



Memo 2National10

To: National Conference Participants
From: Don Bauc, State Executive Director
Re: National Conference Updates
Date: May 30, 2010

This letter contains information that should be helpful to all participants for the National Conference. A receipt for money sent in, will be available at the first meeting at Nationals on Monday, June 21, 2010 at 8:00 p.m. at the Ramada Overland Park Hotel. If you need a receipt sooner, please let me know and include your fax number and I will fax one to you.

Some of you have not completely filled out your on-line registration form. If you are one of these people, please fax me a completed paper copy of the form before June 15th, so that I may take it with me to the national conference. I will not be able to pick up your name tag until your form is completely filled out. This is a requirement of all registered participants.

Contestants, the best source for all of you to check on any last minute changes to your contests is the national SkillsUSA website. **It is critical that every contestant read and follow the updates found on the national SkillsUSA website.** A way to locate the updates is by going to <http://www.skillsusa.org> and use the site's search engine to find "contest updates". The search engine will take you to a link called: [2010 SkillsUSA Championships Official Demonstration Contest Updates](#) That link will take you to: [2010 Contest Updates](#)

Any additional updates from Illinois SkillsUSA will be added at the beginning of the memo you are currently reading. Additional emails will not be sent from Illinois SkillsUSA. It is highly recommended that all national conference participants check the memo you are currently reading occasionally, at the Illinois SkillsUSA website, to see if new information has been added.

- **Hotel:** Our hotel is the Ramada Overland Park Hotel. It is located at 7240 Shawnee Mission Parkway, Overland Park, KS 66202. The phone number is: 1-913-262-3010 or fax: 1-913-262-2326. All guest rooms will require either an imprint of a valid credit card or a significant cash deposit for in-room movies and outgoing phone service. The Ramada is a full service hotel. The hotel has a complimentary breakfast buffet, restaurant, indoor pool, hot tub, sports court and games. There is wireless internet throughout the hotel.
- **Hotel Parking:** Parking is free in the hotel parking lot.

- **Transportation:** Shuttle buses will be available starting on Tuesday, June 23th from hotels to Bartle Hall and to other hotels. Shuttle buses will also be available from our hotel to Kemper Arena for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. You must be a registered participant with an official badge in order to ride the shuttle buses. Security will be tight this year as in the past. Due to the high cost of fuel, the buses will run every half hour instead of every 15 minutes.
- **Sleeping Rooms:** We will have one of our State Staff members in the lobby to help you register and get your room keys as you arrive on Monday, June 21, 2010. Those arriving a day or two earlier for training should report to the hotel desk to check in.
- **GENERAL MEETING:** Our first general meeting is scheduled for Monday evening, June 21, 2010 at 8:00 p.m. at our hotel. At this meeting we will pass out name badges t-shirts and other tickets and materials needed for the conference. **Everyone must attend this meeting**. Information will be given regarding procedures, rooms, contests, social activities, transportation and schedules.
- **Contest Uniforms:** By now you should have ordered and received your contest uniform. Remember that points are taken off if you try to compete without the required uniform. If you didn't receive your uniform and have proof that it was ordered, please bring the purchase order with you and any correspondence you received from the E Group. E-Group, also known as the SkillsUSA store, is the supplier for National SkillsUSA and will be available to sell items needed on Tuesday, June 22th at Bartle Hall. They will also have a supply of red SkillsUSA Blazers. Don't count on them having a full supply for everyone. **It is best to order your uniforms before the conference.** For those of you, who have older uniforms, remember that they are all still acceptable.
- **Clothing Check:** REMEMBER that contestants wearing the wrong clothing while competing will loose competition points. If contestants would like our unofficial opinion as to whether they have the correct contest clothing, they may wear that clothing to this meeting. Otherwise, casual attire is appropriate for this meeting. All contestants are required to wear their official contest clothing to their contest briefing on Tuesday. At that time contestants can receive official verification that they have the correct contest clothing.
- **Contest Rules:** Contestants must be aware that they will be working under the national rules, **not state rules**, at the SkillsUSA Championships. Be sure to follow all of the rules found in the 2010 edition of the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards Book. There have been changes from older editions, including the 2009 edition. Also, make sure that all advisors and contestants read the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards General Regulations on pages 9 - 15.
- **Rules for New & Demonstration Contests:** See the National web site for the contest rules for new contests that are not in the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards. See: <http://www.skillsusa.org/contests.html>

