

Dear SkillsUSA Advisor, (SkillsUSA 2020-2021 #14)

Item #1: 2021 Virtual State Championship

As you know, public health concerns associated with the coronavirus required cancellation of the in-person 2020 State Championship in April, the National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC) in June, and the introduction of SkillsUSA Maryland's first virtual live Fall Leadership Conference last month. All Maryland high school students began the school year via remote learning and with coronavirus cases again on the rise virtual learning will likely extend into the spring.

SkillsUSA's executive director recently announced that the June 2021 NLSC, including all competitions, will be facilitated virtually. In alignment with National SkillsUSA, and with you and your chapter's participation and continued support, SkillsUSA Maryland will be offering the organization's first virtual live State Championship in April, date(s) to be announced. We know that some competitions allow for a smoother transition from an in-person to virtual format. With a keen focus on safety, equity and access, as plans continue for virtual contest facilitation students should pay close attention to the employability, problem-solving and leadership skills and abilities that every CTE program completer and SkillsUSA member should possess, regardless of career path. Additional State Championship contest information will be shared in the coming weeks.

Item #2: Virtual Contest Technical Standards Now Available

As a free member benefit, SkillsUSA professional members receive the current *SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards* when they have submitted a current and accurate email address with their membership details. The SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards manual is available online to professional members as part of the paid membership. Visit this link for more information:

<https://www.skillsusa.org/competitions/skillsusa-championships/technical-standards/>

As in previous years, use the national technical standards as a general resource to prepare students for local, regional and state-level competitions, with the understanding that only national virtual competitions are facilitated as described and incorporate and test all of the included competencies.

Item #3: 2021 State Championship Low Contest Participation Survey

Please take a few minutes to complete the 2021 State Championship survey, available online. This important survey targets twenty-four (24) competitions that experienced low registration numbers in the past. Even if students from your chapter are not planning to compete in any of the listed competitions, you must return the survey with advisor name, chapter name and email address, by **January 15, 2021**. Here's the link: [2021 Virtual State Championship Survey](#)

Item #4: 2021 State Championship Participation By Region/Chapter

The attached spreadsheet lists all state competitions available to students participating in the 2021 Virtual State Championship. Use this information to advise students interested in competing this year. If you are new to SkillsUSA please note that contests listed “Per Region” (highlighted in yellow) require students to participate in preliminary qualifying events (ie. virtual regional competitions). Contests listed “Per chapter” (highlighted in blue) allow students to advance directly to state-level competitions. The State Championship Participation By Region/Chapter survey must be submitted before or by **February 19, 2021**.

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