



NYS SkillsUSA

★
FALL LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE GUIDE

LEVEL UP

2026 - 2027





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Important Dates

DATE	ACTIVITY	NOTES
October 7, 2026	Fall Leadership Registration Deadline	Deadline for registration and rooming. Send rooming to: rooms@nysskillsusa.org
November 1-3, 2026	Fall Leadership Desmond Hotel	Students need to be SkillsUSA members
January 8, 2027	State Pin Design	All pin designs submitted to Midge McCloskey by the due date.
February/March 2027	Area Competitions	Strongly recommended: Complete Area conferences as early as possible in February and March
February 2027	Career and Technical Education Month	
February 5, 2027	New Officer paperwork due	New officer paperwork must be to Midge McCloskey
February 5, 2027- March 30, 2027	Online Registration for NYS SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Championships	Registration Site opens @skillsusa- register.org
February 5, 6, 2027	State Officer Training TBD	
March 1, 2027	State Pre-Registration Due	Only pay per contest unless contest is listed twice. Advisors, team members, and delegates can be paid in the final payment.
March 1, 2027	Membership	All membership is due online. Students registered after this date will not be able to compete in states. TPP or not
March 30, 2027	State hotel Forms Due	Advisors are to send to: rooms@nysskillsusa.org
April 5, 2027	State Hotel Assignments posted	
April 12-15, 2027	NYS Registration site reopens for changes	Make all final changes online.
April 15, 2027	NYS Registration site closes. All payments are due.	Please submit: All conference registration fees All Conference Rooming Fees All changes
April 28-30, 2027	NYS SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Championships	NYS Fairgrounds Syracuse, NY
May 12, 2027	Deadline for online registration for NLSC (National Leadership & Skills Conference)	If first place winner cannot attend notify Midge McCloskey ASAP
May 14, 2027	Payment and housing form deadline for conference registration and hotel.	All payments or po's must be received by the NYS SkillsUSA Office by 5:00 p.m.
June 21-26, 2027	SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Championships, Atlanta, GA	Marriott Marquis
TBD	Summer leadership training	The Desmond Hotel



Conference Location

What	NYS SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference
Where	The Desmond Hotel 660 Albany Shaker Road Albany, NY 12211 518-640-6077
When	November 1-3, 2026
Register	Online at www.skillsusa-register.org

Letter from the State Director

Dear Advisors,

I am so excited and looking forward to seeing you all for Fall Leadership 2026! As you prepare to register for the Fall Leadership Conference, please read the following information carefully. This packet contains the information you need to register your students for this year's conference. If you have any questions, please contact me at 585-733-6546 or mmccloskey@nysskillsusa.org.

Please note the following:

- All participants **must** be SkillsUSA members.
- All conference registration payments or purchase orders must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 7, 2026.
- The conference registration fee is **\$50.00**.
- Conference registration will be conducted online at the national SkillsUSA registration site: www.skillsusa-register.org/Login.aspx
- All participants are encouraged to take the NYS Statesman test. A copy of the test is included in this packet.
- The student and advisor draft tracks are included in this packet.
- **Hotel check-in time is 4:00 p.m. Please do not arrive before this time. Room keys will be issued directly by the hotel.**
- Opening Session will begin at 6:00 p.m. in SkillsUSA dress.
- The NYS SkillsUSA State Officers have a special social event planned for the evening of Monday, November 2, 2026, including music and karaoke. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the conference.
- Black pants or skirt, white dress shirt and tie, or white blouse are the minimum dress requirements for all official activities. Conference T-shirts with khakis or non-ripped jeans may be worn on Monday, November 2, 2026 during work sessions. Students not in proper attire may not be allowed to participate in conference activities.
- The Code of Conduct will be strictly adhered to. A copy is included in this packet.
- Each school may bring up to **four** students. There are triple and quad rooms, but there are only two double beds. **No cots will be provided.** Students will participate in a Capitol tour on Monday. The dress code for that day is the conference T-shirt and non-ripped jeans or khakis.
- This year we will again hold a community service project and collect school supplies for Albany-area students.
- **The state pin design is due by January 8, 2027.**

Last, but equally important, this is a chance for your students to see what the NYS Officer team is about. If students are interested in being a state officer for next year, have them complete the state officer application found under the Forms section at nysskillsusa.org.

