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**2021 SkillsUSA State Competition Information**

**Qualifier Testing – March 1-5. Competitions – April 14-23.**

**This Year’s State Competitions will be FULL VIRTUAL Delivery.**

**Reasons For This Decision:**

* Safety of our Participants;
* Many School Systems are on or reverting to “Plan C” (as of December 1) and anticipation of Plan C for this spring (according to DPI and news forecasts), and therefore students will be prohibited from entering school facilities or premises;
* Anticipated closures and shutdowns;
* Travel Restrictions for most schools;
* No assurance of safety & supervision of students performing physical skill/job tasks from home;
* Nationals will be virtual (but with more allowances than NC currently allows).

**What This Means:**

* STUDENTS WILL COMPETE ONLINE, and will need internet access from home to compete\*\*;
* Students will NOT be expected or required to travel anywhere, including to school;
* Students will likely be participating in their competitions From Home (school if allowed);
* Students will NOT be handling tools, equipment or materials
1. **COMPETITION DELIVERIES**

Student participation in competitions may consist of one or more of the following (depending on their contest, but not limited to):

* **Live Zoom**
* Reverse Competitions, where contestant will “guide” or walk the judges through the actions to perform specific jobs/tasks
* Live Interview, Question & Answer segments, Responding to Scenarios, Theory
* Videos/Images the contestant will need to provide explanations to or responses for
* Simulations performed on computer
* **Submissions (Electronic)**
* Recorded Presentations and/or Interviews to be submitted online
* Projects requiring electronic submission (notebooks, designs, photos of projects, etc.)
* **Online Exam**
1. **CONTEST DELIVERY DECISIONS ??**

Decisions on specific delivery of each contest are still being developed and will be announced through the contest delivery platform (Canvas) and/or on our website.

Contest deliveries might change, due to multiple factors associated with registration numbers, contest committees, available resources, etc.

**Minimum Contestant Numbers:**

**NOTE: Contests with 3 or less entries may be converted to the Online Exam Delivery.** (This has been the policy of SkillsUSA North Carolina for many years.) This means the Qualifier test will be the Professional Development Test, and the State Conference Competition will be the Contest/Trade-specific Exam. *By SkillsUSA National Policy,* ***Any Method of determining 1st Place finisher qualifies contestant for advancement to the national level competition****.*

**\*These decisions will be made after registration for the Qualifier Testing closes, and again when the registration for state conference closes.**  Participants and advisors will be notified shortly thereafter.

1. **TECHNICAL STANDARDS**
* Use the National Technical Standards as usual to identify Skills and Competencies to potentially be evaluated during the competition.
* However, for Live Zoom Contest Deliveries, students will not need the materials and tools identified under the section “Supplied by the contestant”, since they will not be “building” or operating any physical machinery or tools. There may be a few exceptions where a skill or task can be safely performed at home (Drafting, Nail Care, etc.), and those will be noted on the [Competition Guidelines Virtual](https://www.skillsusanc.org/competition-guidelines-virtual) page on our SkillsUSAnc.org website.
* As identified in the Nat’l Technical Standards Virtual, **State Contestants will need a Computer with high-speed internet capability** and camera to use applications such as Zoom. The minimum recommended internet bandwidth speeds for joining Zoom meetings, accessing on-demand curriculum and other online operations is 2.0 Mbps up and down. You can test your current internet speeds by following this link: [www.speedtest.net](http://www.speedtest.net). Allow the page to load, click on GO.
1. **STATE CONFERENCE DATES –**

**Online Testing: March 1-5 Contests: April 14-23**

**State Contest Dates are April 14-23.**

**This may include School Days, School Hours, Afternoon Hours, Saturdays.**

We will post the contest schedule as soon as possible. But please note that this is a cumbersome task with contest chairpersons having to coordinate with judges, other assisting personnel, Zoom limitations, etc.

* **ALL CONTESTANTS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE A QUALIFIER TEST MARCH 1-5**

**PRIOR TO ADVANCING TO STATE LEVEL COMPETITION.** (See Below)

1. **REGIONAL CONFERENCES**

There will be NO Regional Conferences this year, onsite or virtual.

