



## 2026 INDIANA SkillsUSA CHAMPIONSHIPS TASK AND MATERIALS LIST

**SKILL OR LEADERSHIP AREA:** PHOTOGRAPHY

**CONTEST LOCATION:**

Indiana State Fairgrounds West Pavilion  
1202 E. 38<sup>th</sup> St  
Indianapolis, IN 46205

**DATE:** Saturday April 11, 2026

**TIME:** 7:30 am arrive at the West Pavilion

7:45 am be at contest area

8:00 am contest begins

**PURPOSE**

To evaluate each contestant's preparation for employment and to recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism in the field of (still) Photography.

**CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS:**

*NO SCHOOL LOGO OR SCHOOL AFFILIATION ANYWHERE ON CLOTHING or IT MUST BE COVERED COMPLETELY*

- Men: White polo shirt with black dress pants, black socks and black leather shoes
- Women: White polo shirt with black dress pants or skirt (no higher than knee), black socks or black or skin-tone seamless hose with black leather shoes.

### **\*AWARDS CEREMONY DRESS CODE\***

*A Dress Code will be enforced during the Awards Ceremony. To accept an award "on-stage", the student must wear the "Official SkillsUSA Uniform", State T-Shirt or the competition attire. **NO SHORTS OR HATS!!!***

**ALL CONTESTANTS MUST SUBMIT A 1-PAGE RESUME, FRONT ONLY, TO BE TURNED IN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CONTEST. A 10 POINT DEDUCTION WILL BE GIVEN IF IT IS NOT TURNED IN AT THIS TIME. DO NOT PUT IN PROTECTOR OR FOLDERS.**

**SCOPE:**

The contest is defined by industry standards. The contest is divided into two parts: pre-contest assignment and onsite contest with a written exam testing overall photographic knowledge and a skill performance.

**EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS:**

**SUPPLIED BY STUDENT:**

This is a minimum required equipment list. Any additional accessories are acceptable and

up to the discretion of the student (i.e., on-camera flash, reflector, additional lenses, etc.). Remember that all equipment brought on the “field assignment” must be carried by the student and fit in shared bus seating (in essence, one medium to large camera bag).

\*\*\*\*SEE BELOW

## TASKS TO BE PERFORMED

# 2026 SkillsUSA Championships Photography Contest PART 1

### *Before you come to the contest*

A. **Photo Shoot:** Using a Digital Camera, (ZLR’s or compact not accepted!) photograph the following subjects to demonstrate the scope of your photographic ability to the judges. Take 5 photographs of each. Photos must be taken within the last 120 days. Bring digital files for the judges to examine.

- Natural Light Portrait. Human Subject in natural lighting
- Studio Light Portrait. Human Subject in studio lighting
- Product Photography Studio Shoot. One subject of your choosing
- Scenery or Urban Landscape. Distant to medium location of your choice
- Choice. Any other subject to demonstrate your ability to the judges

B. **Files:** Provide the judges with your photos loaded onto a flash drive (place a label with your contestant number on the Flash Drive), organized into the following four folders labeled accordingly: Natural Light Portrait, Studio Light Portrait, Product, Landscape, and Choice.

C. **Print Competition:** Competitors must submit two prints produced before the competition in any category of their choice. Prints will be on public display and must *not* contain any questionable content, including but not limited to drugs, sex, violence, illegal activity, etc. Prints must adhere to the following criteria:

- Print size must be an 11"x14" or 10"x15"
- Both prints must be mounted to a 16"x20" black foam core board (¼" thick) with a 16"x20" black over mat
- Each print must have a label placed on the back upper middle section that includes the following information:
  - 1). Competitor number (given at the competition)
  - 2). Cell phone number
- Prints must be brought to the competition by Saturday at 7:45am. Prints received after this time will receive a penalty.
- You will be judged according to the following criteria, as well as other elements:  
Composition                      Exposure                      Impact

Contrast	Mounting	Creativity
Quality of Printing	Focus	Camera Technique
Point of View	Lighting	Orientation

<https://www.ppa.com/events/photo-competitions/the-12-elements-of-a-merit-image>

D. **Written Letter:** Signed by an instructor, verifying that all work is that of the student.

E. **Resume:** 1-page resume turned into the judge at the beginning of the contest (before 8am). There is a penalty if turned in late.

## 2026 SkillsUSA Championships Photography Contest PART 2

**Contest Day: Saturday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm**

### 1. **Bring With You**

- Digital SLR with lens (ZLR's or compact not accepted!), batteries, charger, tripod, light meter.
- Flash drive or external hard drive to transfer files
- Laptop computer with Adobe Photoshop. *Photoshop Elements is permissible to use but may not have the full functionality needed. Contestants may be at a disadvantage during the photo editing portion of the contest.*
- Flash drive with photo shoot images organized into five folders described in the pre-contest flyer.
- Two mounted 11"x14" or 10"x15" Photos. Give your prints to the judges. They will be displayed for the public to see. Be sure your contestant number is the only identifying information on the prints.

### 2. **Saturday's Contest Scope** (tentative)

- a. **Field Assignment:** Location photo shoot at the Indiana State Fairgrounds (theme given the morning of the contest).
- b. **Digital Editing:** Students should know cloning, image size, layers, saving files, B&W levels, color correcting, create text, cropping, cut and paste, unsharp mask, filters, desaturation (please know your photoshop)
- c. **Portrait studio:** Take a portrait headshot in the studio setting with various lighting set ups. (Subject to change)

3. **Debriefing** (print photo critic)
  - a. at the end of the contest in contest area (advisors may attend debriefing)
  - b. judges closing comments

Revised 3/26