

Feb. 13, 2026



»» SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference Staff Applications

We are looking for SkillsUSA alumni and supports who would like to serve the organization during the 2026 National Leadership & Skills Conference. SkillsUSA is currently accepting applications for conference support contractor roles. See each job description for all the details, including the days you would be needed and the compensation you would receive for completing this role.



The application priority deadline is Feb. 18. Review the job description and apply here: [NLSC 2026: Conference Staff Application](#).

»» Present at SkillsUSA LEARN at NLSC!

Are you interested in sharing your expertise with others? The application is now open for interested presenters to submit proposals for professional development sessions at the 2026 National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC)! As part of the SkillsUSA LEARN initiative, we are reimagining professional development to deliver high-quality, engaging learning experiences that are practical, relevant and grounded in the SkillsUSA Framework. Proposals are being accepted for the following tracks:

- **Student Development** – *for students to develop their personal, workplace, and technical skills*
- **CTE Instructor Innovation and Development** – *for instructors to improve instruction*
- **Advisor Development** – *for advisors to develop chapters*
- **CTE Administrator/Leadership Development** – *for local school administrators*

Find more information about the tracks and proposal requirements in the [application here](#). Proposals will be accepted until Friday, March 6, at 5 p.m. EST.

We encourage you to submit a proposal yourself and/or share the application link with your student leaders, fellow educators or industry partners that can provide value to SkillsUSA members!

We look forward to providing premier learning opportunities for students, advisors and administrators at NLSC 2026! Questions? Contact pd@skillsusa.org.

»» Travel Grants Available for Immersive Experience: Construction During NLSC

SkillsUSA is offering travel grants for the **Immersive Experience: Construction** at the 2026 National Leadership & Skills Conference. This hands-on program allows students to earn credentials, visit active jobsites and network with industry pros. To ensure all states have an equal opportunity to participate, grant applications are being released in two phases. Check the website today to see the timeline and secure funding for your students! [Learn more and apply here.](#)

»» Outstanding Career and Technical Educator Award: Nominations Open

The Outstanding Career and Technical Educator Award honors educators who exemplify excellence in CTE and meaningful engagement with SkillsUSA. Nominees may be put forward by peers, colleagues, supervisors, or students, and are selected based on their impact in education and contributions to SkillsUSA across local, state, and national levels. Award recipients are recognized during the National Leadership & Skills Conference.

Nominations are due by March 1. More information and the nomination form can be found at www.skillsusa.org/recognition/awards-programs/. For questions or support with the nomination process, contact Chris Anderson at pd@skillsusa.org.

»» Honorary Life Membership Award: Nominations Open

The SkillsUSA Honorary Life Membership Award recognizes individuals whose long-standing service has advanced the mission and impact of SkillsUSA at the local, state, and national levels. This honor is reserved for professional members who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the organization and to career and technical education. Recipients are recognized during the Recognition Session at the National Leadership & Skills Conference.

Nominations are due by March 1. More information and the nomination form can be found at www.skillsusa.org/recognition/awards-programs/. For questions or support with the nomination process, contact Chris Anderson at pd@skillsusa.org.

»» Advisor of the Year – Educator Update

The SkillsUSA Advisor of the Year (AOY) program is an opportunity to recognize educators who are making a lasting impact on students by bringing the SkillsUSA mission to life every day. Advisors play a critical role in empowering students to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders, and responsible community members through intentional instruction, leadership development, and real-world skill application.

Each state association may recognize an Advisor of the Year. State-level recipients advance to regional consideration, with regional winners interviewed during NLSC and one national Advisor of the Year selected. The application deadline is set by each state association.



Eligibility for Regional and National Consideration

To be eligible beyond the state level, advisors must:

- Be a paid, Professional SkillsUSA member in the current school year

- Lead a chapter that has achieved at least Level 2 in the SkillsUSA Chapter Excellence Program during the current school year

Application Focus Areas

Advisor of the Year applications center on how educators:

- Demonstrate their philosophy on career and technical education and SkillsUSA Framework skill development
- Intentionally integrate the SkillsUSA Framework into classroom instruction and chapter activities
- Communicate student skill development aligned to the SkillsUSA Framework

If you are interested in being considered or would like more information about your state’s selection process, contact your State Director. For general questions, please reach out to Mary Kavan at pd@skillsusa.org.

Thank you for the work you do to support students and strengthen SkillsUSA programs across the nation.

