



SkillsUSA Texas Newsletter November 2022

Greetings from SkillsUSA Texas,

We have wrapped up all of the Fall Leaderships across the state and each one was excellent! Thank you to District Coordinators, Advisers, and Students for all the hard work and time that each of you put in to make your specific Fall Leadership possible. It was great to meet students and advisers in person at each location.

Now that Fall Leaderships have been completed, we are focused on and moving forward with District Contests. Continue to check your specific district webpage to get up to date info on contest information. Be sure to check your district webpage often, as we publish updates as soon as we receive them.

To find your district info, go to www.skillsusatx.org and under the Districts drop down on the far right, select your district. In addition, you can contact your District Coordinator directly by emailing them at district#@skillsusatx.org. For example, District 1 would be district1@skillsusatx.org.

With Thanksgiving around the corner, be sure to take time to get some rest and enjoy your families. SkillsUSA-TX is especially thankful for all the advisers for putting student achievement above all else and for putting their students' best interests at heart. We are also thankful for our students who enthusiastically contribute so much of their talent to our organization, making us successful. Over the past few months I have seen dedicated and tireless individuals going above and beyond to make sure that great things happen in our organization and know that our students benefit from those efforts and it make a difference in their lives.

I am personally thankful to have been able to join an organization that continues to strive for excellence in every chapter and to create an open and positive atmosphere for students. Thank you to all advisers for showing love and care to your students and for fostering habits of fair competition all while providing a safe learning environment for them.

Be sure to join our monthly Townhall Meeting on Dec 1 for any updates. Information for joining the meeting can be found below in this newsletter. Until then, have a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving holiday!

Jake Lopez, M.Ed
Executive Director, SkillsUSA Texas

SkillsUSA Chapter Excellence Program

The SkillsUSA Chapter Excellence Program (CEP) is the single best way to ensure that your chapter is recognized for your participation and achievements as you implement the Program of Work and the intentional learning of the SkillsUSA Framework and Essential Elements within your chapter.

Because of this, every chapter is encouraged to participate in CEP. There are three award

levels to recognize program involvement. The first two levels are acknowledged by your state association and the third level is recognized nationally. Each level gives chapters a benchmark for success and future improvement.

Whether this is your first CEP application, or your chapter is striving for top recognition and honors, our SkillsUSA team is here to help.

- Directions for launching your CEP application within the member registration system. [How to access your Chapter Excellence Program Application.pdf](#)
- [How to Access & Start Your CEP Application \(Video\)](#)
- Schedule a 30-minute coaching session with CEP Coach, Kelli Engelbrecht. [CEP Coaching Scheduling Link](#)

For additional assistance contact SkillsUSA Customer Care at 844-875-4557 or customercare@skillsusa.org. For more information about the Chapter Excellence Program visit our website at [CEP Information](#).

Free Career Essentials Support for Instructors

If you are beginning your journey with SkillsUSA Career Essentials, support is available every step of the way! Instructors can call **844-875-4557** or email careeressentials@skillsusa.org for assistance with ordering Career Essentials for your students, developing an implementation plan, creating administrative accounts for new instructors, logging into your account, using the dashboard to monitor progress, learning more about the Absorb learning management system and learning about recent course revisions. If you are interested in learning more about using Career Essentials with your students to define, implement and measure the development of career-readiness skills in your classroom, [register for a Career Essentials overview here](#).

SkillsUSA Logo Generator Now Available

More tools added to the SkillsUSA Brand Portal! Now featured in the new [Logo Generator section](#) are two new customizable templates. The one- and two-line SkillsUSA chapter logo generators contain the brand-specific fonts, colors and formatting to help you make your chapter shine.

SkillsUSA Scholarships for Students

One of the greatest benefits of student membership in SkillsUSA is the opportunity to earn educational scholarships. Some scholarships are based on merit, while others are based on financial need. These are competitive opportunities, so be sure to carefully review the scholarship requirements. If selected, students must complete a SkillsUSA scholarship acceptance form, and payment is sent directly to the educational institution and applied toward the recipient's tuition bill. To earn a scholarship, students must be registered SkillsUSA members and have paid both state and national dues for this school year. [Check out the SkillsUSA scholarships and grants here](#). New this year, students can apply for most scholarships via a single online application.

Give Your Chapter's Service Projects a National Spotlight

SkillsUSA is on the lookout for local community service project stories to publish in the [Spotlight](#) section of our [SkillsUSA Champions digital hub](#). If your chapter has completed a project for your community or plans to complete one this school year, please email information and photos to editors [Jane Short](#) and [Hayley Uffelman](#), and one of them will

reach out to you. This is a great assignment for a local chapter reporter. Any feature story leads are also appreciated.

Be Part of the Solution to Prevent Hunger

The Foundation for Impact on Literacy and Learning has introduced "Explore.Act.Tell," a free program funded by the Albertsons Companies Foundation Nourishing Neighbors Program that teaches students in grades 6-12 to become aware of food insecurity issues in their neighborhoods and learn to advocate for community involvement. A series of activities helps students learn about the issues surrounding hunger and food insecurity to develop skills they will use to implement a service project and tell their story in the challenge. [Learn more about Explore.Act.Tell here.](#)

Presidential Volunteer Service Award (PVSA)

SkillsUSA is a certifying organization of the Presidential Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) a national program administered by AmeriCorps and Point of Light Foundation. The PVSA honors individuals whose service positively impacts communities in every corner. Individual SkillsUSA members who regularly perform volunteer work and SkillsUSA Chapters who perform volunteer work as a team may already qualify to receive the PVSA at the Bronze, Silver, or Gold level.