Best regards,

Midge McCloskey
NYS SkillsUSA Director

Conference Information

- The Fall Leadership Conference will be held **November 1-3, 2026 at The Desmond Hotel in Albany, New York**. Registration and rooming forms are due by **October 7, 2026**. **Rooms will not be available until 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, so please plan to arrive near that time.**
- All participants must be submitted members.
- This is a dual conference for students and advisors. Joint activities are planned to strengthen local chapters.
- SkillsUSA dress is required for General Sessions and dinner on Sunday.
- The SkillsUSA New York Board of Trustees encourages every chapter to send the lead advisor so that important information for the year can be shared. Materials and handouts will be provided to support local chapters.
- Students from the same chapter will be placed on different teams to bring as much information back to the chapter as possible. When selecting students to attend, choose participants who can work individually and independently from their chaperone or advisor.
- Adult participants will take part in training that supports current national and state initiatives.
- **Rates: Single room package \$450.00 per person, double room package \$325.00 per person, triple/quad room package \$275.00 per person.** Each package includes room accommodations and five meals. Note: there are only two double beds in each room and no cots are available.
- **If two schools are sharing a room, please identify that when emailing your rooming form. When sending payment to Rachael Piccolo, include the Worksheet for Payment.**
- New York State SkillsUSA accepts purchase orders. The conference package must be paid with a school check within 30 days of arrival or the privilege of using a purchase order in the future may be revoked.
- Registration is completed at skillsusa-register.org. An instruction sheet is included in this packet and is available on the NYS SkillsUSA website.
- Complete your reservation by October 7, 2026.
- All room cancellations must be made by **October 23, 2026 with the hotel at 518-640-6077**, and changes **must also be sent to rooms@nysskillsusa.org**. No refunds will be given after that date. Bring your updated rooming list to check-in. Do not make reservations directly with the hotel.
- Send a letter with any special personal needs, such as accessible rooms or food issues, to Katrina Fiorenza at **katfio2306@gmail.com**.



Instructions for Fall Leadership Registration

1. Go to skillsusa-register.org.
2. Select Join and log in.
3. After logging in, click the “click here for conference” tab and choose Fall Leadership.
4. Click New Registrant.
5. Choose Student.
6. Be prepared to enter the participant’s name, address, registration type, T-shirt size, and birth date.
7. Click Save and continue to the next student.
8. Remember to register the advisors.
9. Submit the registration.
10. Use the T-shirt form on the nysskillsusa.org Forms page only for additional T-shirts.



Worksheet for Payment

SkillsUSA New York
Fall Leadership Conference
Sunday, November 1, 2026 to Tuesday, November 3, 2026
The Desmond Hotel
660 Albany Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12211

School			
Contact Person			
Email / Work Number / Cell Number			
Qty.	Description	Rate	Total
	Registration fee	\$50.00 per person	
	People in Double Room	\$325.00 per person	
	People in Triple/Quad Room	\$275.00 per person	
	Single Room	\$450.00 per person	
	Extra Night Double Room	\$150.00 per person	
	Extra Night Single Room	\$200.00 per person	
		Total Payment	

Please include this form every time you send a payment. Remember prices are per person.

Send payment or purchase order to: Rachael Piccolo, 21 Pine Knoll Drive,
 Rochester, NY 14624 | 585-880-0978 | rpiccolo@nysskillsusa.org

New York State SkillsUSA Statesman Award Check-off Sheet

Name	Chapter	Area
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Directions: In order to complete the Statesman, you must approach a NYS officer during designated times and orally complete each component.