1. **QUALIFIER ONLINE TESTING**
* \*\*All interested state contest participants **ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE** an online Qualifier Test – **High School, Middle School and PostSecondary** students.
* **Qualifier testing will take place online between Monday March 1 – Friday March 5**. Access Passcodes will be sent to advisors for student access to tests. All testing will be accessed through Canvas, our contest access program.
* **Qualifier tests will enable many contests to narrow down finalists to a manageable number** for online engagement, projecting 12 TOTAL contestants (generally 8 HS & 4 PS) to compete in April.
* In the event of TIE scores, the contestant with the quickest completion time will finish higher. (The Qualifier Test could possibly also serve as a state competition tie-breaker item if needed.)
* Advisors & Students will be notified of their status the following week, to allow for qualifiers to register for State Competition.
* For Team contests, all team members are required to take the Qualifier test INDIVIDUALLY. The scores from all team members will be combined for a total score.
* Qualifier tests will be either Skill/Trade Tests or Professional Development Tests. Please see the [Competition Guidelines Virtual](https://www.skillsusanc.org/competition-guidelines-virtual) page on our SkillsUSAnc.org website for qualifier test type. **SUBJECT TO CHANGE.** If a specific trade-area test cannot be located, the SkillsUSA Professional Development test will be given. Most Qualifier tests will be 50 Questions with a 1-hour time limit.
* Link to [SkillsUSA Professional Development Test Study Guide](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CPaul%5CDropbox%5CSkillsUSA%5CTech%20Standards%5C1%202020-2021%20Tech%20Standards%5C2021%20TECH%20STANDARDS%20FULL%20SET%5CState%20PD%20Test%20Study%20Guide_2021.docx) .
* \*For those students who fail to qualify for the April contest in which they originally sign up for, they will be afforded the opportunity to sign up for a different contest from a list that will be posted in early March. The majority of these will be leadership contests with no contestant limits.
* Resumes are not required for the Qualifer Online Testing event.
* Qualifier testing will be **$5** per registered participant.
* **Qualifier Test registration deadline is February 16.**
1. **STATE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

Qualifier Test (March) – **$5**

Student-Contestant (April) who were registered for the initial Qualifier Testing – **$40**

Student-Contestant (April) who were not registered for the initial Qualifier Testing – **$60**

Advisors (State Conference) – **Free** (We still need for advisors to register for the state conference event, for authorization & identification purposes.)

**Register** online at [Register.SkillsUSA.org](https://www.skillsusa-register.org/Login.aspx)

**Registration Deadlines:**

**Online Qualifier Testing – February 16.**

**State Conference Competition – March 23.**

**Invoices for both events:**

We will create and send all invoices once we close registration for each event. If you would like your invoice earlier, please contact us when you have completed your registrations and are ready for your invoice. info@SkillsUSAnc.org

**Payments:**

**Payment** should be received in our office by **April 5**.

*Remit Payment to:* ***SkillsUSA North Carolina****,* ***PO Box 28064,******Raleigh, NC 27611***

If you wish to pay by **Credit Card** **for your group**, please let us know and we will send you a credit card invoice which you can pay directly online. We will waive the 4% card processing fee this spring. We cannot accept credit card payments from individual students or parents, only schools & advisors.

1. **REGISTERING PARTICPANTS**

**Register** online at [Register.SkillsUSA.org](https://www.skillsusa-register.org/Login.aspx)

It is **CRITICAL** that you include the **student’s EMAIL ADDRESS and DOB** when registering for both the Qualifier Event and the State Conference Virtual Event. **This is critical for their Contest & Testing login and program access** information and any vital contest information or links.

1. **CANVAS – OUR COMPETITION & TESTING CONTESTANT ACCESS PLATFORM**

We will be utilizing CANVAS as our participant access for all of our Virtual Contest Deliveries this year. This includes the Qualifier Test, Resume submissions, live engagement with contests, contest submissions, and other contest Exams.

