



## SkillsUSA Texas Newsletter August 2023

### Greetings to SkillsUSA Texas,

As the summer days begin to wane and the halls of knowledge come alive again, we extend a warm welcome to the dawn of a new school year!

We are thrilled to have you on board as we aim to empower our students with the skills, knowledge, and experiences to shape their futures. Your dedication to hands-on education and commitment to preparing tomorrow's leaders make all the difference.

As we navigate this new academic adventure together, remember that your guidance, mentorship, and passion are crucial in nurturing our students' potential. From fostering teamwork to honing technical expertise, your influence knows no bounds.

With the spirit of collaboration and innovation at the heart of SkillsUSA Texas, we are confident this year will be a remarkable journey for you and your students. Here's to embracing challenges, celebrating successes, and creating lasting memories.

Thank you for being the driving force behind SkillsUSA Texas. Your impact is immeasurable, and we can't wait to see the incredible achievements ahead!

Best regards,

SkillsUSA Texas Strong!  
Crystal Latham-Alford, Executive Director



### Seeking VICA or SkillsUSA Alumni!

Each district is seeking SkillsUSA success stories to share at District Fall Leadership events in October. If you can attend in person, participate in a phone interview or write us your story, we want our students to hear from you! For details, please email: [darlene@skillsusatx.org](mailto:darlene@skillsusatx.org)

### Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Update

Good Luck, Mr. Bergstrom, Miller Career and Technology Center, and Mr. Alvarez, Construction Careers Academy! They are among the 50 finalists for the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence. In October, \$1.5 million in cash prizes will be awarded when the field is narrowed to 25 winners. We will keep you posted!

## Spam Warning Regarding "SkillsUSA Lists of Attendees" Emails

Please be advised that SkillsUSA NEVER sells lists of attendees from our conferences. Recent emails to staff and others have offered the National Leadership & Skills Conference attendee email list for a fee. These emails are spam. If you receive an email like this or any email related to SkillsUSA that seems suspicious in any way, please let us know by forwarding it to [anyinfo@skillsusa.org](mailto:anyinfo@skillsusa.org).

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### UIL Contest Dates

The UIL calendar is set based on multiple parameters, mostly working around state standardized testing dates and avoiding conflicts with other UIL events. They attempt to also look at other activities, but as you know, the multitude of offerings for students continues to grow and the spring calendar continues to get more crowded. They have a date range of one week that districts can set their district meet dates. This year it is April 1-6 for most academic events and April 1-13 for speech events. Each district can set the date for their meet within that window based on the recommendations from coaches with the administrators on the District Executive Committee having final say. They limit the competition window to one week due to test confidentiality, as well as require students competing against one another to test at the same time and location.

**The best option is for teachers who do both UIL and Skills USA to make the conflict of Skills and UIL contests known so that their UIL district contest can be set earlier in the week by their DEC, if at all possible.**

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### National Registration System Updates

The Registration System for membership and conference registration will begin forcing users to reset their passwords using the new password character requirement: Minimum 8 characters long (mix of upper/lower case, alphanumeric and special characters).

[www.skillsusa-register.org](http://www.skillsusa-register.org)

Adding Membership: The Restore Members button has been moved to the top of add members screen for advisors to register returning members easily.

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### District Fall Leadership Information

Please check your district webpage for detailed information. Save the Date!

- D1: October 27th at Western Tech College El Paso
- D2: October 25th at West Texas Training Center San Angelo
- D3: October 13th at South Plains College, Levelland
- D4: October 11th at Birdville Center of Technology, NRH
- D5: October 18th at Collin College, Wylie
- D6: October 25th at Dallas College Cedar Valley Campus, Lancaster
- D7: November 8th at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville
- D8: October 19th at Houston Community College, NE Campus
- D9: October 10th, James Reese Career and Technology
- D10: October 18th at Reunion Ranch, Georgetown
- D11: October 20th at La Vernia High School
- D12: October 6th at Harold T Branch Academy, Corpus Christi
- D13: October 13th at San Benito High School

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#### "S" Invoice Remit Address

This will only apply to "S" invoices. A

#### Past Due Invoices

After August 1st, 2023 all invoices that are past due will incur a \$50

copy of the updated W9 can be found on our website.  
<https://skillsusatx.org/about/payment-s-and-invoicing/>

**SkillsUSA Texas**  
**P.O. Box 65087**  
**Lubbock, TX 79464**

Invoices that start with "M" are for annual membership dues and are payable to the National Office. The remittance address remains:

**SkillsUSA Inc.**  
**Attn: Membership Dept.**  
**14001 SkillsUSA Way**  
**Leesburg, VA 20176-5494**

past due fee per invoice on a monthly basis until payment is received. A PO is not payment for our purposes, only check or credit card will be posted as payment. Invoice reminders are sent to the email of person that created the invoice in registration.

