



## SkillsUSA Texas Newsletter September 2023

### Greetings to SkillsUSA Texas,

We are thrilled to welcome you to the SkillsUSA Texas community this September. Whether you are a returning member or joining us for the first time, we are excited to have you as part of our organization.

SkillsUSA Texas is dedicated to empowering our members to excel in the workplace, develop leadership skills, and foster community and camaraderie. We offer many personal and professional growth opportunities, including competitions, workshops, and networking events.

Stay tuned for updates on upcoming events, trainings, and competitions. We have an exciting year ahead and can't wait to embark on this journey with you.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact our team. We're here to support you every step of the way.

Once again, welcome to SkillsUSA Texas! Let's make this year one to remember.

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)

### Lowes Grants Available

Lowe's has announced they will provide \$250,000 in grants for SkillsUSA chapters. The grants are for up to \$15,000 per chapter to upgrade classroom tools or equipment; purchase additional materials and supplies for students; or to obtain equipment, materials and supplies to conduct a community service project. The grants are focused on the construction cluster including Cabinetmaking, Carpentry, Electrical Construction Wiring, Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVACR), Masonry, Plumbing, Sheet Metal, Welding and Architectural Drafting. All funds must be spent at Lowe's stores. [Applications open Sept. 1](#) and must be submitted by Sept. 30. Successful applicants will

be notified by Oct. 30 and projects must be completed no later than June 1, 2024. For questions, contact [Laura Rauch](#).

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

Please be advised that SkillsUSA NEVER sells lists of attendees from our conferences.



SkillsUSA partners with Tractor Supply Co. and Carhartt to Support the Trades with an apparel collection to help advance skilled trades in the U.S. For every item sold, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to SkillsUSA!

<https://youtu.be/ZPqUhN6jHqc>



We are kicking September 2023 off with a **STEM** themed session titled 'Fundamental Skills for Multiple Industries' on 09/15 at 4 pm - 5 pm Eastern Time. Take a look at the description below:

*Snap-on and NC3 explore the various industry-recognized competency-based certifications that can be applied to multiple industries. The session will primarily focus on Torque Fundamentals, as well as Hand Tool Identification, Safety and Usage, and Precision Measuring Instruments. Join us to learn how to implement these certifications for all students, so they can become more engaged in career and technical education and get hands-on experience with tools*

Overview: Technical Fridays are virtual workshops led by industry experts to help teachers develop specific technical skills relevant in their career field of interest. Each month we focus on a different career cluster of CTE and a different, measurable micro-skill. There will be plenty of opportunities for networking, Q&A and comprehension checks so you can leave with a new skill and be ready to implement it within your classroom. You will also receive a PD certificate and participate in a raffle giveaway.

Register here: <https://skillsusa.wufoo.com/forms/s1xlh96j0tx9odb/>

## **New SkillsUSA Advisor Training**

Sept. 22, 2023 10:30-3:30 p.m. ET. Register by filling out this form:  
<https://skillsusa.wufoo.com/forms/svsabee07ad5kk/>  
Virtual Training for SkillsUSA Advisors – Fall 2023 and receive your  
Zoom link to join this SkillsUSA training.

**Spots are limited.**

## **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

### **"S" Invoice Remit Address**

This will only apply to "S" invoices. A 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 Invoices**

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

skills gap and support trade schools. Winners receive a shop makeover, cash and CHANNELLOCK® tools. Deadline to apply Oct 13th.  
<https://channellock.com/tradeup/>



---

## 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, Oct 5, 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/>

---

## 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.

---

**SkillsUSA's State Standards of Excellence Program ensures state Associations have policies, procedures, and structures that deliver a high level of membership service. Congratulations, Texas, for completing the gold-level requirements and providing continual growth in our state!**



---

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

Reminder: Payments are due Sept 23. Those attending will get an email soon with additional information.

**Request WLTII 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](#).



**SKILLS JAM** | SkillsUSA

**PLAY BINGO FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN  
\$10,000 FOR YOUR CHAPTER**

To celebrate the upcoming release of **SKILLS JAM**, the all-new heart-pounding, episodic docuseries, the **SKILLS JAM Crew** has developed a special competition for our SkillsUSA chapters.

One chapter per state/territory will be selected for a chance to win up to \$10,000 by completing the bingo challenges!

If your chapter would like to participate, reply to this email by 9/19 to be considered.

Chapters will be selected by 9/22 and details will follow.  
Contest starts 10/2 and ends 11/20.

**SKILLS JAM BINGO**

			
	<b>SKILLS JAM</b>		
		<b>JAM ASSADOR</b>	
			

**For questions email: [sphillips@skillsusa.org](mailto:sphillips@skillsusa.org)**

## Elevate Registration is Open

The SkillsUSA Elevate Chapter Officer Development Conference is Oct. 11 from 11 a.m.–4:30 p.m. ET.

This virtual interactive experience for local chapter officer teams focuses on building successful chapters by equipping officers with the skills to lead and serve their members. Successful completion of this conference supports the quality of local SkillsUSA programming and the individual growth of members as it activates SkillsUSA's mission to empower members to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders and responsible community members.

After participating in Elevate, chapter officers will be able to:

- Use Self-Motivation, Communication, Teamwork and Planning, Organizing and Management to serve and lead their chapter members.
- Lead chapter members in their development of Framework skills through intentional incorporation of the skills in chapter Program of Work activities.

Implement a four-step process of planning high-quality and successful chapter activities that align with a Program of Work category and include goals, Essential Element instruction, a plan to achieve, and an evaluation.

Elevate is open to all SkillsUSA chapter officers but at least one advisor must participate with each registered team. Chapters participate right from their classroom and the cost is only \$10 per participant.

Registration closes Sept. 22. [Learn more and register](#) on the SkillsUSA website.



## SkillsUSA Texas Board of Directors

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  
903-887-4013 Ext 1  
[crystal@skillsusatx.org](mailto:crystal@skillsusatx.org)

### Stephanie Evans

Executive Administrative Assistant  
903-887-4013 Ext 2  
[stephanie@skillsusatx.org](mailto:stephanie@skillsusatx.org)

### Amy Baxmann

Director of Operations  
District 1, 2, 3, 4  
903-887-4013 Ext 3  
[amy@skillsusatx.org](mailto:amy@skillsusatx.org)

### Eddy Parker

Regional Manager I  
District Director 6,10,12,13  
903-887-4013 Ext 4  
[eddy@skillsusatx.org](mailto:eddy@skillsusatx.org)

### Darlene Mills

Regional Manager II  
District Director 5,7,8,9,11  
903-887-4013 Ext 5  
[darlene@skillsusatx.org](mailto:darlene@skillsusatx.org)

| SkillsUSA Texas



SkillsUSA Texas | P O Box 65087, Lubbock, TX 79464

[Unsubscribe crystal@skillsusatx.org](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [crystal@skillsusatx.org](mailto:crystal@skillsusatx.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!