- **Khaki Work Shirt:** Please note that the only contest requiring the long-sleeved khaki shirt is the welding contest.
- **Computer Rental:** Be sure to check to see if your contest requires you to bring your own computer, monitor and other equipment. To rent a computer check the national website.
- **Competitors:** Competitors bringing their own computer system must bring hardware that meets or exceeds the minimum requirements for the software used by the contestant (software of choice).
- **Résumés:** This year the national office requested that all contestants submit their résumé on line before June 1, 2010. National has extended that deadline to June 10, 2010. All competitors should post their résumés on the national web site by the June 10th deadline. Go to: <http://www.skillsusa.net/resume/>. **In an addition as a safeguard, all contestants should bring a one-page, type-written resume and submit it to the national technical committee at the contestant orientation meeting.** The résumé may be used by the technical committee for the oral professional assessment segment of the competition. A penalty of 5 percent, not five points, of the total possible points will be assessed for failure to submit a résumé. / According to the National Office, only 17 Illinois contestants have submitted their résumés as of May 30, 2010.
- **Tentative National Conference Schedule:** A tentative national schedule can be found on the national website as well as the Illinois website.
- **Transportation to and from the Airport:** For those of you who are not renting a car, there is a Super Shuttle available from the airport. The Super Shuttle runs 24 hours from the KC airport. They tell me that the cost is \$ 32.00 one way for one person to our hotel. Two to seven people in one group can go for \$ 133.00 each way with exclusive use of the van (no other stops). Advance purchase tickets are cheaper. For more information, the number is: 1-800-258-3826.
- **Professional Development Assessment:** The SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards Book regulations require an oral professional development assessment in all skill contests. Please see page 10, Item # 6 of the technical standards for this information. This assessment may be in the form of an interview, evaluation of customer skills, or other oral communication skills. Students who are familiar with and practice the competencies within the SkillsUSA Professional Development Program should have no problem with this assessment.
- **Professional Development Test:** Remember that nearly every contestant will be required to take this test. The test will be used as a tie breaker only. Last year the test consisted of 50 questions with multiple choice answers. All competitors should study Levels one and two of the PDP and the SkillsUSA PDP Levels one and two to prepare for this test. To quote Item 4a, Page 10 of the Skills USA Championships Technical

Standards General Regulations: "Each individual contestant in both leadership and skill contests (except Action Skills, Building Maintenance, Employment Application Process and Quiz Bowl) will be given a test taken from levels one through two and the SkillsUSA manual of the *Professional Development Program*." The Illinois contestants will take the test at 9:30 p.m. on Monday, June 21, 2010 in the same room as our general meeting. **Be sure to bring a number 2 black lead pencil.** Each year, tie scores are broken using this test.