If your records indicate an invoice has been paid, please verify if the check has been cashed. If you do not show the check was cashed, please verify the payment address and resubmit. If payment was sent to any Mabank, TX or Leesburg, VA address we have not received the payment. For credit card transactions please add a 3% fee.

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## Texas Regulations

The regulations are currently being updated, and the new version will be published on our website and in the September newsletter. Last year's version is valid until the update is posted.

### Absorb

Any paid professional member has access to the National standards through this site. Call Customer care if you need help: 844-875-4557

## Next Townhall Meeting

**Thursday, Sept 7, 2023,**  
**at 5:30 PM Central**  
[Register Here](#)

Please register in advance for this Zoom meeting. All CTE advisors are invited to join this conversation with the state office. Recordings of these meetings will be posted: <https://skillsusatx.org/news/>

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## Member Registration is Open -- Join Early as a Professional

The SkillsUSA registration site is open for the 2023-24 school year! Advisors join early so you receive all mailings and emails. Joining and paying as a professional member is required for access to Absorb and the national technical standards. Professional members receive [many benefits](#) when they submit membership with a valid email address, including the SkillsUSA Framework Integration Toolkit, Program of Work Toolkit, SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards (available in October), Jump into Stem curriculum, E-Courses and professional development opportunities.

**Student membership is \$16/pp, advisors are \$40/pp for the year.**

You can add your students now and wait to join/pay until January if you choose. Advisors can join/pay now for added benefits. You and your students are not officially joined until you click JOIN NOW, you can select which individuals you want to join at any one time and can submit more than one invoice. When you join now you will receive an invoice that starts with "M" that is payable to the national office. Contact Customer Care for assistance with your log in at 844-875-4557.



## Washington DC trip and Texas Tours Sept. 22-27, 2023

The WLT I Scholarship application and schedule are posted on our website:

Registration is open now and closes on August 23rd at 5pm. No late registration, cancellations or refunds after registration closes. Please add a 3% processing fee if paying by credit card. Please be detailed in your roommate requests and rooming options. Once

Registration closes the Signal App link and detailed information will be sent out to registered attendees.

Congratulations Sophia Procter! We are proud of your hard work at Summer Leadership to earn the WLTI alumni scholarship. (James Reese Career and Technical Center)

### Request WLTI Congressional Appointments Now

Perhaps the biggest highlight of SkillsUSA's Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTI) is when attendees advocate for SkillsUSA and career and technical education on Capitol Hill with their senators and representatives. If you're planning to attend WLTI, make sure you request those appointments now! The meetings will take place on Sept. 26 between 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. ET. You can easily request your appointments using the customizable email template on the [SkillsUSA Advocacy website](#).

## TEA CTE Photo Request

Attention CTE administrators and teachers! We have an exciting opportunity that you won't want to miss. Become a part of the dynamic CTE Photo Library and unlock the potential to advocate and celebrate your programs across the state. Join us as we showcase your incredible students and programs. Let's make a lasting impact together!

[Info Here](#)



**Share Your Vision!**  
The Texas Education Agency invites you to submit your photos of CTE students and programs for the statewide CTE Photo Library

Attention CTE administrators and teachers: We have an exciting opportunity that you won't want to miss. Become a part of the dynamic CTE Photo Library and unlock the potential to advocate and celebrate your programs across the state. Join us as we showcase your incredible students and programs. Let's make a lasting impact together!

- Showcase high-quality CTE programs
- Ignite a passion for learning in CTE
- Raise awareness and interest in CTE in Texas
- Enhance opportunities for students to shine

For submission guidelines and details scan the QR code or visit <https://sites.google.com/resourcesforlearning.net/tea-cte-photo-library> For questions email [CTEPhotos@resourcesforlearning.net](mailto:CTEPhotos@resourcesforlearning.net)

**TEXAS CTE**  
Your journey starts here.

## SkillsUSA Texas Board of Directors

Please mark your calendars; the next board meeting will be **Sat, September 9, 2023**. The meeting will be held at

*ABC South Texas 2600 Longhorn Blvd., Ste. 105 Austin, Texas 78758*

Your Texas Board of Directors Chair is [Ed Sanchez](#). Please reach out to him. He would love to hear from our membership!

### Crystal Latham Alford

Executive Director

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### Stephanie Evans

Executive Administrative Assistant

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### Amy Baxmann

Director of Operations

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### Eddy Parker

Regional Manager I

District Director 6,10,12,13

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### Darlene Mills

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