president, parliamentarian, reporter, treasurer, secretary and historian. **Note:** The team may perform with six members (with a 14-point deduction) in the event that a member fails to show up or is forced to withdraw within five days of the competition. Another officer, not the president, will be assigned the missing part.

5. One member of the team, not the president, will deliver the thought for the day. It must be long enough to be scored for voice, stage presence and mechanics.
6. There is no time limit for the demonstration.
7. The team will be allowed three minutes to properly assemble the contest paraphernalia before the demonstration begins. The room must be set up by the host school/team in advance of the competition to meet local and state COVID-19 safety protocols. Chairs, tables, lectern, flag and emblem stand may be pre-set. Emblem pieces must be placed on the emblem holder prior to set up. The three minute set time will begin with the emblem components on the easel. Any number of team members may enter the room to set up. Members will be asked to leave the room when three minutes are up. No additional points are given for the manner in which the team comes into or leaves the room.
8. Only the official SkillsUSA emblem will be used.
9. If notification is given to the contest chairperson at the contestant orientation meeting that one or more team members will not say the Pledge of Allegiance for religious reasons, no points will be deducted. However, if no one on a team says the pledge, 42 points will be deducted.

Evaluation Criterion

Evaluations will be made by visual observation at the performance. A scoring rubric will be used.

Official SkillsUSA Championships Opening and Closing Ceremonies: Opening Ceremony

The officers will walk in from the outside entrance at least 6 feet from each other to their respective places and remain standing. Students must remain at least 6 feet apart at all times.

President: (Raps twice with gavel.) The meeting will come to order. The thought for the day will be given by the (designated officer). The president will move back 8 feet and will stand their until the Designated Officer has given the Thought for the day and has returned to his/her seat.

Designated Officer: (Gives the thought for the day at the speaker’s stand and returns to his or her seat.) Moves to the speakers stand after the President has moved back 8 feet.

Parliamentarian: (After the President has moved back 8’, the Parliamentarian moves to pick up the shield and moves to speaker’s stand and presents emblem piece, then pauses.) The shield represents patriotism. (Pauses.) The shield denotes our belief in democracy, liberty and the American way of life. (Moves to the emblem, presents piece to judges, pauses, and affixes the shield to the SkillsUSA emblem stand, calls for Mister or Madame Reporter and returns to seat.)

Reporter: (After the Parliamentarian has moved back to his/her seat, the Reporter moves to pick up the gear and moves to the speaker’s stand and presents emblem piece, then pauses.) The gear represents the industrial society. (Pauses.) The gear, symbolic of the industrial society, denotes the interdependence and cooperation of the individual working with labor and management for the betterment of mankind. (Moves to the emblem, presents piece to judges, pauses, and affixes the gear to the emblem, calls for Mister or Madame Treasurer and returns to seat.)

Treasurer: (After the reporter has moved back to his/her seat, the Treasurer moves to pick up the torch and moves to speaker’s stand and presents emblem piece, then pauses.) The torch represents knowledge. (Pauses.) The flaming torch reflects the light of knowledge, which dispels the darkness of ignorance. In the light of the torch, progress will be made toward the vocational goals of the individual. (Moves to the emblem, presents piece to judges, pauses, and affixes the torch to the emblem, calls for Mister or Madame Secretary and returns to seat.)
Secretary: (After the Treasurer has moved back to his/her seat, the Secretary moves to pick up the orbital circles and moves to speaker’s stand and presents emblem piece, then pauses.) The orbital circles represent technology. (Pauses.) The circles represent the challenge of modern technology and the training needed to accept and master new technical frontiers and the need for continuous education. (Moves to the emblem, presents piece to judges, pauses, and affixes the circles to the emblem, calls for Mister or Madame Vice President and returns to seat.)

Vice President: (After Secretary has moved back to his/her seat, the Vice President moves to pick up the hands and moves to speaker’s stand and presents emblem piece, then pauses.) The hands represent the individual. (Pauses.) The hands portray a search for knowledge and our desire to acquire a skill. In the process of attaining knowledge and skill, we will develop a respect for the dignity of work and become productive and responsible citizens. (Moves to the emblem, presents piece to judges, pauses, and affixes the hands to emblem, calls for Mister or Madame Historian and returns to seat.)

Historian: (After the Vice President has moved back to his/her seat, the Historian moves to the emblem and pauses.) With the affixing of the golden hands, we add the final official color of SkillsUSA. The colors of the emblem represent our organization. Red and white represent the individual states and the chapters; blue represents the common union of the states and the chapters; and gold represents the individual, the most important element of SkillsUSA. (Calls for Mister or Madame President and returns to seat.)

