AMERICAN SPIRIT

PURPOSE

To evaluate local chapter activities related to community service, citizenship and patriotic overtones demonstrating a belief in the American way of life.

ELIGIBILITY (TEAM OF 3)

Open to all active SkillsUSA members.

CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS

SkillsUSA NYS Official Attire:

- Official red blazer, NYS black Jacket, the older red national windbreaker or older red sweater and the black or red jacket from Nationals.
- Button up, collared, white dress shirt (accompanied by a plain, solid black tie), white shirt (collarless or small-collared) or white turtleneck, with any collar not to extend into the lapel of the outer layer coats
- Black dress slacks or black dress skirt. Note: Wearing socks or hose is no longer required. If worn, socks must be black dress socks, and hose must be either black or
- skin-tone and seamless/nonpattern
  Black shoes, that are not backless or open toe.

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

SCOPE OF THE COMPETITION

KNOWLEDGE PERFORMANCE

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

SKILLPERFORMANCE

The competition 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 through creation of a professional portfolio.

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

CONTEST GUIDELINES

How to Enter the Competition

All notebooks/scrapbooks will need to be brought to the orientation meeting.
Interview: Interview time will be given at the time the scrapbook is submitted.
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. 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. (Thurs.)
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.

All competitors must create a one-page résumé and submit a hard copy at orientation. Failure to do so will result in a 10-point penalty.

ORIENTATION

The following are required at the orientation meeting, or a penalty may apply. Refer to the penalties section.

1. Safety form will be collected
2. Resume will be collected.
3. SkillsUSA NYS Official attire is required.
4. NLSC form with student information should be in their name badges with their competition numbers displayed.
4. Notebooks will be collected at orientation. Competitors must retrieve their notebooks from the display room as stated in the program.

DEVICES

Cell phones or other electronic devices (smart watches, smart glasses, etc.) 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. Advisors should allow the competitors to take their phones to the contest areas in case of emergencies

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

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 too).

   A link to an online article/story/picture does not meet the requirements for including the item in any section of the book.

   No complete names should be used anywhere in the book — first or last names only.

2. 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, and a complete list of credentials or certifications offered through the school's SkillsUSA pathway(s) or program of study for the chapter entering the competition. Order should be as stated in description.

   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). Indication of the applicable SkillsUSA Framework component (Personal Skills, Workplace Skills, Technical Skills Grounded in Academics) and Essential Elements for the project. Explain how the essential elements were used to complete 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 done by a single pathway, use the pathway membership; however, if the entire chapter participated, use the total membership numbers)
      7). Letters (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). Indication of the applicable SkillsUSA Framework component (Personal Skills, Workplace Skills, Technical Skills Grounded in Academics) and Essential Elements for the project. Explain how the essential elements were used to complete 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 done by a single pathway, use the pathway membership; however, if the entire chapter participated, use the total membership numbers).

7). Letters (three) of recommendation or recognition

8). Photographs (at least three and no more than six)

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

1). A project description

2). Indication of the applicable SkillsUSA Framework component (Personal Skills, Workplace skills, Technical Skills Grounded in Academics) and Essential Elements for the project. Explain how the essential elements were used to complete 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 done by a single pathway, use the pathway membership; however if the entire chapter participated, use the total membership numbers).

7). Letters (three) of recommendation or recognition

8). Photographs (at least three and no more than six)

f. **Section IV: Letters of Recommendation/Recognition** (three for each project — one from each category below).

1) Letter from a school administrator will be required for each project on school letterhead stationery with a signature and date

2) Letter from a business, organization or industry representative will be required for each project, on official stationery with a signature and date

3) Letter from local newspaper, radio station or TV 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. A letter from the advisor verifying the article, date, source is also acceptable (must be school stationery, dated, and signed).

g. **Section V: Photographs**

1) At least three and not more than six good photographs (digitally reproduced copies are acceptable for 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.).
2) Photos should be affixed in the scrapbook/notebook and identified.
3) 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) Photographic support of the American Spirit entry being planned and implemented (photos of meetings and work being done) and the construction of the main entry (photos of the entire entry being put together) are recommended to include — but are not limited to — photos of meetings, projects, meetings with individuals outside of the chapter, documents getting signed, etc. Include letters or photos that make the entry more of a complete story and believable.

Interview

An interview will be set up with the team of 3 students. They 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 visual aids other than the notebook may be referenced during the interview.

The interview is split into three (3) sections:

1) Introductions
2) Questions from the judges (All team members should participate in answering the questions)
3) Team presents their notebook to the judges (All team members should participate in the presentation)

Note: Remember, this is a timed event. Be careful not to exceed your time limit.

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 SMART goals for the project
1.4. Provide evidence of planning for the project (Example: Committee reports, Framework lessons, pictures)
1.5. Describe which component and essential element(s) from the Framework were employed, and how you used them to help make your project a success
1.6. Describe how the project was planned to use the SkillsUSA Program of Work
1.7. Describe who helped to plan the project
1.8. Describe the methods of implementation used
1.9. Provide a description of how the project was conducted in a sequential order and how you met your SMART goals
1.10. Explain how each member participated in the project
1.11. List the total membership of the chapter and how many members were involved in the project

AM 2.0 — Complete a five- to 10-minute interview process explaining the entry to the judges and a question and-answer session.

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 the elements together
2.6. Communicate your knowledge of the Framework used in your project
2.7. Complete the interview within the time limits set by the competition standard