- **SkillsUSA Clothing:** Most individuals will be wearing official SkillsUSA attire to the general sessions and meetings. Those who do not have the blazer can borrow one or wear the white shirt, black tie and black slacks or white blouse and black skirt or slacks. Casual clothes may be worn to the Illinois delegation meetings.
- **Contestants' Tools:** All contestants should check their tool list carefully and be sure to follow all safety requirements such as wearing safety shoes and safety glasses with side shields. Also, study and practice for your competition as much as possible, so that you can take home the National Gold.
- **Contest Evaluations:** Each contestant and Advisor will be asked to complete a form describing their competition. These will be used to update our State contests.
- **Awards Celebration:** Friday evening, after the National Awards Program, Illinois SkillsUSA will hold its own celebration at our hotel. The cost for refreshments for you for the evening is covered by your state registration fee. We will start the celebration with some refreshments for all registered participants and follow with our awards presentation. Please remember to be prompt to this meeting. The time will be announced at the conference. Please let the Illinois SkillsUSA Office know by June 14th if you will have any family members who would like to join us for the awards portion of our Friday evening celebration.
- **Trading Pins:** Those of you who ordered prepaid trading pins, will receive them at the first Illinois Delegation meeting on Monday. Pins will be for sale throughout the conference or until the supply is depleted. Pre orders are down from last year, so I ordered fewer pins. If you want to make sure that you have pins to trade, you will need to order them now. Just fax the form to the Illinois SkillsUSA office at 708-479-8444. Send the check to Illinois SkillsUSA at P. O. Box 15, Mokena, IL 60448-0015, to arrive by June 14th.
- **Work Shoes: Please read and follow the rules in your contest skills regulations regarding required work shoes for your specific contest.**
- **Illinois SkillsUSA T-shirts:** Every registered participant who registered online by May 7th and filled out their T-shirt size when they registered, will receive the size they requested. All others will receive an XL size T-shirt at our first general meeting. A very limited number of additional S, M, L, and XXL T-shirts will be available at the meeting. Any left over XL shirts will be for sale at our Illinois meetings.

- **Entertainment Brochures:** Entertainment brochures are available on the national website. You can purchase advance tickets by sending in the form. Be sure that your choice does not conflict with an important meeting, contest briefing, contest or other function that you have to attend. There are no refunds.
- **Special Needs Students:** Please inform our office regarding those students with special needs, so that National SkillsUSA can work with them directly on accommodating their schedules during NLSC. Fax the student's name and identify the student's special need to the Illinois SkillsUSA Office before June 14, 2010.
- **Large Tool Box Transportation:** Beginning a few years ago... every competitor is responsible for transporting his or her own toolbox between the hotel and contest site. More information will be available at the national conference.
- **Skills University 2010:** Sessions through Skills University are scheduled throughout the week of the National Conference. Detailed information is on the national website and will be available at our first meeting on Monday evening.
- **Parking Downtown Kansas City:** SkillsUSA is providing free parking at Kemper Arena with shuttle service back to the SkillsUSA conference at H. Roe Bartle Hall. The parking schedule at Kemper Lot B is: Tue. 8-5 p.m. - Wed. 6-6 p.m. - Thurs. 6-6 p.m. - Fri. 6-4 p.m.
- **Parking Passes:** Two of the most popular parking lots downtown are the Municipal Parking Garage and the Cathedral Parking Garage. Both of these require passes which allow in and out privileges. If an Advisor wants me to purchase a Monday through Friday parking pass for them for the **Municipal Parking Garage** for \$ 50.00 or the **Cathedral Parking Garage** for \$ 40.00, please send me a check. I will purchase them for you on Sunday prior to the conference. These limited passes are usually sold out by noon on Monday. Make the check out to: Illinois SkillsUSA and send it to P. O. Box 15, Mokena, IL 60448-0015. The Check must arrive by June 14, 2010.
- **Additional Parking:** 16th and Baltimore - surface lot, \$5/day; 10 Central Parking Garage - \$5/day; Wyandotte Garage - \$1 every 20 min. daily max \$10; Block 89 Garage - After 5 p.m. only \$1 every 20 min. daily max \$10; Town Pavilion Parking - after 5 p.m. only \$5 flat rate; Crown Plaza Hotel Parking - \$13 per day for event parking;
Large Vans: For your information, large vans may not fit in the downtown garages.
- **Shipping Information:** If you need information about shipping items to the national conference, at the national SkillsUSA website use the search engine to find "Shipping Information". The following link will get you directly to the information:
<http://skillsusa.org/events/nlscshipping.shtml>
- **SEE YOU IN KANSAS CITY:** I will be out of the office June 14, 15, 16, 17, 2010 attending the IACTE Conference in Springfield and I leave for the national conference on Friday, June 18, 2010, so if you have any questions, please contact me by June 13th. The office address is: Illinois SkillsUSA, P. O. Box 15, Mokena, IL 60448-0015. The phone number is: 1-708-479-8422. **The fax number is: 1-708-479-8444. The e-mail address is: ilskillsusa@aol.com**