

 **3D VISUALIZATION AND ANIMATION** 

PURPOSE

To evaluate each competitor's preparation for employment and to recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism in the field of 3-D visualization and animation.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to a team of two active NYS SkillsUSA members enrolled in programs using 3-D imaging and animation as an occupational objective.

CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS

NYS SkillsUSA Business Professional

- White polo shirt (plain or with SkillsUSA or SkillsUSA NY monogram) or White dress shirt with plain black tie with no pattern or a SkillsUSA black tie, or business-like white collarless blouse or white blouse with small plain collar.
- 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 shoes that are not backless or open-toe

**Note: Contestants must wear their contest clothing to the contest orientation meeting.
Also bring a #2 pencil, a resume, and a safety assurance form.**

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

1. Supplied by the technical committee:
 - a. Workspace for two personal computers and two chairs
 - b. 110-volt power outlet
 - c. 64 GB USB3 drives to be available for competition practical submissions

2. Supplied by the competitors:
 - a. Two complete graphics workstations, including personal computers, monitors and input devices. Competitors may use any brand or type of personal computer from any source. Software must be preloaded and configured. Competitors should test the system carefully prior to the competition. Limited technical assistance will be available at setup and on competition day. The computer hardware must meet or exceed the minimum recommended system requirements from the manufacturer of the software of choice. We strongly recommend that the minimum requirements are exceeded, and that recommended configurations are used whenever possible.
 - b. Competitors may bring the software suite of their choice. Software package(s) must be capable of producing both 2-D and 3-D assets and real-time renderings of the final animations.

Note: In the past on average, 2-3 teams per year (over 10% of competitors) failed because their renderings did not work or were not done in time. However, the reasons industry is moving to real-time rendering are more than failure aversion.

Note: Real-time rendering software, self-paced learning content and instructional materials for the classroom are all available at no charge, including Unreal Engine, Unity3D, and Blender from other vendors. Proof of licensing for software programs installed on the competitors' computers must be provided to the technical committee at the competition setup.

- c. Two 6' multiple-outlet surge protectors
- d. Paper and art supplies for storyboard development to include at a minimum, colored pencils and two 11"x17" tablets. Other materials should include chalk, charcoal, and/or regular pencils, etc. These supplies are subject to approval of the technical committee.
- e. Competitors may bring published reference books and software manuals. Reference materials may not take up more than 1/2 cubic foot of space per team member (total of 1 cubic foot).
- f. All competitors must create a one-page resume. See "Resume Requirement" below for guidelines.

Note: Computers must be preloaded with fully licensed editing software and competitors must have administrative rights to the computers to implement changes if required. All software should be pre-installed and tested prior to arriving at the competition to ensure the system has permission settings to connect to the internet outside of the school's network. Internet access may be predominately available only on a 5GHz band. Please ensure your device for the competition can connect to a 5GHz band or, if applicable, bring an appropriate 5GHz adaptor.

RESUME REQUIREMENT

Competitors must create a one-page resume to submit at orientation.

DEVICES

Cell phones or other electronic devices not approved by the NYS Chairperson will be collected by the contest chair during the competition. Chairpersons will announce their acceptance by listing it on their standard or at the orientation meeting. In case of emergencies advisors should allow the competitors to take their phones to the contest areas.

If the competitor uses their device in a manner which compromises the integrity of the competition, the competitor's score may be penalized.

SCOPE OF THE COMPETITION

The competition is defined by industry standards as set by the current technical standards within the industry. The competition is a two-person team event and tests technical knowledge, production skills, creative/artistic abilities, and storyboarding.

KNOWLEDGE PERFORMANCE

All competitors are required to take the NYS SkillsUSA professional development test at orientation.

The competition will include a written exam assessing technical knowledge, production skills and creative/artistic abilities.

SKILL PERFORMANCE

The competition is a two-person event assessing the ability of the team to produce high-quality images and an animated short subject using 3-D computerized images. A practical visual design problem will be given, the scope of which should be viable within the practical competition period. The problem will consist of a topic to communicate, its context and target audience, a rough script to follow, and an emotion or graphical effect that should be illuminated in the still and animated output.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