President: (After the Historian has moved back to his/her seat, the President moves to pick up the letters ‘SkillsUSA” and moves to emblem. Presents piece to judges, then pauses and affixes the letters to emblem; pauses.) All of the components constitute our emblem. Separately, they could be applied to many organizations, but as one unit, they represent the fundamental principles and purposes of our organization. The emblem represents SkillsUSA. (Returns to speaker’s stand and pauses. Raps three times with gavel for all to stand.) We will respect the flag with the Pledge of Allegiance. (In unison, team members turn to flag and place their right hands over their hearts.)

In Unison: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. (In unison, right hand is lowered to side and all turn to front.)

President: (Raps once with gavel for all to be seated.)

Official SkillsUSA Championship Opening and Closing Ceremonies: Closing Ceremony

President: Mister or Madame Secretary, have you a record of any further business to come before the meeting at this time?

Secretary: (Rises.) I have none, Mister or Madame President. (Is seated.)

President: Does any member know of any new or unfinished business that should come before this meeting? (Pauses for response.) Since there is no further business to come before the meeting at this time, we will prepare to adjourn. Since the rule is the basic instrument of our work, it is particularly fitting that we select the Golden Rule, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,” to govern our lives. Let us speak our pledge. (Raps three times with the gavel for all to rise and leads in reciting the pledge.)

In Unison: Upon my honor, I pledge:

To prepare myself by diligent study and ardent practice to become a worker whose services will be recognized as honorable by my employer and fellow workers.

To base my expectations of reward upon the solid foundation of service.
To honor and respect my vocation in such a way as to bring repute to myself.

And further, to spare no effort in upholding the ideals of SkillsUSA.

President: I now declare this meeting adjourned until our next regular meeting or until a special meeting shall be called by your president. (Raps once with gavel.)

(All officers turn in unison and exit the room in a formal manner.)

Standards and Competencies

OCC 1.0 — Demonstrate proper room setup that contribute to the team’s task
1.1 Assemble room set up and contest paraphernalia properly.

OCC 2.0 — Demonstrate teamwork and coordinated activities that contribute to the team’s performance
2.1 Enter/exit room in step
2.2 Sit, stand and turn in unison
   2.2.1 Respond in unison to gavel raps immediately
   2.2.2 Sit, stand and turn together
2.3 Synchronize movements
2.4 Perform natural movements
2.5 The sounding of the gavel will be the only sound made to signal movement
2.6 Handle emblem properly
   2.6.1 Pick up the pieces in the same smooth manner
   2.6.2 Keep emblem straight when being held
   2.6.3 All except the president move with the emblem to the speaker’s stand and present piece to the judges

2.3.4 Move with the emblem piece to the emblem stand
2.3.5 Present emblem piece to judges
2.3.6 Put emblem on the easel in the same manner

2.4 Conduct pledges
   2.4.1 Place hand over the heart in unison in preparation for speaking the Pledge of Allegiance
   2.4.2 Keep hands at sides during SkillsUSA pledge

OCC 3.0 — Demonstrate professional presentation skills as in voice, stage presence, enthusiasm and mechanics
3.1 Vary pitch, tempo, volume and enthusiasm of voices
3.2 Exhibit stage presence including poise, eye contact, confident appearance, attitude and natural movements
3.3 Use good language mechanics such as diction, pronunciation and enunciation
3.4 Speak words with feeling and understanding. Select and use proper tone when communicating with others.

OCC 4.0 — Communicate with teammates effectively by demonstrating accuracy of presentation
4.1 Repeat aloud from memory the script exactly as written
   4.1.1 Include exact wording with commas, pauses and periods used in the correct places
   4.1.2 Repeat from memory all of both pledges in unison
4.2 Conduct a chronological presentation
4.3 Communicate with teammates effectively by striking sounding block with gavel in all instances

OCC 5.0 — Pays attention to detail projecting a professional self-image through attire and grooming
Committee Identified Academic Skills

The technical committee has identified that the following academic skills are embedded in this contest.

Math Skills
None Identified

Science Skills
None Identified

Language Arts Skills
- Provide information in oral presentations
- Demonstrate use of verbal communication skills, such as word choice, pitch, feeling, tone and voice
- Demonstrate use of nonverbal communication skills, such as eye contact, posture and gestures using interviewing techniques to gain information
- Identify words and phrases that signal an author’s organizational pattern to aid comprehension

Connections to National Standards

State-level academic curriculum specialists identified the following connections to national academic standards.

Math Standards
None Identified
Source: NCTM Principles and Standards for School Mathematics. For more information, visit: www.nctm.org.