Participants will have 1 simple platform to access ALL contest deliveries and requirements.

Participants will NOT need to purchase or previously have used Canvas – they will simply reply to an email invitation to “Enroll” in the contest.

\***Including Student Email Addresses during the Registration Process will be critical, or your students will not be able to access their online testing and contest participation.\***

1. **RESUME REQUIREMENT**

All contestants for the April Competitions are **REQUIRED** to submit a resume. Resumes will be submitted **in PDF file format only BY APRIL 14** through the Canvas state conference platform. A sample Resume can be found on our State Conference page at: <http://www.skillsusanc.org/state-conference> . Resumes are NOT required for the Qualifier Testing in March.

1. **CONTESTANT FAIR PLAY PLEDGE**

All Contestants are required to complete, sign (electronic) and submit the SkillsUSA Fair Play Pledge through the Canvas platform prior to their competition, preferably **BY March 1**.

1. **TEAM CONTESTS & PROJECTS**

Some contests require teams to “work together” and/or “construct” projects (Promotional Bulletin Board, Chapter Display, Career Pathways Showcase, Skill Project Showcase, etc.). Check on your local school system policies & school plan setting first before considering and registering for these particular contests. **There are multiple SAFE ways for students to collaborate and work on team events while being physically apart and/or social distanced!** **SkillsUSA North Carolina will not support student participation in any contest which violates school policies.**

1. **ORIENTATIONS**

Some contests may require an orientation in preparation for your competition. This information will be communicated to registered contestants through the Canvas Contestant Platform or by email.

1. **COMPETITION ATTIRE / DRESS**

Official SkillsUSA Dress will not be required for state competitions this year. However, Professional or Upper Casual Attire appropriate to your competition should be worn, as it will likely affect the judges’ perception of the competitors. This includes Live online engagement as well as recorded presentations.

1. **RELEASES & PERMISSION FORMS**
	* + **Liability, Medical, Sound, Photo Release:** At the bottom of each individual registration page is the “**Personal Liability and Medical Release Form, the Code of Conduct, and Photography and Sound Release agreements”** check boxes – *“****Participants-Check here if you are over 18 and attest****”* and *“****Parent/Guardian-Check here to attest for Participant****”.* One of these boxes **must be checked** in order for students to be allowed to participate in the conference. Checking this box signifies to SkillsUSA North Carolina that you have obtained parental permission:

a) for the student to participate in the event

b) for the students’ medical information to be used in the event of an emergency

c) to agree to the liability, photo, and sound release statements found in **Appendix A.**

******d) to participate and engage in Live online Zoom / videoconferencing and/or video-recorded contest interviews or presentations.

* **Virtual “Field Trip” Permission:** You will be responsible for securing any permissions in advance from teachers and administrators in order for the student to participate in their contest from April 15-30. Student contests may occur on school days during “school/class hours”. As much notification as possible will be made to identify specific dates for each contest.
1. **CONTESTANTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

If you have a contestant who will require online testing modifications (such as extended time) or the assistance of another person during the competition, please complete the Special Needs Form (Appendix B) and return to us at info@SkillsUSAnc.org **NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 16.**

1. **2020-21 NATIONAL THEME** for Prepared Speech, Display, Bulletin Board, Poster:

***SkillsUSA: Champions at Work, Empowered to Succeed***

For ideas regarding the theme, check out this link - <http://www.skillsusa.org/about/theme/>

1. **STATE OFFICER APPLICATIONS**

State Officer Applications can be found **online at** [**SkillsUSAnc.org/officer-applications**](https://www.skillsusanc.org/officer-applications)under the “Applications” tab. Applications are due no later than **March 26. Completed** applications should be **emailed** to SkillsUSA North Carolina at: info@SkillsUSAnc.org

**STATE OFFICER ELECTIONS** will occur AFTER state competitions have been completed. Watch for announcements regarding the scheduling of the elections.