1. Preparation of the animation must include the development of a storyboard. However, in the real world, the final output is of paramount importance and the storyboard is only a means to that end. So, the storyboarding process will be used to judge competitors on:
 - a. Teamwork skills
 - b. Ability to creatively reach consensus on a design solution
 - c. Ability to organize their efforts
 - d. Ability to verbally and visually express ideas between team members and to the client (in this case, the judges)
2. Render three (3) still images from varied scenes and perspectives in 1080p resolution (1920x1080 pixels) and true color (24, or 32 per pixel). These images should clearly show superiority in modeling, texturing, lighting, and composition. In addition, two high-resolution screen captures must be taken showing model wireframes. Images must be output to either: TIF(F), TGA, PNG or JPG and submitted to the judging station on the supplied USB drive at the completion of the practical competition.
3. Render animation at 1080p resolution (1920x1080) and medium color depth (16 bit) for playback at 30 frames per second (with a minimum length of 15-second/450 frames and a maximum of 30 seconds or 900 frames, or as specified in the practical instructions). Animation must be output to either Microsoft Movie (AVI), Macintosh QuickTime (MOV) files or MPEG-4 (MP4, M4A) and submitted to the judges' station on the supplied USB drive at the completion of the practical competition. The animation should clearly show superiority in composition, staging and the use of motion and object manipulation over time. Anticipation and scene transitions, object stretching and squashing and/or other techniques should be employed to create a sense of realism or graphic impact as defined by the visual design practical problem.
4. During the competition, the competitors will work as a team. No assistance will be given by other teams, instructors, or observers. Limited technical assistance for computer or software malfunction may be given by appropriate manufacturers' representatives.
5. Teams will each be given the same amount of time to solve the problem. Everyone will begin at the same time and take a required lunch break, and no one will be allowed to work past the competition conclusion.
6. The technical committee reserves the right to videotape the animation.
7. The technical committee will be responsible not only for developing the practical for the competition, but also for developing the evaluation tool by which to objectively measure competitors' performance.

8. Judging criteria will be general in nature and will be done from the completed storyboard, still images and animation. Specific criteria will be based on the demonstration of competency in those elements of design, animation and clearly depicting the theme. Emphasis in judging will be placed on the graphical impact and effectiveness in addressing the design problem. Some areas for consideration include:
 - a. **Planning** — The storyboarding process, the degree to which the output images/animation clearly and creatively communicates the solution to the problem without the benefit of support materials.
 - b. **Modeling** — Creation of 3-D objects. The degree to which the animation realistically and accurately portrays something about the problem.
 - c. **Animating** — Motion of objects.
 - d. **Rendering** — Final rendered output. A quality measured in terms of how well directions are followed in telling the story, the visual impact of the problem solution and the judges' assessment of the design, revision, final editing, and presentation of the design problem's solution.
 - e. **Real-Time Engine rendering/ preview** — digital artists need to understand the full context of how their artwork is used. Teams should be able to import their assets into a real-time engine, tweak textures, lighting, and UVW maps to generate previews or renderings of the artwork in context.
 - f. **UI/Controllers** — custom user interface (UI) elements and animation controllers are often required to maximize the utility of the digital art. Teams should be able to automate animation sequences and actions with simple, custom controllers.
 - g. **Originality** — creative techniques.
 - h. **Illustration of the theme** — an overall measurement of the distinctiveness of submitted output, including the degree to which the use of technology, aesthetics, lighting, and composition demonstrate development of a superior product.
9. The team will be responsible for the set-up, configuration, and tear-down of all competitor-provided equipment.

STANDARDS AND COMPETENCIES

VA1.0—Solve a problem or tell a story in a two-dimensional format.

- 1.1. Identify previsualization and/or storyboard design techniques
 - 1.1.1. Define how a problem will be solved or how a story will be told without the benefit of support materials
 - 1.1.2. Describe the concept with enough artistic depth visually and verbally to allow the viewer to accurately visualize the final 3-D output

VA 2.0 — Model a computer-generated object.

- 2.1. Create three-dimensional objects using the appropriate technology
 - 2.1.1. Apply geometry-deforming methods to create computer-generated models that possess shape, color, materials, and surface maps
 - 2.1.2. Create models that are photo-realistic, artistic, and/or graphically pleasing

VA 3.0 — Create a three-dimensional scene.

- 3.1. Light, animate and render a scene, including created model(s)
 - 3.1.1. Apply appropriate light and shadow to models and surfaces in a scene to convey the proper level of realism
 - 3.1.2. Assign motion to objects and/or cameras in a scene
 - 3.1.3. Use bones, links, and other forward and inverse kinematics to create complex animation of created objects
 - 3.1.4. Create cameras, with or without motion attached, to properly view a scene
 - 3.1.5. Create the final rendered output of a high-quality scene to a still image or animation using appropriate rendering technology

VA 4.0 — Demonstrate originality and creativity in telling the story.

- 4.1. Create a final product that has an emotional impact on the viewer
 - 4.1.1. Select aesthetically pleasing elements
 - 4.1.2. Select elements that will evoke an appropriate emotional response from the viewer

VA5.0— Demonstrate the ability to work in a team environment.

- 5.1. Cooperate with others to achieve the solution to a problem or convey a story
 - 5.1.1. Demonstrate consensus-building skills
 - 5.1.2. Apply verbal and visual communication skills to convey ideas between team members and to a client