



## Champions at Work

1/4/08

### STATE UP-DATES

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1. **SEASONS GREETINGS** Happy Holiday greetings to all advisors and students from the Illinois SkillsUSA State Staff and Board of Directors. It is time to start thinking about the annual SkillsUSA Championships. Remember to read the following information carefully. If you have any questions, call the office at 708-479-8422 or e-mail at [ilskillsusa@aol.com](mailto:ilskillsusa@aol.com).
2. **ADVISOR'S HANDBOOK** The SkillsUSA Illinois Advisor's Handbook revisions are finished and we are waiting for the final printing. It will be available soon. Please continue to use your current handbook until you receive your new one.
3. **ILLINOIS WEBSITE** Just a reminder that Illinois SkillsUSA has it's own website and server. The address is [www.illinoisskillsusa.org](http://www.illinoisskillsusa.org). Check out all parts of the site for the latest information about Illinois SkillsUSA.
4. **NATIONAL CONTESTS** Be sure to refer to the new SkillsUSA Technical Standards 2008 edition for information on all National Contests. You can purchase the Technical Standards from the national office or the state office. Changes have been made in many of the contests, so please don't use the old rules when getting ready for state competition. The "Illinois Only" contests are found in the Illinois Advisors Handbook. New national demonstration contests are found on the national website [www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org). Any major changes from national contests, when held in Illinois, will be noted on our Illinois SkillsUSA website.  
Please note: The Internet Homepage/Website contest (pages 9.14.1 & 9.14.2 & 9.14.3) will still be held and is for High School students only.
5. **NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION CONTESTS 2007** Several new demonstration contests were introduced last year. They were: Crime Scene Investigation, Medical Math, and Video Product Development. Illinois will run these contests this year. For contest guidelines, go to <http://www.skillsusa.org/updates.html>.
6. **NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION CONTESTS 2008** Seven new contests have been proposed for demonstration during the next Nationals conference. They are: Esthetics/Facials, Geospatial Technology, Home Technology Integration (Smart Houses), Job Placement Readiness, Mobile Electronics Installation, Pin Design, and Welding Fabrication, a team contest. All of these contests will be open to both high school and college/postsecondary members. **There are no plans to hold these contests here in Illinois this year.**

7. **44<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE THEME** The 44<sup>th</sup> State Leadership and Skills Conference theme is: “SkillsUSA: Champions at Work”. The theme will be used for the Chapter Display, Prepared Speech, Extemporaneous Speaking, Essay, Personal Narrative Essay, Promotional Bulletin Board and Suitcase contests. **However**, it should be noted that the topic to be addressed by contestants in these events is how our theme SkillsUSA: Champions at Work relates to our national program of work in the area of the **SkillsUSA Championships**. Within this topic, contestants might illustrate or discuss one of the following:
- How the SkillsUSA Championships motivates students to be the best they can be in their technical skill development and personal/professional development.
  - How the SkillsUSA Championships provides an opportunity for students to participate in timed and judged industry-based competitions where they can practice technical skills, teamwork, team building, creativity and management.
  - How SkillsUSA increases productivity by cultivating a highly skilled and knowledgeable work force to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century needs.
  - How the SkillsUSA Championships is the national level competition for public high schools and college/postsecondary technical students enrolled in trade, technical, and skilled service profession instructional programs including allied health occupations.
  - How SkillsUSA organizes this event, and it is considered the single greatest day of industry volunteerism in America every year at an estimated cost of more than \$32 million.
  - How SkillsUSA participation prepares each member for entry into the work force.
  - How each SkillsUSA Championships national contestant is a state-level gold medalist, demonstrating excellence in career and technical education.
  - How the SkillsUSA Championships has more than 5000 competitors in more than 85 hands-on skill and leadership contests.
  - How SkillsUSA represents 130 different occupational areas affiliated instructional programs.
8. **MEMBERSHIP DEADLINES** The deadline for membership for those taking the February written exams is February 1, 2008. The deadline for membership for all others participating in the State and National Conferences is March 1, 2008. If for some reason you cannot make these deadlines, please call the office at 708-479-8422.
9. **ILLINOIS FORMS** All Illinois SkillsUSA Forms have been updated and can be found on the Illinois Website. Please replace your old pages in your Illinois Advisor’s Handbook with these new ones.

