LEVEL UP 2026 - 2027

NYS SkillsUSA

OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

PURPOSE

To evaluate the competitors' 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 SEVEN)

Open to a team of seven active NYS SkillsUSA members. The team need not be composed 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

NYS SkillsUSA 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 blouse (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 (knee- length). 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, and safety assurance form.**

OBSERVER RULE

Observers will be allowed to view the demonstration provided space is available. No talking or gesturing will be permitted. No member of the audience is to leave or enter the demonstration room while a team is competing.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

1. Supplied by the technical committee:
   a. Official SkillsUSA emblem
   b. Easel for emblem
   c. U.S. flag
   d. Gavel and sound block
   e. Speaker's stand (lectern)
   f. Two draped tables 8 feet long and 30 inches wide
   g. Six chairs
   h. Copy of SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards for each judge
   i. All necessary information and furnishings for judges and technical committee
2. Supplied by the competitor:
   a. The president, team captain or other representative of the team must bring a pencil and a clipboard to orientation.
   b. All competitors must create a one-page resume. See "Resume Requirement" below for guidelines.

RESUME REQUIREMENT

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. Note: Your resume may be judged as part of your contest. Check the Contest Guidelines and/or the updates page on the NYS SkillsUSA Web site: https://www.nysskillsusa.org

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.

ARRANGEMENT OF DEMONSTRATION ROOM

The room provided will be arranged to seat an audience member and will have a demonstration area at the front of the room.

The room will be set up by the technical committee 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 6 feet to 8 feet from the wall, depending on what the facility permits. The chairs may be placed anywhere behind the tables as long as they do not go past the ends of the tables and are in a straight line. 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 a center aisle. If facilities permit, the room could have at least one side aisle added.

PROHIBITED 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 COMPETITION

This is a teamwork and oral presentation competition 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 other than the NYS SkillsUSA knowledge test which will be added to the performance score and taken at orientation. Please bring a number 2 pencil.

SKILL PERFORMANCE

The competition 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.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

1. The official script and description for the competition shall be the one printed in the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards. No other method of performing the ceremony will be allowed for the purpose of the competition demonstration.
2. Teams will draw numbers during the pre-competition orientation meeting to determine the order of performance and demonstration times. Only the president, team captain or other representative of the team will attend the pre-competition meeting.
3. 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 17-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.
4. 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.
5. There is no time limit for the demonstration.

6. The team will be allowed three minutes to properly assemble the competition paraphernalia before the demonstration begins. 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.
7. Only the official SkillsUSA emblem will be used.
8. If notification is given to the competition chairperson at the competitor 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 OPENING CEREMONY

The officers will walk in from the outside entrance to their respective places and remain standing.

President: (Raps twice with gavel.) The meeting will come to order. The thought for the day will be given by the (designated officer).

Designated Officer: (Gives the thought for the day at the speaker's stand and returns to his or her seat.)

President: (Raps gavel once to seat the officers.) The emblem is symbolic of the SkillsUSA organization. You are about to witness the emblem ceremony, in which the meaning of each component of our emblem will be given and the significance of the colors described. (Raps gavel once, calls for Mister or Madame Parliamentarian and steps directly back.)

Parliamentarian: (Picks 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: (Picks 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: (Picks 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: (Picks 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: (Picks 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: (Moves to 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: (Picks 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 the 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 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. OBJ Assemble the competition 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
  2.2.3. Synchronize movements
  2.2.4. Perform natural movements
  2.2.5. The sounding of the gavel will be the only sound made to signal movement
2.3. Handle emblem properly
  2.3.1. Pick up the pieces in the same smooth manner
  2.3.2. Keep emblem straight when being held
  2.3.3. All except the president and the historian 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 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

5.1. Wear clothing that fits well
5.2. Press clothing prior to performance
5.3. Wear the same style jacket as all members. Must have at least one or two buttons buttoned, but all team members must be the same. If a zipper jacket is worn, the jacket must be zipped halfway up or higher. All team members must be the same.
5.4. Wear the same style shirt, dress slacks, black socks and black dress shoes from the SkillsUSA Class A attire requirements as described in the "Clothing Requirements" section above.
5.5. Wear the same style shirt, slacks or skirt, dress shoes and same color sock/hose from the Class A SkillsUSA attire requirements. (Refer to clothing requirements.)
5.6. Arrange hair back and out of eyes for all competitors (does not have to be the same style).

OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES ROOM DIAGRAM

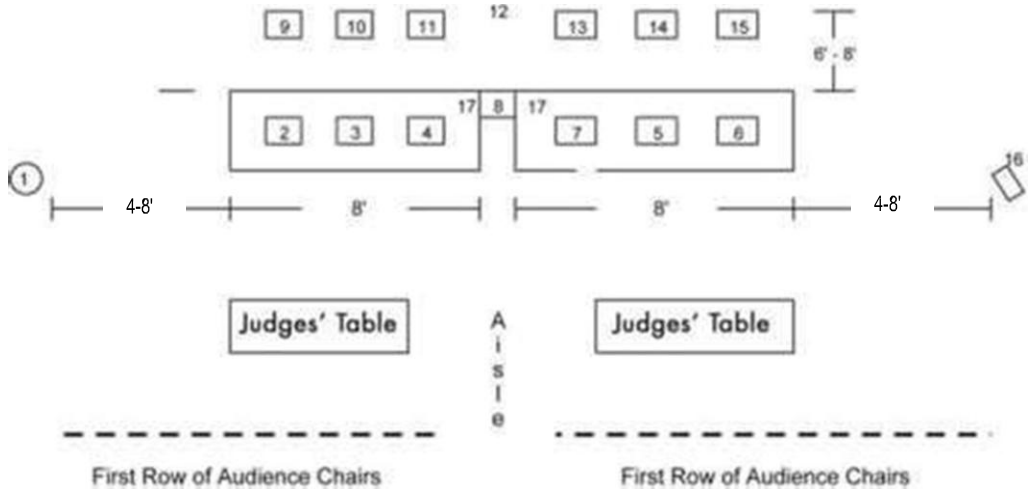

Diagram Key

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 may place the chairs any distance from the tables within the provided 6 feet to 8 feet space. For example, if the provided space is 7 feet, the chairs may be placed 1 foot, 2 feet, etc. from the table up to the point where the back of the chair is 7 feet from the table. Chairs must be in a straight line.

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)