1. **SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS**

Applications can be **found online at** [**SkillsUSAnc.org/award-applications**](https://www.skillsusanc.org/award-applications).

**Special Recognition Award Applications are due March 19** and should be emailed to SkillsUSA North Carolina at: info@SkillsUSAnc.org

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Outstanding Member Recognition (up to 7 per school)
* Advisor of the Year
* Career Essentials Recipients
* Chapter Excellence Program (March 26 Deadline)
 |  |

1. **NATIONAL CONFERENCE TRANSPARENCY**

The SkillsUSA national conference competition dates are the week of June 14.

It is important that, especially during this Covid-impacted year, all transparency be provided to everyone as much as possible. We support all of our National Level student-competitors, and we also support our schools’ policies and restrictions providing for the safety of all at this time.

The National SKillsUSA Competitions will utilize a Hybrid/Virtual Delivery, **requiring students to have access to school or another facility in order to perform their skill competitions, and an outside trade “expert” to be onsite** as a second camera operator receiving remote instructions from contest judges. This is beyond what many North Carolina school systems currently allow. So make sure you consult with your school / school system administration to secure the appropriate permissions and allowances to ensure compliance with their policies at that time. Here are some details:

* Skill Competitions will be physical performance events, requiring access to school (or other) and specific equipment, tools, materials.
* Skill Competitions will be Live via Zoom broadcast. Also required for skill contests is a second manned mobile camera for close-up detail. Internet at school (or other site) will be required.
* A Technical Expert from B&I will be required to be present as the second camera operator, receiving instructions & directions from national judges for close-ups, detail, etc. Make sure you have permission in advance for outside person to enter campus.
* Advisor must be present in the competition Zoom broadcast view, for supervision & safety, and to ensure no directions or expressions are provided to the contestant.
* Contestants will be responsible for obtaining materials & supplies. See the National Tech Standards VIRTUAL. There is a possibility of financial support for these materials, but each contest is different/unique, and there are no guarantees at this time.
* Leadership Contests **might** be able to be “attended” from home. Please check the contest technical standards for information on your specific contest.

It is important that you are aware of these requirements in advance. SkillsUSA North Carolina supports all of our national level competitors, but has no authority to override any school or school system restrictions or policies. Please consult with your administration on the above items prior to registering for the National Conferences.

1. **Covid-19 Policy Statement**

During the 2021 SkillsUSA Championships, competitors will either be competing at schools, in their homes, or at a local business due to the ongoing pandemic. Because restrictions related to the pandemic vary from state to state, it will be the sole responsibility of all competition facility hosts, competitors, instructors and other participants to follow all of their local and state guidelines related to COVID-19 safety protocols. Likewise, it will be the responsibility of all competition facility hosts to enforce adherence to these rules in their school or place of business. Please consult with your local school / school system administration, and visit your local and state websites for full information on current COVID policies and restrictions that apply to you. For the latest national information and guidelines, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>..

**Appendix A**

**CONSENT AND RELEASE FORMS**

* **By checking the “attest” box at the bottom of the online registration form, every attendee/ parent/guardian agrees to the Code of Conduct, Photography and Sound Release, and Medical Consent conditions outlined below.**
* **Checking the “attest” box also indicates parental permission for the student to participate in the event if the student is under 18. By checking this box, we have the understanding that you have informed the parents of the activities the student will be participating in and that they are aware of the information listed below.**  If the “attest” box is not checked, the student will not be allowed to participate in the conference and participate.
* **Also, all medical, insurance, and parental contact information need to be filled out completely online.** The information below should be sent home to the parents of your students, so they are aware of what they are agreeing to.

