



State Leadership Skills Conference FAQ

May 5-6, 2026

The SkillsUSA Ohio State Championships brings over 4,000 competitors, business and industry partners, instructors, and vendors together in over 100 contests in all 16 Career Pathways to showcase Career and Technical Education in Ohio. Students compete for the title of best in Ohio in their respective career fields. This prestigious event has something for everyone.

Professional Conduct is always expected by all attendees. Unprofessional behavior will not be tolerated.

CONTEST SPECIFIC INFORMATION

- Please **DO NOT** email the contest coordinators directly, violation of this may result in the disqualification of competitor(s). This is to ensure all contestants receive the same information. The Ohio Competition Standards are located on SkillsUSA Ohio website on the State Championships page and the National Technical Standards are available with your Professional Membership through Nationals Website on Pathful.

*The Ohio Competition Standards for 2026 will be posted end of February. Please ensure you and your students has gone over the National Standards and State Standards.

CLOTHING

- Refer to the Ohio Competition Standards/[Dress Code Guide](#)
- Special Note: White Polo Shirts - they do not need to have the official SkillsUSA polo shirt.
- **FOR AWARDS CEREMONY:** Competitors must be in official dress or business dress attire **no jeans**. Competitors not in this dress will be awarded their medal from the floor- not on stage

OFF-SITE CONTEST INFORMATION

- Off-site schedules are posted in Ohio Competition Standards.
- Lunches will be provided at the off-site locations.

CONTEST SUBSTITUTIONS

- Substitutions can be made without penalty until end of business day, April 27, 2026. **After this date, there will be \$25.00 fee.**
- **ALL substitutions must be sent directly to Robert Kornack- Robert.Kornack@education.ohio.gov**
- No contest substitutions will be accepted after Monday May 5, 2026, at 8PM

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEST

1. **It is only given to the winners of State Championships.**
2. This is a scored component at NLSC.
3. Please refer to the [Testing Guide](#) for all information regarding the test registration process.
4. The study guide is posted on the website at www.ohioskillsusa.org, under the Events-State Championships page. It is posted with the Ohio Competition Standards.

AGENDA FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS (POSTED ON THE SKILLSUSA OHIO WEBSITE)

1. **ALL contests begin orientation at 10:00 a.m., unless noted on the website or Competition Standards. Students MUST be at their contest site by 10:00 A.M. or by noted start of contest time. (refer to competition standards)**
2. **Registration is from 7:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. or you may pick up your packet on Monday when you drop off tools.**
3. **We will be doing a Mandatory pre check in form, the form is located on our State Championships website.**
4. If you're at an offsite contest, you do not need go to the convention center to register. All Registration materials will be at the contest site. However, no results only top 3 in no order will be announced at the off-site contests, competitors will need to come to the Convention Center on May 6, 2026, to receive prizes, awards, and medals. **They must have their name badge for admission.**

EMERGENCY MEDICAL FORMS

1. **All Registrants MUST always have an NLSC1 on their person.** Please have this printed out **BEFORE** you get to registration. Forms **MUST** always be behind registrant's name badges!
2. In case of emergency at the Convention Center please dial 2547 on the nearest wall phone - **DO NOT Dial 911** as Columbus Emergency Services will not know how to find you in the building.

SAFETY INFORMATION

- Students must follow OSHA practices and wear all PPE specified for the contest that is listed in the contest standard.

TOOL DROP OFF INFORMATION

1. Please go to our website for the Tool Drop Off/ Liability form. Space assignments and location tickets will be delegated on the day of drop-off.
2. As a reminder you **WILL NOT** be able to enter the Convention Center to get your registration packets through the docks. You **MUST** leave the dock area, park, and enter through the Hyatt (East Connector/backside not High St. side) or from Goodale St. entrance. **NO EXCEPTIONS. VIOLATORS FACE DISQUALIFICATION OF STUDENTS.**

STUDENT DROP OFF LOCATIONS, DIRECTIONS, AND PARKING

- **Please note**, Buses will need to drop off quickly at the East Connector or at Goodale St. you cannot park and unload from either of these locations. The address to access the East Connector is listed below.
 - **The "official" address for the loading dock electronic navigation is: 500 N. 3rd St., Columbus, Ohio 43215**
- **Buses ONLY** - are to park in the EAST LOT
- **School Vans** - can Park in Goodale Garage or in Ohio Center Garage both have 8'2" clearance. The other parking garages only have a 6' clearance.
- **If you have not purchased a parking pass, go to our website, go to events-state championships and find general parking and bus parking.**

REGISTRATION BADGE RIBBONS

- We have the following registration badge ribbons for students and advisors to attach to their name badges.

These will also serve as access passes to the Exhibit Halls during the appropriate times, PLEASE ENSURE ALL REGISTRANTS HAVE ATTACHED THE APPROPRIATE RIBBON TO THEIR NAME BADGE UPON ARRIVAL

The ribbons are as follows:

Black – Advisors
Yellow- Voting Delegate
Green-Officer Candidate
Gold – CEP Gold Chapter
Gold White Trim – CEP Quality Chapter
Ocean – CEP Silver Chapter
Bronze – CEP Bronze Chapter
Royal Blue Ribbon – Contestants
Lavender- Leadership Exploration Experience
Orange- Observer

PARENTS AND OBSERVERS AT THE EVENT

- Parents and observers can buy a wristband at the door but **CANNOT get in the Halls until noon**. Please make sure to relay this to parents to avoid frustration when they arrive.
 - Please refer to SkillsUSA Ohio website as some contests are closed to parents and observers. This is in the competition standards and in the official program at State Championships of whether a contest is open or closed to observers.
- The cost for admission is \$10 a day or \$15 for both days.
- Limited amount parents/observers will be permitted at offsite competitions due to occupancy restrictions (noted in competition standards).
- **Observers are anyone not affiliated/or have school duties while at State Championships.**

FOOD

- No outside food or drinks can be brought into the Convention Center. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- Concessions will be available in the exhibit halls WITH A CREDIT CARD ONLY
 - Please note that the Convention Center is CASHLESS.
- **LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ALL CONTESTANTS**
- Students competing in the Exhibit Halls will not be able to leave the Exhibit Halls.

SKILLSUSA STORE

Please have your students bring a payment method if they are interested in purchasing items from the store.

- SkillsUSA Ohio store will accept cash and credit cards, and electronic tap to pay.
- Prices range from \$1-\$40 per item.

PRIZES/PHOTOS:

- Not all contests receive prizes, this is at the discretion of the contest technical committees
- All student winners will enter the prize area through the Professional Photographer (these photos will be available for purchase 1-2 weeks after Championships)
- **Please ensure competitors know the name of their contest prior to entering this area to ensure quick photos and prize recovery.**

AWARDS CEREMONY

- Doors open at 8:30AM on Wednesday, May 6, 2026.
- This year the Awards Ceremony is in A Hall, and you **MUST HAVE BADGE/WRISTBAND TO ENTER**