

April 14, 2023



FRIDAY FLASH

»» Register for SkillsUSA National Signing Day

On **May 4**, [SkillsUSA National Signing Day](#) will celebrate high school seniors and college/postsecondary students who have chosen to pursue careers as professionals in the skilled trades. Register by **April 21** for the following benefits as available:

- First 500 registrants receive Signing Day baseball caps.
- First 250 advisors who register five or more students receive a \$50 Lowe's gift card.
- Registrants will receive Signing Day table runners (while supplies last).



Advisors, the [Signing Day Toolkit](#) will help you plan an event, and it is available now on the [Signing Day](#) webpage. All chapters are asked to [submit their Signing Day photos, videos and stories](#) to SkillsUSA's communications team so we can highlight your local events. If you post on social media, use the hashtag [#SkillsUSANationalSigningDay](#).

»» Make Your Mark with Aerotek Scholarship Opportunity

SkillsUSA has partnered with [Aerotek](#) to create the "Make Your Mark" scholarship, which will deliver multiple awards of up to \$5,000 to qualified applicants. SkillsUSA members who apply must be high school seniors planning to enroll in — or a college/postsecondary student already enrolled in — a community college, technical college, certificate program or apprenticeship in one of these career pathways:

- Arts, A/V and Communications (Telecommunications Cabling only)
- Architecture & Construction
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing
- STEM
- Transportation

Priority selection will be given to students with financial need who are upskilling their current knowledge base. SkillsUSA members in underserved communities are encouraged to apply, and scholarships will be awarded across as many states as possible to create equity in distribution. [Learn more online and apply](#)

by [April 30](#). Scholarships will be awarded on or before May 30. Note that these scholarships are not for four-year schools. For questions, email [Megan Flinn](#).

»» SkillsUSA Technical Fridays Workshops

Join us for “SkillsUSA Technical Fridays,” a series of virtual workshops led by industry experts to help teachers develop specific technical skills relevant to their career fields. Leave the sessions with new knowledge



and skills to implement in the classroom. On **April 21**, from 4-5 p.m. ET, SkillsUSA advisor Travis Black will lead a workshop on renovating investment properties. Black brings 27 years of experience in renovating and managing income-generating properties. Attendees will learn tips and tricks that will bring the best ROI. The session will include authentic property renovation pictures. [Register today](#), and learn more about the workshops [on our website](#). If you have questions, contact [Karolina Belen](#).

»» Make Community Contributions for SkillsUSA National Week of Service

SkillsUSA is asking all chapters to conduct and promote a community service project during the [National Week of Service](#), **May 7-13**. This event helps commemorate the founding of SkillsUSA on May 8, 1965. Connect with SkillsUSA on social media by posting photos of your activities online. Chapter advisors or officers should email a brief description of their chapter events to [Gayle Silvey](#). In return, we’ll send a SkillsUSA logo gift item valued at \$15.

We encourage participants to publicize your projects locally. To locate media resources for your community, including contact information for area newspapers, [use our SkillsUSA Advocacy Site](#). On the site, click on “Media,” enter your ZIP code, and choose up to six outlets at a time. Then, click on “Send a Message.” To see the full contact information for each outlet, click on the name of the newspaper.

»» Data Dive: Understanding “The SkillsUSA Advantage”

Join other SkillsUSA partners and supporters on **May 10 at 3 p.m. ET** for a webinar on [“The SkillsUSA Advantage”](#) report and learn how SkillsUSA experiences help create purpose, passion and skill in every student. SkillsUSA Executive Director Chelle Travis and Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Ricardo Romanillos will review data from “The SkillsUSA Advantage” report recently released by the Student Research Foundation and discuss how SkillsUSA members across all groups consistently outperform peers who are not enrolled in career and technical student organizations (CTSOs). SkillsUSA national officer Lili Valencia will also share her personal perspective on how participation in SkillsUSA and work-based experiences have informed her future. [Register](#) now and please share this opportunity with your school or state partners and supporters. For questions, contact [Ricardo Romanillos](#).

»» Focus Students on Safety

The CareerSafe National Youth Safety Video Contest challenges students to create a two-minute video demonstrating workplace safety. Send submissions to CareerSafe by **April 30**. The winning students will receive a SkillsUSA prize pack and a scholarship of up to \$2,500, and the winning school will receive a prize of up to \$5,000. For more information and to submit your entry, [visit the CareerSafe website](#).

»» Seeking Musical Talent to Perform National Anthem at NLSC

Do you have a musical gift to share with the SkillsUSA community? If so, apply to perform the national anthem on June 20 at the Opening Session of the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference. The chosen performer will be offered complimentary conference registration if their sole purpose of attendance is to perform the national anthem. [Apply by 5 p.m. ET on Friday, April 28](#). For questions, contact [Joey Baker](#).

»» Apply for the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence

Applications are now open for the [Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence](#) awards. The prize recognizes outstanding instruction in the skilled trades in U.S. public high schools and the teachers who inspire students to learn skills to prepare for life after graduation. In 2023, Harbor Freight will award more than \$1.5 million in cash prizes to 25 skilled trades teachers and their programs. In 2022, the prize recognized 12 SkillsUSA instructors as winners. Applications must be received by **May 5**. Winners will be announced in October.

»» Applications Open for Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Travel Scholarships

In partnership with Harbor Freight Tools for Schools, SkillsUSA is proud to announce a travel scholarship opportunity for SkillsUSA high school members in selected trades who are competing in the 2023 SkillsUSA Championships. Eligible members can apply to receive up to \$1,500 to assist in attending the 2023 National Leadership & Skills Conference. [Applications will be accepted](#) through **May 22**. Recipients will be announced on May 25.

»» The SkillsUSA Store – Collector's Edition Pin Set

Personalize any jacket or bag with the new [SkillsUSA Collector's Edition Pin Set](#). The set includes six custom soft enamel lapel pins including a license plate and a red blazer. Showcase your SkillsUSA pride and let the world know you support the organization. This would be a fun end-of-year gift for local or state officer teams.



»» Press Release Template for State Conference Participants

The [SkillsUSA Advocacy site](#) has a press release template to help state conference participants share their competition results with their local media. Parents, instructors or students can send these emails to newspapers or TV stations in your area. Please spread the word about this important tool; this is a great assignment for school or state reporters! For questions, email [Jane Short](#).