

Colorado Connections

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SkillsUSA Week to be Celebrated in February

SkillsUSA Week is celebrated the second week of February each year. The dates for the 2008 SkillsUSA Week are February 10-16. SkillsUSA Week gives state associations, advisors, and student members the opportunity to promote SkillsUSA programs at activities at the local and state levels.

During SkillsUSA Week, members can help raise awareness of SkillsUSA. This can be accomplished through field trips to local businesses, an open house for parents or industry partners, or a visit to local community organizations to make a brief presentation about SkillsUSA, or providing news releases and public service announcements to local media outlets for possible distribution. Involvement in activities such as these brings positive recognition to SkillsUSA, and to local schools and their students. Also, it underscores the importance of SkillsUSA's purposes and mission, which is to help prepare America's high performance workers in career and technical programs.

There are many ways to celebrate SkillsUSA Week. Some local chapters plan a different activity for each day of the week, while others pick one day and hold one or two events. Start planning well before SkillsUSA Week to organize any special events. Here are some sample activities you might consider:

P.R Day

Make a school announcement about SkillsUSA Week and any special activities you have planned. Hang SkillsUSA signs or banners throughout the school. Hold a poster or photo contest with prizes. Make a bulletin board or display about SkillsUSA for a school hallway. Set up a SkillsUSA

information table in the school cafeteria to tell people about the program.

Appreciation Day

Make the business partners who support your program feel special by giving them a special gift. Deliver cookies and a thank you note to instructors who support the program. Formally recognize the principal or other administrators of your school with a certificate of appreciation and an honorary membership in SkillsUSA.

Leadership Through Service Day

Conduct a community service activity to bring greater awareness to your program. Visit a nursing home to provide service to the residents, hold a car care clinic, donate toys or other items to a local shelter or children's floor at a hospital. Clean up/early spring landscape program at your school. Offer to paint a mural at a day care center.

Wear Red Day

Encourage all members to wear SkillsUSA t-shirts, polo shirts or SkillsUSA official attire. Or, just tell everyone to wear a red shirt and give out stickers to members that say: "Ask Me Why I am Wearing Red" to put on their shirts. When asked, members can explain about SkillsUSA and that red is the color of our official blazer.

Share Your News!

Send news of what your chapter did for SkillsUSA Week to Tom Hall, *SkillsUSA Champions* magazine, P.O. Box 3000, Leesburg, VA 20177 or email pictures and stories to: thall@skillsusa.org.

2008 Leadership & Skills Championships

The 2008 Colorado Leadership & Skills Championships is fast approaching. This year's contest is again being held in Colorado Springs at the Double Tree Hotel and Pikes Peak Community College on April 10-11. Conference information will be emailed to advisors in January and the online registration site will be open beginning February 8 through March 21, 2008. Here are a few items to

remember as you prepare your students for the state contest:

- All participants **MUST** be registered members of Colorado SkillsUSA in order to compete at the state contest. The membership deadline for Colorado is February 1, 2008.
- All participants must have competed in a district contest. District results are due to the state office by March 28th, (please use the official reporting

form available on our state website) under the Advisor page.

- The SkillsUSA Technical Standards book has been revised for 2008. Please review the specs for your contests for any changes that may have been made..
- **ALL** conference registration payments & forms are due on March 28, 2008.

Good Luck!



State Directors Corner

Happy New Year!

State Membership Deadline

Reminder! February 1, 2008 is the Colorado deadline for submitting your membership registration. Students must be registered by this date in order to compete at the state conference in April. Go to : <http://www.skillsusa.org/join/> to complete the online registration process.

New State Advisor Update

The position of SkillsUSA/TSA State Advisor has been posted on the CCCS website. We will be screening applications and holding interviews in January. It is my hope to have the position filled by the end of January so the new person can begin the training process.

Professional Memberships for State Board Members and business Partners

SkillsUSA has simplified the process for business partners, administrators or instructors who would like to join SkillsUSA as individual professional members. These individuals who may not be associated with a chapter roster can now affiliate online. Professional membership is good for one year and includes a subscription to *SkillsUSA Champions* magazine. Payment by credit card is accepted. To join, simply go to the registration link and follow the prompts. Go to <http://www.skillsusa-register.org/reports/JoinAsProfessional.aspx>. The process only takes a few minutes.

Silent Auction Items

Once again this year, Colorado SkillsUSA is seeking silent auction donations for this years state conference. Gift certificates or items that reflect your program would be greatly appreciated.

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Quote of the Month:

"Either you decide to stay in the shallow end of the pool or you go out in the ocean."

Christopher Reeve

SkillsUSA Calendar



February, 2008 - National Career & Technical Education

Month: **"Discovering Skills for a Competitive Workforce"**

February 1, 2008 - Colorado Membership Deadline

February 10-16 - SkillsUSA Week

April 10 -11, 2008, Colorado SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Championship, Colorado Springs, CO

June 23-27, 2008 - 44th Annual National Leadership and Skills Conference, Kansas City, MO

2008 Pin Design Contests

Colorado Pin Contest

Thank you for the entries we received for the state pin design contest. The state officers will be judging the designs in January and winners will be notified as soon as possible. The first place winning pin will be produced for this years state conference in April.

NLSC Pin Contest Reminder

February 1 is the deadline for the SkillsUSA National Conference Pin competition. This event is open to all members of SkillsUSA, and the winning pin design will be the official pin of the 2008 national conference. What a great way to have a student and advisor recognized in front of a national audience! Rules are in the membership kit and are posted on the SkillsUSA web site at: <http://www.skillsusa.org/compete/other.shtml>.



2007 Colorado Conference Pin
Viktoria Tkachuk, Boulder Tech