Students and chapters who receive the PVSA award are recognized annually at NLSC, and receive a PVSA certificate and pin. Many students include the PVSA award in their resume or professional portfolio and on applications for scholarships, college admissions, and employment positions. To receive the PVSA, all volunteer hours must be recorded and verified according to PVSA guidelines. All applications must be received by April 1, 2023.

Full information about the PVSA and the application can be found at: www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/awards/presidents-volunteer-service-award/

Country Meats Can Help with Fundraising

Here is an idea for a fundraiser that's both easy and delicious. Country Meats offers 12+ flavors of delicious smoked snack sticks, and when sold for \$1.50 each, will earn your chapter 50% profit. They also offer [free samples](#) so you can taste the quality before ordering. Use the code 10OffNew at checkout to save an additional 10% off your order. [Visit Country Meats](#) or call 1-800-277-8989 for more information

Give on #GivingTuesday to Benefit Members

SkillsUSA will participate in #GivingTuesday on Nov. 29. This year's #GivingTuesday will include a donation from Ariat, a performance footwear and clothing brand with an emphasis on technology and innovation. Ariat will generously donate 10% of sales on Nov. 29 (up to \$50,000) to SkillsUSA and two other organizations -- Folds of Honor and the Equus Foundation. All funds raised for SkillsUSA will be directed to The SkillsUSA Hope Fund, which assists members in financial or personal crisis to propel their education and career pathways or assists SkillsUSA chapters affected by natural disasters. By donating to SkillsUSA, companies and individuals can have a powerful impact on our organization and the nation's future workforce. [To donate directly to SkillsUSA's Hope Fund for #GivingTuesday, go here.](#) Check the [SkillsUSA website](#) soon for the Ariat link to shop and support SkillsUSA on Nov. 29.

Texas Regulations

The latest version for 2022-2023 is posted on our [website](#). A new version was posted this week. Please read it carefully and discard any previous versions. Check for updates regularly.

Next Townhall Meeting

Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 5:30PM Central

[Click here](#) to register in advance for this zoom meeting. Recordings of these meetings will be posted on our website.

Big Tips From Top Advisors

The latest SkillsUSA Champions features SkillsUSA's 2021-22 Advisor of the Year Kimberly Petronella and the four other dedicated advisors who qualified as regional finalists for the award. Great insights into the advisors' methodologies are shared, which includes their tips on incorporating the SkillsUSA Framework into the classroom. Read story [here](#)

Update to Official Clothing

New official red jacket alternative to Red Blazer on sale now in the [store](#). The previous wind breaker is grandfathered in as official dress option.

Please check your technical standards for other updates on socks and stockings.

Teacher Advisor Committee Members

The SkillsUSA Texas Teachers Advisory Committee is composed of one (1) teacher advisor, elected by his/her peers, from each SkillsUSA district. Each elected teacher shall serve a two year term. No committee member may serve no more than three consecutive terms. The Teachers Advisory Committee shall include but are not limited to:

1. Recommendations for operational strategies, procedures and activities related to competitive activities at the district and state levels;
2. Serve as the Grievance Committee at the Annual State SkillsUSA Championships;
3. Provide other counsel as requested by the Executive Director and the State Board of Directors.

These committee members work directly with your district coordinators, the board of directors and the state office. Please reach out to them if you have ideas or solutions that could help your district.

D1 Israel Cortez, 2022-2024 term Socorro ISD iramir13@sisd.net

D2 Roger Hall, 2022-2024 term Abilene ISD roger.hall@abileneisd.org

D3 Elizabeth Sewell, 2022-2024 term Lubbock ISD elizabeth.sewell@lubbockisd.org

D4 Shawndelle Harrington, 2022-2024 term Gorman ISD sharrington@gormanisd.net

D5 Sarah Mateo, 2023-2025 term Plano ISD sarah.mateo@pisd.edu

D6 Haley Patton, 2022-2024 term Grand Prairie ISD haley.patton@gpisd.org

D7 Joel Casiday, 2022-2024 term Coldspring-Oakhurst ISD jcasiday@cocisd.org

D8 Election coming before the end of November

D9 Al Taglivore, 2022-2024 term Friendswood ISD atag@fisdk12.net

D10 LaMisha Stinson, 2022-2024 term Killeen ISD lamisha.stinson@killeenisd.org

D11 Juan Morales, 2022-2024 term San Antonio ISD jmorales3@saisd.net

D12 Iris Simmons, 2022-2024 term Corpus Christi ISD Iris.Simmons@ccisd.us

D13 Irma Bazan, 2023-2025 term Mission ISD ILBaza55@mcisd.org

SkillsUSA Texas Board of Directors

Your Texas Board of Directors Chair is [Victor Ramirez](#). Please reach out to him, he would love to hear from our membership!

Executive Director
District 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
903-887-4013 Ext 1
jake@skillsusatx.org

Sr Director of Operations and Finance
District 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
903-887-4013 Ext 3
amy@skillsusatx.org

| [SkillsUSA Texas](#)