Science Standards
- Understands the scientific enterprise
Source: McREL compendium of national science standards. To view and search the compendium, visit: http://www2.mcrel.org/compendium/browse.asp.

Language Arts Standards
- Students adjust their use of spoken, written and visual language
- Students use spoken, written and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion and the exchange of information) Source: IRA/NCTE Standards for the English Language Arts. To view the standards, visit: www.ncte.org/standards.

OCC 6.0 — SkillsUSA Framework

The SkillsUSA Framework is used to pinpoint the Essential Elements found in Personal Skills, Workplace Skills and Technical Skills Grounded in Academics. Students will be expected to display or explain how they used some of these Essential Elements. Please reference the graphic above, as you may be scored on specific elements applied to your project. For more, visit: www.skillsusa.org/about/skillsusa-framework/.

Opening and Closing Ceremonies (Virtual), 2021 • 2
Opening and Closing Ceremonies Room Diagram

NOTE for the 2021 Virtual Competitions – All competitors must maintain social distancing of 6’. Chair layout and contestants must be adjusted to allow for 6’ spacing.

NOTE: NEW SOCIAL DISTANCING ROOM DIAGRAM MUST BE FOLLOWED FOR 2021 ONLY

Diagram Key

1. American flag (4-8’ from the front corner of the table)

Emblem Plastics (Nos. 2–7)
Note: Teams may decide the proximity of the plastics to each other. However, they must still be placed in the specified order from the podium and may not overlap.

2. Shield
3. Gear
4. Torch
5. Orbital circles
6. Hands
7. Letters
8. Podium (speaker’s stand)
Chairs (Nos. 9–15)

*Note:* Teams must place the chairs at least 8' from the table. The chairs must be 6' apart leaving a 14' space between the treasures chair and the secretaries chair for the President to stand.

9. Parliamentarian  
10. Reporter  
11. Treasurer  
12. President (no chair)  
13. Secretary  
14. Vice president  
15. Historian  
16. SkillsUSA emblem stand (easel — 4-8' from the front corner of the table)  
17. Gavel and sound block (wooden block — either side is acceptable)
Special Instructions to Contestants

Due by April 1, 2021  Date submitted: March 4, 2021

Contest Name  NYS Opening and Closing Ceremonies Updates
Chairperson: Lisa Romeiser

List any new special instructions for the contestants that are not listed or might be changed from the New York SkillsUSA Technical Standards for 2021. If you have updated your standards for your contest there should not be much of a need for this form. DO NOT list requirements already printed in the NYS standards.

Equipment and Materials, page 1-2

i. Additional camera requirements
   
   Camera Set ups
   
   • Camera #1 will be placed in a center of the room to capture the entire team. All team members must be seen.
   • Camera #2 will be placed on a music stand or easel on the front edge of the lectern and focused on the speaker.
   • Camera #3 will be a portable camera to show specific components or steps, or any task that will provide judges information needed to assist in accurate scoring of the presentation.
   • Cameras can be any device that gives clear accurate audio and clear picture. No additional microphones can be placed in the room.
Example of a music stand at front left corner of lectern with a laptop on it.

Example of an easil with an iphone on it centered to the lectern.

**Contest Guidelines, page 3**
Remove: A video camera for the virtual competition must be set up so that all contestants can be seen by the judges during the competition.
Add: A video camera for the virtual competition must be set up so that all contestants can be seen by the judges during the competition. It is acceptable to move the flag and the emblem stand to accommodate this.

**Official SkillsUSA Championships Opening and Closing Ceremonies: Opening Ceremony, page 4 (President’s part)**
Remove: (Returns to speaker’s stand and pauses. Raps three times with gavel for all to stand.) We will respect the flag with the Pledge of Allegiance. (In unison, team members turn to flag and place their right hands over their hearts.)
ADD: (Returns to speaker’s stand and pauses. Raps three times with gavel for all to stand.) We will respect the flag with the Pledge of Allegiance. The president moves back in line with the rest of the team (In unison, team members turn to flag and place their right hands over their hearts.)

**Official SkillsUSA Championships Opening and Closing Ceremonies: Closing Ceremony, page 4-5 (President’s part)**
Remove: Let us speak our pledge. (Raps three times with the gavel for all to rise and leads in reciting the pledge.)
Add: President: Let us speak our pledge. (Raps three times with the gavel for all to rise, moves back in line with the team and leads in reciting the pledge.)

Additional Information:
- It is acceptable to turn your head toward the camera on the lectern when speaking at the emblem stand.
- It is advisable to practice recording yourself with your various cameras to get the best lighting, audio and placements of your camera. Check for feedback and echoes.
- Think about your background. If possible, try not to make it too busy.