



2026 INDIANA SKILLSUSA CHAMPIONSHIPS TASK & MATERIALS LIST

SKILL OR LEADERSHIP AREA: NATURAL HAIR BRAIDING

CONTEST LOCATION:

State Fair Grounds West Pavilion
1202 E. 38th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46208

DATE: Saturday April 11, 2026

TIME: 6:00 am Concession stand opens

7:30 am arrive at West Pavilion

7:45 am be at contest area

8:00 am contest begins

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the high school braiding and hair design contest is to showcase creativity, skill, and individuality in the art of hairstyling, while promoting self-expression and craftsmanship among students.

DRESS CODE:

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

Men and Women:

- School uniform appropriate to contest: professional attire worn in the classroom such as cosmetology scrubs with all identifiers covered. This includes shoes
- Black Scrub or Dress Pants: No Denim
- Black socks or nude hose, if worn
- Black leather like shoes: no buckles, jewels, boots, canvas or cloth shoes
- Hair, nail and make up looks professional

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!!!***

EACH COMPETITORS MUST PROVIDE A 1-PAGE RESUME, FRONT ONLY, AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CONTEST, THERE IS A 10 PT. DEDUCTION IF ONE IS NOT TURNED IN AT THIS TIME. DO NOT PUT IN SHEET PROTECTORS OR FOLDERS.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to active SkillsUSA members enrolled in programs with cosmetology as the occupational objective.

Equipment and materials

1. Supplied by the technical committee
 - a. All tables, chairs, power cords

Supplied by the contestants

1. All necessary equipment and items to complete in the natural hair braiding competition/and fantasy theme. This includes but is not limited to;

- Combs
- Brushes
- Proper drape
- Towels (4)
- Rubber bands
- Surge cord
- Sectioning clips
- Hand sanitizer
- Gel, mousse
- Spray bottle filled with water
- Styling products
- Pre-stretched hair (at least 26-32 inches
- Pre-stretched colored hair at least (4) colors no more than 6
- Any supplies needed for holding products/ or sectioning the hair(gel band,or ring)etc
- Hair yarn,charms, and tinsel
- Disinfectant labeled hospital grade
- First-aid kit
- 1 large brown paper bag for waste material
- Hair steamer for braids????

Theme Spring blossom

1. **Feed-in with combination knotless, fulani braids, stitch, travel braids, no full head of knotless braids**
2. Bring a picture of your design and braids (2)
3. Can bring the braid rack to separate the hair/ client cannot hold the hair for you
4. Neatness does count, bring a brown bag to clean up your hair
5. 2:30 time limit
6. A 3–5-minute interview will be on what your fantasy style consists of and why you chose the style. Bring a short, typed paragraph explaining your fantasy style, displayed at your workstation. The completed design must resemble the sketch or picture presented
7. Braiding freestyle on natural hair 8.

Sanitation of area is very important, keep working area clean while braiding

Not allowed items during competition

- No phones are allowed in the testing area.
- or any electronic devices including smart watches

- Talking to contestants, instructor or spectators during competition
- Touching the hair before the contest actually starts, contestants need to be there a little early to separate the hair and set up.
- No tools in pockets or mouth (will be disqualified)
- No breaks until after the contest
- No pictures on cell phones allowed must have a hard copy

Natural Hair Braiding State Agenda

Saturday:

7:45 am: Contestants will enter Contest area

8:00 – 8:30 am: Kit and Uniform Check and interview

8:30 – 11:00 am: Contest begins (2 ½ hour time limit)

11:00 – 11:30 am: Final Judging

The following rules are for the state contest only.

Rev 3/26