**PERSONAL LIABILITY RELEASE**

**As a parent/guardian/Individual:**

* I hereby agree to release SkillsUSA Inc. North Carolina, its representatives, agents, servants, and employees from liability for any injury to the named person resulting from any cause whatsoever occurring to the named person at any time while participating in a SkillsUSA North Carolina function. I voluntarily assume all risk and danger relating to the conference, whether occurring prior to, during or after the event.
* I agree to allow my child to participate and engage in Live online Videoconferencing (Zoom/Webex/Teams/other) as the alternative this year to the onsite competitions normally held.
* I do voluntarily authorize SkillsUSA Inc. North Carolina and its designees to administer and/or obtain routine or emergency diagnostic procedures and/or routine emergency medical treatment for the named person as deemed necessary in medical judgment. Parents/guardians of participant will allow emergency medical treatment to be administered as needed.
* I agree to indemnify and hold harmless SkillsUSA Inc. North Carolina and said designees for any and all claims, demands, actions, rights of action, and/or judgments by or on behalf of the named person arising from or on account of said procedures and/or treatment rendered in good faith and according to accepted medical standards.

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

Even though this year’s State Conference is Virtual/online, professional conduct is still expected of all participants. Please read the “Code of Conduct” below and make sure students are aware that by registering for state conference they agree to abide by the entire code of conduct. By agreeing to the “Code of Conduct”, you are reaffirming your dedication to be the best possible representative of your school.

* My conduct shall be exemplary at all times.
* I will present myself professionally online and/or on video as appropriate to my organization and trade, when interacting with contest judges, chairpersons, business & industry representatives, etc.
* I will keep public online activity (i.e. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, SnapChat, etc.) professional at all times and refrain from inappropriate, derogatory, or harmful communication.

**PHOTOGRAPHY AND SOUND RELEASE**

* I hereby grant SkillsUSA North Carolina permission to make still or motion pictures and sound recordings, separately or in combination, and also give a production company (approved by SkillsUSA North Carolina) permission to use the finished silent or sound pictures and/or sound recordings as deemed proper.
* I also hereby relinquish to the SkillsUSA North Carolina all rights, title, interest, and income from the finished sound or silent motion pictures, still pictures, and/or sound recordings, negatives, print, reproductions, and copies of the originals, negatives, recording duplicates and prints, and further grant SkillsUSA North Carolina the right to give, sell, transfer, and/or exhibit the same to any individual business firm, publication, television station, radio station or network; or government agency, or to any of their assignees, without any payment or consideration to me.
* My agreement to perform under camera, lighting, and stage conditions is voluntary and I do hereby waive all personal claims, causes of action, or damages against SkillsUSA North Carolina and the employees thereof, arising from a performance or appearance.

**Appendix B**

**SPECIAL NEEDS CONTESTANT INFORMATION**

**SkillsUSA North Carolina SPECIAL NEEDS CONTESTANTS** – If you have a contestant who will require online testing modifications (such as extended time) or the assistance of another person during the competition, please complete the information below and submit this form \* **NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 16** \* to info@SkillsUSAnc.org with the heading “IEP for Contestant: (*contestants name and school*)”

Contestant: Contest:

Assistance/Modification required:

Assistant Name:

Is this assistant an instructor? If yes, in what training program?

Date: Advisor:

**Appendix C**

*This “form” is for reference. Student Participants should complete*

*the Pledge online with the link from our website.*

**SkillsUSA Fair Play Pledge**

It is the intention of SkillsUSA North Carolina and all contest organizers and participants to promote integrity, fair play and respect for all participants within the SkillsUSA North Carolina Championships.

All Contestants must sign this Fair Play Pledge and submit (through Canvas) **no later than March 1.**

I agree to abide by the principles of SkillsUSA and the Fair Play Code below as set forth by the SkillsUSA Championships.

Fair Play Code:

1. I will follow all rules of SkillsUSA and the spirit of fair competition.
2. I will not utilize resources or assistance for my Qualifier Test or State Competition that are not permitted. I will only use resources for my test and contest that are identified and/or provided by SkillsUSA.
3. I will not participate in any form of deceit or cheating that is unbecoming of a SkillsUSA member or professional in my trade area.
4. I will remember that winning isn’t everything -- having fun, fair play and personal integrity make me the individual and professional I strive to be.

**Contestant Name:**

**Signature (electronic):**

**School:**

**Advisor:**

**Date:**