

2021 NLSC Contestant Location Requirements

After careful reconsideration and looking at the scope of each competition, safety and health of the contestants, and the integrity of the competition, most Leadership and a few Occupationally Related contestants will be allowed to compete from home. All Skilled competitions will be required to be held on-site.

It's highly encouraged that every effort be made to allow contestants to compete at their school so they can be properly supervised and supported. If a student is competing from home, they cannot receive the technical support they would be able to receive at school. (For example, if something happens to their internet connection or computer, the contestants will have no support, essentially making them unable to complete their task.)

In some cases, like Quiz Bowl, competing from home will put the contestant/teams at a great disadvantage. We ran several trial runs in Quiz Bowl and Health Knowledge Bowl, and the teams competing from home had great difficulty communicating with each other. This basically took the "team" aspect of the competition out of the contest for them, essentially turning that contest into a single-contestant event, which is contrary to an essential component of the competition.

There are a few other Leadership contests that will require competitors to compete at school due to the nature and scope of the competitions. This requirement will be in effect when students will need to demonstrate actual tasks that need to be supervised for safety. It will also be in effect when essential team activities are involved in the competition or when competitors are in special populations that require extra support during the competition.

Here is a list of the seven Leadership contests that will require contestants to be supervised in-person by school staff.

- Action Skills
- Community Action Project
- Employment Application Process
- Job Skill Demo A
- Job Skill Demo Open
- Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- Quiz Bowl

There are also a few Occupationally Related competitions where students will be allowed to compete from home due to the nature and scope of the competitions. All Occupationally Related competitions will be required to be on-site except for the following four, in which contestants can compete from their homes:

- Health Occupations Professional Portfolio
- Medical Math
- Medical Terminology
- Related Technical Math

All Skilled competitions will be required to be on-site so they can be supervised by school personnel and so technical support can be provided to ensure contest integrity. Many competitions are requiring a proctor to also observe and/or record the contestants as they compete to ensure contest integrity and produce materials for judging. For every competition, contestants, advisors/instructors, proctors, and a school administrator will be required to sign a Safety/Health and Integrity Commitment form to ensure that all work was observed being done by the contestants.

SkillsUSA appreciates the efforts to provide every contestant the ability to compete in the SkillsUSA Championships. However, to maintain fairness, safety, contestant support and integrity, this is just not possible for many of our competitions.

Sincerely,
Darren Gibson
Director of Career Competition Events