

# AUDIO RADIO PRODUCTION SKILLS USA CONTEST

Project submission will be done via Microsoft One Drive.

The entire contest will take place in one 8-hour day at the student's campus.

## PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

Friday February 2, 2024

9:00am Prompt will be delivered via email to advisor. Begin production.

5:00pm Upload deadline with **proof of self-creation or licensing of music in the drive.** No hard copy will be accepted. **Include resumes. One Drive will timestamp the upload. Late submissions are disqualified.**

5:00pm(Time is approximate)

Students are to fully produce (plan, write, voice, record, edit, etc.) a **three-minute** radio production such as a PSA, NPR-style soundscape, sound rich/NPR style news story, sound and interview only news story, etc. A 30-second Ad Spot will be produced and inserted into the production. **The prompt will detail the story subject, theme or objective; type of production; and Ad Spot subject.**

Audio and information will be gathered on location **at your high school** as needed to convey the assigned theme or objective.

The completed production must meet the assigned **run time of 3 minutes** and convey an adequate representation of the subject or theme. Run time does not include the tone, slate & countdown.

## ACCEPTABLE EQUIPMENT

**One** computer-based editing system.

All cables needed for your system and recorder.

Licensed production music CD's. Production music may also be user created with programs such as Garage Band, Soundtrack, etc. .... **Proof of self-creation or licensing is required. Self-creation proof may include demonstrating Garage Band or Soundtrack project.**

**Use of free online music must include a screen capture or print of the licensing agreement or conditions provided on the website.**

Microphones (wired and/or wireless)  
Headphones  
Portable recorder with removable media.

Ask the contest official for any clarification needed on the eligibility of equipment.

## **PROJECT SUBMISSION**

**You need to include the following program elements on your final production:**

:05 seconds of Tone (EXACTLY)

:02 seconds of silence

Audio slate: "El Paso SkillsUSA Audio Radio Production 2024" & your Team Letter

:05 second countdown (1 and 0 are silent)

Your program

3:00 minute program (EXACTLY)

Within the 3 minute program is a 30 second spot.

TOTAL RUNTIME IS 2:30 +:30 = 3:00

**Tone, Slate, Silence and Countdown are not part of the run time.**  
**Remember to provide proper attribution if required.**

All teams will submit their final production as an mp3 or wav file with the following file name:

**TX 2024 AudioSkills TeamXX.mp3 OR TX 2024 AudioSkills TeamXX.wav.**  
("XX" is your team letter.)

Submissions must conform to the following specifications:  
Stereo 48 KHz or 44.1KHz .wav or .mp3

No assistance will be provided for mastering.

Teams that fail to submit a master that conforms to these specifications will be disqualified.

**Proof of self-creation or licensing for music must also be included in the upload**  
**to the Google Drive. Also include your resumes.**

\* Safety Requirement: Both the instructor and the contestant certify by agreeing to enter this contest that SkillsUSA, Inc., the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Committees and judges are released from all responsibility relating to personal injuries resulting from its use. Contestants will be removed from competition if proper training has not been provided and/or they are using the equipment in an unsafe manner.

## **DRESS CODE**

**Contestants must follow school dress code.**

**NO CELLPHONES ARE ALLOWED ON CONTESTANTS DURING CONTEST.**

Please turn them in to your advisor or don't bring them or face disqualification.

## **RESOURCES**

Contestants may use Internet sources for research as necessary. However, avoid copyright violations and credit must be given to sources in order to prevent plagiarism on research material. Do not download and use Internet content unless you are licensed (or public domain) to do so and can provide proof with the submission.

## **OTHER PENALTIES & CONTEST GUIDELINES**

General rule: All teams must be complete throughout the contest as per national rules. If there is a conflict in a schedule (sport event, doctor's appointment, etc.) then a substitution must be made BEFORE the beginning of the contest. Extreme circumstances (i.e. emergency hospitalization, etc.) will be dealt with by majority vote of the advisors present. Penalty is disqualification.

Teams that complete their assignment before the allotted time may submit their materials before the end of the editing session. However, once the project submission packet has been turned in to a contest official, it will not be returned.

**Teams that do not turn in their produced audio/radio segment and script within the time limit will be disqualified.**

The finished production must meet the run time of 3 minutes (plus or minus one second). Points will be deducted if the spot is outside the one-second tolerance. Any contestants that are talent in their production **MUST NOT** identify themselves by name OR district/school/city of origin. **Any submission containing a contestant identified by real name or school will be disqualified from competition.**

Audio Production Skills contestants must use discretion while recording. Entering any area designated as off-limits will result in disqualification. Any report identifying Skills contestants as having acted in a manner that disrupted another contest or unreasonably interfered with any aspect of your high school operations and/or surrounding businesses will result in **disqualification.**

Teams may edit by using whatever software or method they choose, but they must supply their own equipment.

There will be no additional time allotted for equipment malfunctions. Each team is

responsible for providing its own equipment, and each team is responsible for ensuring the functionality of that equipment. Make certain that all equipment is working properly before the contest begins, as there will be no engineering assistance provided during competition. If a team experiences a problem with its equipment, it is the team's responsibility to fix the problem. Teams may choose to bring in a second editing system in case of equipment problems, but no extra space will be given for the second system. **Only one editing system may be used at a time.**

Final master submissions must conform to the specifications listed under "Project Submission". Improperly mastered submissions will result in disqualification.

Final master submissions must be labeled according to guidelines.

**Contestants may not use any previously prepared materials.**

Instructors are prohibited from interacting with contest participants while competition is underway. During the contest, all instructors must avoid any interaction (beyond observation) with all contestants, whether affiliated with their school of origin or not. Any violation\*\* will result in immediate disqualification for all competing Audio Production teams affiliated with the offending instructor.

\*\*The only exception will be instructors who are serving as contest proctors. Any inappropriate interaction between contestants and contest proctors will also result in disqualification for all teams affiliated with the offending instructor/proctor.