

Dear SkillsUSA Advisor, (SkillsUSA 2020-2021 #15) **Two Attachments are on Advisor page**

Item #1: SkillsUSA Maryland Implements Online Testing to Replace Regional Conferences

To ensure student and teacher safety (and advisor/administrator sanity) in the facilitation of 2021 regional conferences SkillsUSA Maryland is planning to implement online testing for all regions. The online tests will be content-specific to each contest, scored and ranked by region, and will determine which students or teams (by region) advance to State Championship competitions.

As a reminder, if you are new to SkillsUSA please note that only contests listed “Per Region” (highlighted in yellow) on the **attached survey** will require students to participate in state contest-qualifying online tests. Additional information including regional test registration process, fees and testing procedures to be released in January.

Item #2: Membership Reminder - Deadline is January 31

This is a reminder to submit your SkillsUSA Maryland membership information by January 31, 2021. The instructions provided by SkillsUSA are listed below. When you finish the online membership process be sure to press the “Submit” button and delete any previous year’s membership information before logging out.

**For schools using block (fall/spring semester) schedules ONLY:**

Chapters currently welcoming new spring semester members will have until February 15, 2021, to add new members to the 2020-21 membership rosters. Chapters using a block (semester) schedule must submit Fall semester membership information by the regular January 31 deadline.

**How to Register Members Electronically**

Register students and professional members quickly and easily on the SkillsUSA National website. Using online registration makes it easier to register for state or national conferences later in the year.

**To register electronically, follow these steps:**

1. Before you begin, obtain a purchase order number, a credit card (MasterCard or VISA) or a check number in order to pay for your membership.
2. Prepare your list of students and professional members.
3. **Login at [www.skillsusa-register.org](http://www.skillsusa-register.org)**. Type in e-mail address and password, then go to the Membership tab. If you are a New User: Click Create Login. Select your state, select your school and answer the questions to create your password.

Membership Kit: <https://www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/membership-kit-2/>

Quick Start Guide for registering members: <https://www.skillsusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/MembershipReg-Quick-Start-Guide-2020.pdf>

**New Chapter (school):** If you are a new chapter and your school is not shown in the drop-down list of schools for your state, complete the new school form at: <https://www.skillsusa-register.org/rpts/CreateNewSchool.aspx>. (Provide advisor name, school name, address and telephone number).

**Note:** Once you click the *Join Now* button on the confirmation and accept to pay page an automated invoice will generate for traditional membership. Print and submit to your accounting department for payment. Total Participation Schools will not receive invoices for individual members.

### **Payment Requirements & Options**

By submitting membership online, you are agreeing to pay SkillsUSA membership fees. The current year membership registration begins August 1, and services will begin when members are registered. You may pay for membership by using a credit card, check or purchase order.

If paying by check, send a copy of your roster with your check. If using a purchase order, enter the PO number in the Payment Option box on the Web site. If paying by VISA or MasterCard, click the link on the invoice for credit cards or the pay now link found on the screen you registered members; invoice button. No additional action is need if paying by credit card.

For assistance or questions regarding the registration process contact SkillsUSA Hotline Operators at [\(844\) 875-4557](tel:8448754557) or e-mail Hotline Operators at [operators@skillsusa.org](mailto:operators@skillsusa.org).

### **Item #3: SkillsUSA Maryland Chapter Excellence Program Challenge!**

We know this continues to be a very challenging year for Maryland chapters. A great way to get chapter members involved and engaged is to encourage them to participate in the Chapter Excellence Program (CEP), which offers three award levels to recognize program involvement. The first two levels are acknowledged by the Maryland state association and the third level is recognized nationally. Each level is designed to give chapters a benchmark for success and future improvement, leading to stronger chapters and more involved and prepared students. The more a chapter applies the SkillsUSA Framework, the greater the chance for CEP honors.

Congratulations to **Carver Vocational-Technical High School** and **Somerset County Technical High School** for participating in CEP this year. Last year there were fourteen additional chapters recognized for participating in CEP. We challenge all Maryland chapters to join Carver and Somerset Tech. There is still plenty of time to join CEP!

Item #4: Help is Only a Call, Email or Chat Away!

Hotline operators and coaches are ready to answer your questions on a wide variety of topics, including, adding/engaging chapter members, strengthening an existing chapter, SkillsUSACONNECT, Chapter Excellence Program and Career Essentials. Operators are on call from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. ET, Monday, Wednesday and Friday and from 11 a.m.–7 p.m. ET, Tuesday and Thursday. Call the hotline toll free: 844-875-4557.

Don't have time to call? Send the operators an email at [operators@skillsusa.org](mailto:operators@skillsusa.org) or chat with them online at the membership registration site. **See attached flyer for more information!**

On behalf of the Board of Directors and State Officer Team,  
wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday!

Charles S. Wallace Coordinator of Career Programs and Student Organizations Division of Career and College Readiness & Office of Leadership Development and School Improvement Maryland State Department of Education 200 W. Baltimore Street Baltimore, MD 21201-2595 Office phone: <a href="tel:410-767-8872">410-767-8872</a> Email: <a href="mailto:charles.wallace@maryland.gov">charles.wallace@maryland.gov</a>
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