Dear Advisors:
The Area events have started, and Area 2 kicks theirs off February 28th at Morrisville State College. All other Areas will have their events over the next month. It is a good time to get ready for the State event the end of April.

**REMEMBER**

**Membership:**
*Now is the time to get your membership submitted. March 1, 2020 is the deadline and it is coming fast along with regionals and other events. DON'T WAIT TO SUBMIT YOUR MEMBERS.*

Please make sure that the rosters that you submit by MARCH 1, 2020 are correct. Many times, names have been left off due to an oversight and that does cause problems getting them back on your roster.

1. Double check the names that you have already have on your roster. Make sure they are all there.
2. Add any new members.
3. Please make sure you hit the submit button by March 1, 2020

We want to ensure you and your students benefit from every opportunity New York SkillsUSA membership and National membership provides. By submitting your membership, you will open members to receive leadership and Skills membership benefits. It is too easy to put off submitting when things are very busy but now that the holidays and testing have passed, we have regional events and the State Conference ahead and you need to get your membership submitted. Please encourage students to be part of SkillsUSA.
Remember that National SkillsUSA controls the membership and it is their deadline that we all must meet. March 1, 2020.

If you miss the deadline or leave someone off, then we must ask Nationals and jump through hoops in hopes of getting the student on the membership roster and be able to compete in contests.

Each year I have had to ask for a waiver for someone that was missed or left off the roster. I can say that the process is not easy, and we have only been successful 50% of the time.

Just saying that I forgot does not get the waiver. You must prove with documents what happen to leave the student off the roster.

PLEASE: check and double check your rosters and submit them by March 1, 2020.

We cannot stress enough how important our membership submitting by March 1, 2020 is.

Thanks Bruce & Staff

Jackets:

If you’re interested in ordering jackets, Midge is putting in an order. It’s not too early to send her your order so you get your jackets by competition time.

CONTESTS:

Please keep checking the Website and the Standards for update

A Special note to all teams entering Health Knowledge Bowl for them to please read the 2020 standard carefully as the rules for scoring have changed this year.

Please contact Ellen Coughlin coughlinsgotskills@gmail.com if you have questions on the NY Contest Standards or questions on the contests. Please, do not send questions to Nationals SkillsUSA as they are busy, and they only send them back to us.
On the NY State website under the Conference tab is the list of State Contest Standards. It is here where we post changes to the contest standards. If a contest has a change then you will see a symbol of NY next to it that indicates that there is an important change to the standard.

All the Staff can answer most questions on the Standards, but those questions should be directed to Ellen Coughlin and her Cluster Chairs. Please take the time to read these standards and do not think that if you had last year’s that they will be the same as this year.

**State Conference:**
The State Conference packet and all the forms are on the web site [www.nysskillsusa.org/](http://www.nysskillsusa.org/). Check under the conference tab and the forms tab for the information you are looking for. Again, this year we will have the State Conference Packet that you should print off. It is your guide and contains what you will need for the State Conference.

**Under forms tab you will find these.**

Hotel information

Safety Agreement

Basic Participation form

Security Corp Application

Photojournalist application

Contest Helper application

Other information needed for our State Event

**Important Dates**
February/March is Area Competitions: We wish everyone the best in their area competitions. Remember the State Leadership and Skills Championships are open to all members whether they went to Regionals or not.

February 2020 Career Technical Education Month

**Please note:** If you did not pre-register for a contest you will be placed on a waiting list and unless there is an opening you may not be able to register students for that contest.

March 1, 2020: **All memberships due online.** Students registered after this date will not be able to compete at states.

These and other important dates and information can be found on-line in the State Conference packet under forms tab.
From National SkillsUSA:
SkillsUSA National Signing Day is Friday, May 8, 2020

Don’t miss this opportunity to have students recognized! Encourage local SkillsUSA chapters to host a SkillsUSA National Signing Day event by inviting business partners, school administrators, teachers, elected officials, SkillsUSA alumni, family and friends to honor students signing “letters of intent” for a job offer, apprenticeship or advanced technical training.

Event is open to all SkillsUSA high school seniors and college/postsecondary members that are pursuing any of the skilled trades.

REGISTER: Registration opens Feb. 24! All students participating must register for the event. Advisors should register on the site too; they’ll gain access to the SkillsUSA National Signing Day Toolkit and all the details for a successful event!