- ☐ 1. What are the SkillsUSA colors and what do they represent?
- ☐ 2. What are the five components of the SkillsUSA emblem?
- ☐ 3. Recite the SkillsUSA Creed.
- ☐ 4. In your own words, how would you explain SkillsUSA to someone who has never heard of it?
- ☐ 5. Recite the SkillsUSA motto and explain what it means to you.
- ☐ 6. Choose one SkillsUSA officer position and explain the duties.
- ☐ 7. Who is New York's SkillsUSA Director?
- ☐ 8. Who is the State Education Department Director for New York State?
- ☐ 9. Name your Area VP and the six state officers and their positions: president, secretary, treasurer, parliamentarian, historian, and reporter.
- ☐ 10. Name the three components of the SkillsUSA Framework. Which one means the most to you and why?
- ☐ 11. How many Skills Areas are there in New York State?
- ☐ 12. What is "Skills Time"?
- ☐ 13. What year was SkillsUSA founded?
- ☐ 14. What was SkillsUSA first called? Extra: Recite the SkillsUSA Pledge.



Code of Conduct Agreement

In order that everyone may receive the maximum benefits from participation, the Code of Conduct must always be followed to respect all public and private property, including the hotel.

1. Members are to sleep in the room to which they were assigned.
2. Curfew for this conference is 11:00 p.m. Please respect the rights of others by being as quiet as possible after curfew and remain in your room.
3. Members are not to be in the rooms of another member for any reason.
4. Drugs or alcoholic beverages are not allowed.
5. Members may not leave the hotel without being accompanied by their advisor.
6. Conduct shall remain exemplary.
7. All members must keep their advisors informed of their whereabouts at all times.
8. Official ID badges must be worn at all times.
9. All members must attend and be on time for all general sessions.
10. The dress code must be followed at all required times.

Participant Signature:

Advisor Signature:

SkillsUSA New York Pin Contest 2027

SkillsUSA New York is sponsoring the State Pin Design Contest for the year 2027. The winning design will be used for this year's SkillsUSA New York pin and T-shirt. This is an excellent opportunity for members to receive national recognition because the pin will be mass-produced and traded at the next national conference. All secondary student members of SkillsUSA New York are eligible competitors. **Finalists may not compete in any other contest at the state level.**

Every year, strong designs are eliminated because they do not follow the requirements and guidelines. Please read carefully.

Pin Design Requirements:

- **Must** be original artwork. Do not copy someone else's work from the internet.
- **Must** be rendered in color. Shading or blending is allowed.
- **Must** contain "New York" or "NY".
- **Must** contain "SkillsUSA" as **one word**. You may use the word SkillsUSA, but you **may not** use any part of the national emblem.
- Must display the year **2027**.
- All entries must include two versions of the artwork on a single page.
- The larger version for the T-shirt should be approximately 7 inches by 7 inches.
- The smaller version for the pin should be approximately 1 inch by 1 inch.
- Both versions must be identical.
- Artwork must be submitted on paper no larger than 8.5 by 11 inches.
- **Include a typed paragraph of no more than 100 words explaining the design and colors used.**

Guidelines:

1. The entrant must be a SkillsUSA New York secondary school member.
2. Entrant's name, school, teacher, and lead advisor names must be printed on the reverse side of the artwork.
3. Artwork will not be returned.
4. The judges' decision is final. All rules must be followed to remain eligible.
5. **Entries must be received or postmarked by January 8, 2027.**
6. Medals will be awarded at the NYS SkillsUSA Championships. The first-place winner will be eligible to represent New York at Nationals in the Pin Contest.
7. Mail entries to: New York State SkillsUSA, c/o Midge McCloskey, 21 Pine Knoll Dr., Rochester, NY 14624 | mmccloskey@nysskillsusa.org