»» Hershey Heartwarming Young Heroes Grants Application Open Now Through March 15

In partnership with The Hershey Company, YSA will award [Hershey Heartwarming Young Heroes Grants](#) for Youth Service Month (April 10 - May 10, 2026) & Global Youth Service Day (April 24-26, 2026) projects and events.

Youth changemakers - ages 5 to 25 - in the U.S. and Canada are eligible to apply for these grants to lead and engage their peers in awareness, service, and philanthropy projects or youth voice, leadership, and advocacy events in their communities.



This year, youth may apply for grants of \$250, \$500, or \$1,000 depending on the number of youth who will be participating as project volunteers or event participants. A total of \$50,000 in grants will be awarded. Grant options include:

- \$250 – at least 25 youth project volunteers / event participants
- \$500 – at least 50 youth project volunteers / event participants
- \$1,000 – at least 100 youth project volunteers / event participants

We’re looking for ideas straight from your heart that build meaningful connections and create more inclusive, empathetic, and kind communities. New for 2026, we're also looking to support events that provide opportunities for youth voice, leadership, or advocacy in your community.

[Learn More & Apply by March 15 at YSA.org/Hershey](https://www.skillsusa.org/Hershey)

»» REMINDER: Share your SkillsUSA Week Photos

We would like to remind you to please share your SkillsUSA Week photos with us. We would like to feature your photos in a Flickr collection on our website. You can email photos or photo links to [Craig Moore](#) or [upload them here](#).

»» Leading With Purpose and Passion at Greater Lowell Tech

What happens when you trade traditional school tours for student-led "curveballs"? At Greater Lowell Technical High School, leadership isn't just taught, it's forged under pressure. From broken printers to last-minute mascot cameos, students are proving that adaptability is the ultimate career skill.

Driven by the passion of alumna and "Director of Fun" Sharon Cornellier, this SkillsUSA Model of Excellence chapter has grown into a powerhouse of 2,400 members. Discover how they've revolutionized student engagement and why Cornellier believes SkillsUSA isn't just an activity. It's an identity.



[Read the full story on the SkillsUSA Champions Hub.](#)

»» Don't Forget to Register Members by the March 1 Deadline

The national SkillsUSA membership deadline is **March 1**. Student members must meet both state and national membership deadlines to be eligible for national competitions, to serve as voting delegates or to run for national office. This deadline also applies to national scholarships, awards and honors. For information on state membership deadlines, visit the [State Association Dues and Deadlines](#) link.

Professional members, it isn't too late to take advantage of your 2025-26 membership benefits, including access to these resources:

- **Professional Member Resources:**
 - **SkillsUSA Pathful:** a dynamic digital platform that supports career exploration and connects students with industry professionals through live and on-demand content
 - SkillsUSA Framework Integration Toolkit
 - SkillsUSA Program of Work Toolkit
 - Xplore
 - SkillsUSA Technical Standards
 - E-Courses (SkillsUSA Framework Certification, CTE Knowledge Certification and Building Self-Motivation in Student Leaders).
 - Advisor Professional Development

»» SkillsUSA College/Postsecondary Scholarships Are Open!

Many students are thinking ahead to the cost of college and SkillsUSA offers exclusive scholarship opportunities for members pursuing postsecondary education. Registered SkillsUSA members with upcoming tuition expenses for the fall 2026 academic term can apply for scholarships provided by SkillsUSA and our industry partners.



Scholarships now open include:

- Clifford “Ted” Rees Memorial Scholarship (\$2,500, closes April 17)
- Fine Homebuilding #KeepCraftAlive Scholarship (\$2,500, closes April 17)
- Larry Rash Memorial Scholarship (\$2,500, closes April 17)
- Marsha Daves Memorial Scholarship (\$1,500, closes April 17)
- NAPA/SkillsUSA Transportation Repair Pathway Scholarship (\$2,500, closes June 30)
- National Technical Honor Society Scholarship (\$1,000, closes April 17)
- Sharon Melton Myers Memorial (\$1,000, closes April 17)

SkillsUSA partners with Kaleidoscope to provide a streamlined application platform. Students are encouraged to explore the [SkillsUSA Scholarships webpage](#) now to view available opportunities and more will be posted soon. For scholarship questions or assistance in applying, reach out to [Customer Care](#).

»» Share Your Community Service Stories with SkillsUSA!

The [SkillsUSA Champions digital hub](#) provides new content frequently, from inspiring features to stories about the great work chapters and partners are doing. We know your chapters are doing some amazing community service work this holiday season and we would love to write about it. To submit a story idea, send us the details through our [“Submit a Story”](#) link, and we’ll contact you.