GET THE SWAG:

- 3,000 SkillsUSA National Signing Day caps will be given away to the first 100 chapters that have 10 or more students register for National Signing Day by the Early Bird deadline - April 3.
- A SkillsUSA National Signing Day table runner will be shipped to each chapter that registers by the deadline, Friday, April 24.
- Don’t miss getting your SkillsUSA National Signing Day merchandise and event items! Available soon for purchase at www.skillsusastore.org/.

Watch for more information as plans develop. Additional details will be available here: www.skillsusa.org/events-training/national-signing-day/.

QUESTIONS?
We’re ready to help! Contact Kim Hegedus at khegedus@skillsusa.org or 317-544-8750.
Submit Your Membership by March 1

The SkillsUSA national membership deadline is **March 1**, but many state deadlines fall earlier.

Student **members** must meet both the state and national **deadline** to be eligible for national competition, to serve as voting delegates or to run as a national officer candidate.

Becoming a professional member of SkillsUSA is one of the best ways to demonstrate to students the opportunities that membership in a national student organization provides. Professional members receive online access to the following as a no-cost member benefit when you submit membership and provide an email address: *SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards, Jump into STEM!* curriculum and *SkillsUSA Career Essentials: Foundations*.

Once membership is submitted, an email will be sent to professional members with a PIN to access the items electronically. Visit [www.skillsusa-register.org/](http://www.skillsusa-register.org/) to register yourself and student members. You can download **state dues and deadlines here**.

SkillsUSA Help Is a Phone Call Away

If you or any chapter advisors need assistance with SkillsUSA membership, hotline operators are ready to help you register members, answer questions about starting a new chapter, or provide ideas on how to engage members and strengthen an existing chapter. Operators are available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday (Eastern time). To reach the hotline, call 844-875-4557 or email operators@skillsusa.org. You can also chat online on the membership registration site.
Earn Recognition for Service Through PVSA Honors
SkillsUSA is a certifying organization of the President’s Volunteer Service Award (PVSA), allowing advisors, student members and registered alumni to earn recognition for community service activities and time spent volunteering. This award is a presidential honor that recognizes the valuable contributions of volunteers across the country who are answering a national call to serve others through their current activities or lifetime efforts. With SkillsUSA’s focus on community service, advisors and students may already meet the requirements to receive the award. To qualify, SkillsUSA members, advisors or alumni can submit a record of their service hours.
For details on qualifying hours and requirements for submission, visit: www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/awards/presidents-volunteer-service-award
Applications must be received by March 31.

Gain National Attention for Student Mentoring
SkillsUSA sponsors a national recognition opportunity called the Student2Student mentoring program. Mentoring connects young people to personal growth and development, as well as economic opportunities. Student2Student recognizes SkillsUSA chapters that are involved in a mentoring program in their communities. When a SkillsUSA chapter mentors an elementary or middle school classroom, it helps younger students imagine careers and helps older students practice their skills. To enter, submit your mentoring project. The winning chapter will be recognized at the National Leadership and Skills Conference and in the Awards and Recognition book. In addition, the winner will be invited to present at SkillsUSA University.
All entries must be submitted by April 1. Winners are announced in May. To download a Mentoring Guide or enter your program for recognition, go to: www.skillsusa.org/programs/mentoring-student2student/mentoring-recognition-program/
For more information, contact Gayle Silvey at gsilvey@skillsusa.org.

SkillsUSA Scholarship Opportunities Now Open for Applications
Applications for several scholarships are now open to benefit SkillsUSA students in pursuit of higher education or certification in their chosen field. Help spread the word so SkillsUSA students can take full advantage of these opportunities:

- SkillsUSA in conjunction with the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) will award four $1,000 scholarships to SkillsUSA members who are also members of NTHS. Two will go to college/postsecondary winners and two will go to high school division winners. Awards will be made directly to an accredited educational institution with an active NTHS chapter. Recipients may only receive one NTHS/SkillsUSA scholarship per lifetime. Deadline for applications is April 1. For more information and to apply: www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/scholarships-financial-aid/national-technical-honor-society/


For additional scholarship information, continually check the website at: www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/scholarships-financial-aid/