

What is SkillsUSA?



SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA helps each student to excel.

SkillsUSA is a national organization serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations, including health occupations and for further education. SkillsUSA was formerly known as VICA (the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America).

SkillsUSA Membership

More than 300,000 students and advisors join SkillsUSA annually, organized into more than 17,000 sections and 52 state and territorial associations.

Combining alumni and lifetime membership, the total number impacted this year is more than 335,000.

SkillsUSA has served more than 11.2 million members since its founding in 1965.

SkillsUSA Mission

SkillsUSA's mission is to empower its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens.

SkillsUSA is an applied method of instruction for preparing America's high performance workers in public career and technical programs. It provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development. It builds and reinforces self-confidence, work attitudes and communications skills. It emphasizes total quality at work—high ethical standards, superior work skills, life-long education, and pride in the dignity of work.

SkillsUSA also promotes understanding of the free-enterprise system and involvement in community service.

The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with a blue field of white stars in the upper left and red and white stripes in the rest of the frame. The flag is slightly blurred and has a soft, glowing effect.

SkillsUSA Motto

***Preparing for leadership in the world
of work.***

SkillsUSA Pledge

Upon my honor, I pledge: To prepare myself by diligent study and ardent practice to become a worker whose services will be recognized as honorable by my employer and fellow workers.

To base my expectations of reward upon the solid foundation of service.

To honor and respect my vocation in such a way as to bring repute to myself.

And further, to spare no effort in upholding the ideals of SkillsUSA.

Meaning of the Pledge

Upon my honor, I pledge: This is a very strong statement. It means you are committed to follow through on your promise.

To prepare myself: Preparation requires self-control. It means effort without immediate reward but with the knowledge that the effort will pay off when the preparation is completed.

By diligent study: Diligence implies something far beyond a quick review of assignments. Diligence means perseverance, concentration and not always taking the easy route.

And ardent practice: A person of character makes every effort in spite of setbacks or personal loss.

To become a worker: SkillsUSA members take pride in making things happen, in being good workers and in their employers.

Whose services: Doing things for others is the basis of many occupations. SkillsUSA members strive to be active in their schools and communities.

Will be recognized as honorable: The result of preparation, study, practice, work and service is the respect and honor given SkillsUSA members.

To base my expectations of reward upon the solid foundation of service: This statement reinforces the attitude that we must first serve in order to gain. This attitude is important to success.

To respect my vocation: SkillsUSA members recognize the need to find their vocation and strive to understand its traditions, skills, leaders and potential.

To bring repute to myself: SkillsUSA members strive to have a good reputation among their peers, fellow workers, teachers, parents and employers.

To spare no effort in upholding these ideals: This means service to the community, school and SkillsUSA chapter - getting things done and becoming a leader, all with the ideals of SkillsUSA in mind.

SkillsUSA Creed

I believe in the dignity of work

I hold that society has advanced to its present culture through the use of the worker's hands and mind. I will maintain a feeling of humbleness for the knowledge and skills that I receive from professionals, and I will conduct myself with dignity in the work I do.

I believe in the American way of life

I know our culture is the result of freedom of action and opportunities won by the founders of our American republic, and I will uphold their ideals.

I believe in education

I will endeavor to make the best use of knowledge, skills and experience that I will learn in order that I may be a better worker in my chosen occupation and a better citizen in my community. To this end, I will continue my learning now and in the future.

I believe in fair play

I will, through honesty and fair play, respect the rights of others. I will always conduct myself in the manner of the best professionals in my occupation and treat those with whom I work as I would like to be treated.

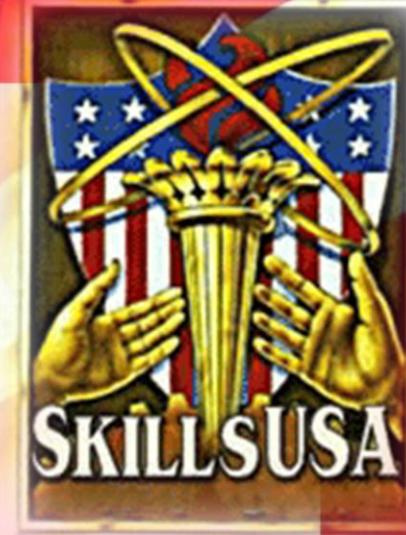
I believe satisfaction is achieved by good work

I feel that compensation and personal satisfaction received for my work and services will be in proportion to my creative and productive ability.

I believe in high moral and spiritual standards

I will endeavor to conduct myself in such a manner as to set an example for others by living a wholesome life and by fulfilling my responsibilities as a citizen of my community.

SkillsUSA Emblem



The shield represents patriotism

The shield denotes our belief in democracy, liberty and the American way of life.

The gear represents the industrial society

The gear, symbolic of the industrial society, denotes the interdependence and cooperation of the individual working with labor and management for the betterment of mankind.

The torch represents knowledge

The flaming torch reflects the light of knowledge, which dispels the darkness of ignorance. In the light of the torch, progress will be made toward the vocational goals of the individual.

The orbital circles represent technology

The circles represent the challenge of modern technology and the training needed to accept and master the challenge of new technical frontiers and the need for continuous education.

The hands represent the individual

The hands portray a search for knowledge and our desire to acquire a skill. In the process of attaining knowledge and skill, we will develop a respect for the dignity of work and become productive and responsible citizens.

SkillsUSA Attire

Wearing the official SkillsUSA attire adds a sense of unity and identification to meetings and activities. Members are encouraged to strictly follow the guidelines for official attire during ceremonies, visits with dignitaries, officer campaigns and similar occasions.

Male Dress Code:

- Red SkillsUSA blazer, windbreaker or sweater
- White dress shirt
- Plain solid black tie
- Black dress slacks
- Black dress shoes

Female Dress Code:

- Red SkillsUSA blazer, windbreaker or sweater
- White collarless or small-collared blouse or white turtleneck
- Black dress skirt (knee-length) or black dress slacks
- Black shoes

SkillsUSA Colors

The colors red, white, blue and gold represent the national SkillsUSA organization.

Red and white represent the individual states and chapters.

Blue represents the common union of the states and of the chapters.

Gold represents the individual, the most important element of the organization.



SkillsUSA Partners

In 2013, more than 16,000 teachers and school administrators served as professional SkillsUSA members and advisors.

More than 1,100 business, industry and labor sponsors actively support SkillsUSA at the national level through financial aid, in-kind contributions, and involvement of their people in SkillsUSA activities. Many more work directly with state associations and local chapters.

SkillsUSA Programs

SkillsUSA programs include local, state and national competitions in which students demonstrate occupational and leadership skills. At the annual national-level SkillsUSA Championships, over 5,900 students compete in 98 occupational and leadership skill areas.



SkillsUSA programs also help to establish industry standards for job skill training in the lab and classroom, and promote community service. SkillsUSA is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and is cited as a "successful model of employer-driven youth development training program" by the U.S. Department of Labor.

DRIVE

SkillsUSA provides the drive many students will need in their future careers. Through contests and other tests of skill they will learn to get things done in newer and better ways.

CREATIVITY

Although some of the career pathways would not seem to be traditionally creative, SkillsUSA promotes creativity in all aspects of professionalism.

INNOVATION

Youth in SkillsUSA find new and fresh ways to do tasks due to the challenges of contests at regional and national levels. They also learn the new techniques and methods of their industries at conferences.

SUPPORT

The team based structuralism of SkillsUSA encourages and provides support for young individuals before they enter the workforce. This support leads to increased confidence later in their careers.

PREPARED with the Skills America NEEDS



SkillsUSA
Champions at Work®