The 48th SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference including the SkillsUSA Championships, a showcase of career and technical education students, will be held in Kansas City, Mo., June 23-27, 2012. More than 12,500 people, including students, teachers and business partners, participate in the week-long event.

The SkillsUSA Championships will be held June 23-27, 2012, in six locations surrounding Barney Allis Plaza and in American Royal Center. Contests begin locally and continue through the state and national levels. More than 5,400 outstanding career and technical education students — all state contest winners — will compete hands-on in more than 94 different trade, technical and leadership fields. Contests are run with the help of industry, trade associations and labor organizations, and test competencies set by industry. The championships is a multi-million-dollar event that occupies space equivalent to more than 16 football fields. Leadership contestants will demonstrate skills including extemporaneous speaking and conducting meetings by parliamentary procedure.

In special delegate sessions, hundreds of high school and college/postsecondary student leaders will vote on issues affecting SkillsUSA. Others campaign and will be elected to either high school or college/postsecondary teams of national officers who represent SkillsUSA members nationwide.
How to Qualify for the SkillsUSA Championships

The official rules for each contest are found in the 2011-2012 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards. Before a student is registered for national competition, a thorough review of the General Regulations section of the 2011-2012 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards is imperative, as well as a review of the individual contest standards. Any changes or additions to published contest standards are posted by April 15, at the SkillsUSA Championships Updates website: www.skillsusa.org/competeskill/updates.shtml

The website also includes contests that are offered as demonstrations and contests that are too new for inclusion in the technical standards.

The following represents an overview of the steps necessary to participate in the SkillsUSA Championships:

- Participants must be active SkillsUSA members in their respective high school and college/postsecondary divisions whose dues have been paid and postmarked by midnight, March 1. A policy exists whereby exceptions may be made. State association directors must be contacted for details. To find your state director, visit: www.skillsusa.org/about/dir4.shtml

How to Register

Only properly registered participants may enter SkillsUSA Championships contests. Proper registration requires:

- Submitting official National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC) registration forms by the deadline (May 1, or 10 days following the state SkillsUSA Championships).

- Attending the mandatory contest orientation meeting. This meeting is held at the NLSC site in advance of the competition as announced in the conference program. For information on how to register, including changes to contestant registration, substitutes and alternates, refer to the General Regulations section of the 2011-2012 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards.

Clothing

Participants must meet clothing requirements for the individual contests. For specific requirements and details on where to purchase clothing, refer to the individual contest regulations in the 2011-2012 SkillsUSA Technical Standards, and at the SkillsUSA Championships Updates website: www.skillsusa.org/competeskill/updates.shtml

- The penalty for contestants who do not satisfy the dress requirements will be a maximum of 5 percent of the total possible contest points.

- All contestants are required to wear their official contest uniforms or official SkillsUSA attire to the awards ceremony when the winners are announced and the industry awards are presented. Inappropriately dressed contestants will be denied access to the awards platform.
Where to Find The 2011-2012 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards

To order the 2011-2012 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards and related materials, call 1-800-321-8422 or visit: www.skillsusa.org/store/contests.html


- Visit: www.skillsusa.org/store/singles.html to download the national conference Contest Singles. Singles include the 2011-2012 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards plus the General Regulations and rating sheets. Some also include the 2011 contest projects. $10.95 ea.

- Some 2011 SkillsUSA Championships Contest Projects are provided on a CD to allow you to update your technical standards CD package. Contest projects help instructors and state association directors plan and raise the quality of their contests to ensure students are ready for nationals.

Note: If you purchased the 2011-2012 SkillsUSA Championship Technical Standards prior to June 2011, you have received the 2010 SkillsUSA Championships Contest Projects. To stay current, purchase a copy of the 2011 SkillsUSA Championships Contest Projects to update your 2011-2012 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards CD Package. $9.95 ea.

Delegates and National Officers

Like SkillsUSA Championships competitors, student delegates and national officer candidates must be registered by their state association directors. Delegates are chosen by their state members, and representation is based on state membership figures. Candidates for national office must be endorsed by a majority vote of their state association’s house of delegates or executive council. For details, contact your state association director and visit: www.skillsusa.org/students/officers/sbhtml

New contests and demonstrations are added every year.
For a list of current contests and descriptions, visit: www.skillsusa.org/compete/contests.shtml
STATE OFFICER 101/201 AND ADVISOR TRAINING

State Officer 101/201 and Advisor Training is one opportunity for students and advisors that focuses on leadership development. Offered prior to the National Leadership and Skills Conference, Officer 101 is designed for high school students who are officers of their state associations and students who are interested in becoming state officers. Officer 201 is designed for college/postsecondary students who are officers of their state association and for high school state officers who are ready for advanced training. Advisors can benefit from training that addresses the challenges of advising student leaders. Sessions are designed to be interactive, hands-on in nature and delivered by experienced trainers. State Officer 101/201 and Advisor Training will be held June 21-23, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center, Kansas City, Mo. For registration details, visit: www.skillsusa.org/educators/101.shtml

SKILLSUSA UNIVERSITY

SkillsUSA University is an opportunity for students and educators to attend educational sessions. These free sessions may include professional development, legislative updates, occupational and technical career trends and program overviews. Teachers can stay updated on equipment, software, employment trends and other aspects of their training field. Students can learn new skills or find out what business and industry are looking for in new employees. SkillsUSA University will be held June 25-27, 2012.

SKILLSUSA TECHSPO AND CAREER FAIR

SkillsUSA TECHSPO and Career Fair are held in the midst of the SkillsUSA Championships. TECHSPO, short for technical exposition, is the largest trade show in America for technical education. Exhibitors and visitors include key decision-makers in career and technical education and leaders from business and industry. SkillsUSA TECHSPO will be held at H. Roe Bartle Hall Convention Center in Kansas City, Mo., June 24-26, 2012.

Held in conjunction with SkillsUSA TECHSPO, SkillsUSA Career Fair is a way to bring jobs and job-seekers together. More than 20 companies are represented, each eager to hire what they often refer to as “the best and the brightest”: SkillsUSA students. Career Fair will be held at H. Roe Bartle Hall Convention Center in Kansas City, Mo., June 24-26, 2012.