10. **STATE ADVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARD** The procedure for nominating an Advisor for the “Advisor of the Year Award” calls for each state recipient to be chosen by December first of each year. The deadline for 2008 has passed. There are many deserving Advisors who are professional members here in Illinois. Please contact the Illinois SkillsUSA office for the forms to nominate someone for 2009.
11. **FUTURE STATE AND NATIONAL CONFERENCE DATES**
- | <u>ILLINOIS SkillsUSA</u>   | <u>NATIONAL SkillsUSA</u>  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2008 ==== April 17-19, 2008 | 2008 ==== June 22-28, 2008 |
| 2009 ==== April 23-25, 2009 | 2009 ==== June 21-27, 2009 |
| 2010 ==== April 15-17, 2010 | 2010 ==== June 20-26, 2010 |
| 2011 ==== April 14-16, 2011 | 2011 ==== June 19-25, 2011 |
12. **SkillsUSA WEEK** Just a reminder that we will be celebrating National SkillsUSA Week and Career and Technical Education Week on February 10-16, 2008 Please get involved by celebrating this week at your school.
13. **CD OF NATIONAL CONTEST SPECIFICATIONS** The 2007 SkillsUSA Championships contest specifications are on CD. The disk contains contest instructions, project drawings, etc. from the 2007 SkillsUSA Championships (with a few exceptions) and represents approximately 1,000 pages of technical data. The CD is part of the CD packet with the new National Technical Standards. The CD’s can be purchased from our office by calling 1-708-479-8422.
14. **RESUMES** This year all contestants, including Action Skills, must present a resume at the state conference. Resumes will be collected at the contest briefing. If there is no contest briefing, resumes will be collected at the contest site. **Do not mail in the resumes.** Also, many contests require an oral proficiency exam as part of the competition.
15. **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXAM QUESTIONS** Copies of the 2005-2007 test bank of questions for the Professional Development tie-breaker exam are available for sale from the Illinois office. Fifty questions from the test bank will be used for the tie-breaker exams in February. Make sure that your students are prepared to take this required tie-breaker exam. The results are used regularly to determine which students, who have tie scores at the cutoff line, will actually be accepted into the contests.
16. **E-MAIL ADDRESS** Be sure we have your e-mail address.
17. **PIN DESIGN CONTEST** At the request of the State Officers, we would like to again try a pin design contest for 2008. The purpose is to design a trading pin for the 2008 National Leadership Conference. Entrees must be received by March 1, 2008. The winner will be recognized at the State Conference.  
Following are the rules:
1. Entrees must be copy ready.
  2. The pin must contain no more than 3 colors. (including the base color)
  3. The pin must clearly show that it is from the State of Illinois.

4. The pin cannot be larger than one inch.
  5. The pin must identify that it is a SkillsUSA pin.
  6. The pin must be marked as being for the 2008 year.
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18. **TEAMWORKS** The TeamWorks competition will again be held in Sparta, Illinois. It will be held at the Armory in Sparta on April 11& 12, 2008. This is one week before the State Conference. In order for us to know if we will have enough room, please contact the State Office and let us know if you plan to participate. We have to know by January 25, 2008 so that we can prepare. For more details, contact the Illinois SkillsUSA state office.
  
  19. **FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE** A special thank you to all of the Advisors that attended this year's Fall Leadership Development Conference. Thanks to your participation, it was a big success. Everyone worked hard to make the conference meaningful for all the students and the students were great. Please relay my congratulations again, to the participants who earned the Illinois Statesman Award. We will recognize all of them again at the State Leadership Conference and SkillsUSA Championships in April.
  
  20. **2008 COLLISION REPAIR / AUTOMOTIVE REFINISHING** The new 2008 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards includes separate rules for Collision Repair Technology and Automotive Refinishing. The Illinois Collision Technology Technical Committee has not made a final decision as whether to run two separate contests in Illinois or whether to run one contest as in the past and then pick the highest scorer in each area to send to the National SkillsUSA Championships. For example, repair would include metal, welding, structural analysis, and plastic repair: refinishing would include spot repair, color tinting, featheredging, priming and block, paint ID and masking. **Check the Illinois website, Special Notices" link in the State Confernece section for the Technical Committees final decision.**