Draft Agenda for Fall Leadership Conference

Professional Member Track and Student Track

Day	Professional Member Track	Student Track
Sunday	4:00-5:00 p.m. Registration and hotel check-in 6:00-6:45 p.m. Opening Session and Dinner (Official Dress) 7:15-10:30 p.m. Midge McCloskey and Staff: National and State Initiatives, Membership, State Contest Updates 9:00 p.m. Break	4:00-5:00 p.m. Registration 6:00-6:45 p.m. Opening Session and Dinner (Official Dress) 7:15-10:45 p.m. Group Meetings: Group Leader Introductions, Group Member Introductions, Statesman Award Rules, Team Cheer 9:00 p.m. Break 11:00 p.m. Curfew
Monday	7:30-8:00 a.m. Breakfast (Conference T-shirt) 8:00-8:15 a.m. Patriotic Salute 9:00-11:45 a.m. Advisor Training Town Hall 9:00-10:00 a.m. Coffee & Chat – Welcome both New and Seasoned Advisors. Learn about all the new updates to Fall Leadership. 10:00-12:00 p.m. New Advisor Learning Session 12:00-1:00 p.m. Lunch 1:00-3:00 p.m. Seasoned Advisor Learning Session 6:00-7:00 p.m. Dinner 7:30-8:30 p.m. Area Advisor Meeting with Trustees 9:30-10:45 p.m. Ice Cream Social / Karaoke / Dance (Casual Dress)	7:30-8:00 a.m. Breakfast (Conference T-shirt) 8:00-8:15 a.m. Patriotic Salute 8:15-8:30 a.m. Rules of the Day Capitol Tours: Group Grandma Tala 8:30-10:30 a.m.; Group Moana and Ocean 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Group Teka and Hei Hei 12:30-2:30 p.m.; Group Maui and Te Feti 2:30-4:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions / Rotations: Parliamentary Procedure, 30-Second Elevator Story, Team Building, Framework Rotations, Personal Skills, Professionalism, Work Ethic, Workplace Skills 12:00-1:00 p.m. Lunch 6:00-7:00 p.m. Dinner 7:00-7:30 p.m. New Business Meeting 7:45-9:00 p.m. Career Essentials Activities and Team Building 9:30-10:45 p.m. Ice Cream Social / Karaoke / Dance (Casual Dress) 11:00 p.m. Curfew
Tuesday	8:00-8:30 a.m. Breakfast (Official SkillsUSA Dress) 8:45-9:30 a.m. Statesman Awards, Wrap-up and Review, Nationals Report, State Conference Updates, Questions and Answers 10:00-11:00 a.m. Community Service Presentation, Public Relations Presentation, Conference Closure	8:00-8:30 a.m. Breakfast (Official SkillsUSA Dress) 8:45-9:30 a.m. Statesman Awards, Certificates of Participation, and Conference Summary 10:00-11:00 a.m. Community Service Presentation, Public Relations Presentation, Conference Closure



Fall Leadership Conference
Sunday, November 1, 2026 to Tuesday, November 3, 2026
The Desmond Hotel
660 Albany Shaker Road
Albany, NY 12211

Deadline for online registration, rooming form, and payment: October 7, 2026

School	Address	City/Zip	Phone	
Advisor Responsible	Home/Cell Phone			
Student Room 1	Student Room 2	Student Room 3	Student Room 4	
1.	1.	1.	1.	
2.	2.	2.	2.	
3.	3.	3.	3.	
Advisor/Chaperone Room 1		Advisor/Chaperone Room 2		
1.		1.		
2.		2.		
Total Single Rooms	Total Double Rooms	Total Triple Rooms	Total Rooms	Total People
Students price per person (not including registration fee)				
Based on 3 students in a room (no cots)		\$275.00 each		
Based on 2 students in a room		\$325.00 each		
Adults/chaperones based on 2 adults in a room		\$325.00 each		
Adults/chaperones based on 1 in a room		\$450.00 each		

- Rates are per person and include two nights lodging, five meals, and gratuities.
- Email rooming forms to Katrina Fiorenza at rooms@nysskillsusa.org | Cell: 315-794-0381
- Send payment or purchase order to Rachael Piccolo, 21 Pine Knoll Drive, Rochester, NY 14624 | 585-880-0978 | rpiccolo@nysskillsusa.org
- Registration fee is \$50 per person for everyone attending and is non-refundable.