



**First State
FLASH**



**Updates for a
Successful Year**



State Conference 2026

Date Range: March 2 + March 9-13, 2026
[Current Schedule Now Available Here](#)

**NLSC Dates for 2026
June 1-5 in Atlanta, GA**

**Competition Registration NOW OPEN for
2026 Delaware State Leadership & Skills Conference. Closes February 13.
Register @ <https://www.skillsusa-register.org/Login.aspx>**

»» Registering Your Students for Competitions

1. **Deadline to Register for SkillsUSA Delaware SLSC: February 13**

- All student competitors must be registered by the deadline.
- Cost for competitors = \$35.00 each

2. **ALTERNATE COMPETITORS REGISTRATION**

- Register any alternates you may have.
- There is no registration fee for alternates.
- Alternates will submit a resume and complete their required online testing as any other competitor. In the case that the alternate must compete, the prerequisite tasks will be completed.

3. **NAIL CARE MODELS, STUDENT HELPERS/LABORERS MUST BE REGISTERED**

- Every Nail Care competitor must have a Nail Care Model. There is no registration fee for Nail Care models. They do not have to submit a resume or complete online tests.
- If a competition is requesting student volunteers or laborers, they must be registered in the system. There is no registration fee nor resume/testing requirements.

»» Where to Find the Schedule for Delaware SkillsUSA SLSC 2026

- Link for all things related to the 2026 Conference:
 - <https://delawareskillsusa.org/2026-delaware-state-leadership-skills-conference>

»» Other Important Upcoming Deadlines

- February 18 - March 6 - Online Testing Window
- March 6 - Resume Upload Submission Deadline for SLSC
- 2026-27 State Officer Applications due by Friday, February 6 (information on website)
- Advisor of the Year Nominations due by February 20 (information on our website)
- Chapter Excellence Program deadline: February 20 (complete and submit on SkillsUSA registration portal)

DELAWARE STATE LEADERSHIP & SKILLS CONFERENCE UPDATES

»» After Registration: Resumes, Online Content Tests, SkillsUSA Professional Development Test

So you've registered your students and the excitement in your chapter is building. What next?! Have your students prepare for the following requirements:

- **Professional Resume.** ALL SkillsUSA competitors and alternates must upload a one-page resume. **There is a point penalty for failure to upload a resume by the deadline.** More information will be released about how to upload in February 2026. In the meantime, use the SkillsUSA resources available to have students complete their resume.
 - Link to Free Resources: <https://www.skillsusa.org/competitions/skillsusa-championships/competition-updates/#resources>
- **Online Content Knowledge Tests.** Most competitions (not all) require the completion of an Online Content Knowledge Test. These tests are designed by National SkillsUSA, not our local partners. To prepare for these tests, review the Technical Standards associated with your competition. Unfortunately, the national SkillsUSA does not provide study guides for these tests.
 - **How do I know if my competition requires a test?** View our Delaware SLSC 2026 Schedule. There is a column that indicates this requirement ([link here](#)).
 - All competitors and alternates who participate in a contest that requires an Online Content Knowledge Test must complete this requirement.
 - **How does the test affect scores?** These tests are no more than 10% of the competitor's overall score.
- **SkillsUSA Professional Development Test.** All competitors and alternates, regardless of whether or not they have an Online Content Knowledge Test, must complete the Professional Development Test.
 - At Delaware SLSC, the test is used as a tiebreaker if needed.
 - At NLSC, it is a part of the competitor's overall score.
 - Study Guide available on our website @ <https://delawareskillsusa.org/2026-delaware-state-leadership-skills-conference/competitor-resources>



DELAWARE STATE LEADERSHIP & SKILLS CONFERENCE UPDATES

»» New Freshmen-Only Contest: Career Choice Commentary & Display

- In an effort to promote SkillsUSA to our 9th graders, we will have a freshmen-only competition this year! It is a state-only contest, meaning there will be medals at the state level but no national competition.
- [Click Here to view the standards](#) and begin recruiting your freshmen!

CAREER CHOICE COMMENTARY & DISPLAY

»» Culinary-Related Events for First-Year Students in Culinary and Baking & Pastry

- Delaware SkillsUSA offers two state-only competitions for our students enrolled in their first year of the Culinary Arts and Baking & Pastry Arts pathways:
 - **Cake Decorating**
 - **Knife Skills**
- These competitors have the potential to earn a medal from Delaware SkillsUSA in these events. There is no national competition.
- Competitors in these events must complete the SkillsUSA Professional Development Test. There is no online content knowledge test for this contest.

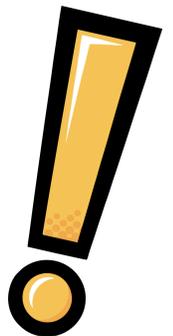
UPDATES FROM NATIONAL SKILLSUSA

»» SkillsUSA Week is Coming: Are You Ready?

It's time to get energized for SkillsUSA Week, February 2-6! This is an exciting opportunity for your chapter to plan activities that raise awareness of SkillsUSA, increase member engagement, and recognize the educators and industry partners who support student success. SkillsUSA Week is a time for members to strengthen their skills and showcase how SkillsUSA plays an important role in personal and professional growth.

To get started, explore the [SkillsUSA Week resources](#). You'll find ready-to-use artwork, a printable daily themes flyer, sample activities, a draft news release, a school morning announcement script, and more to help make planning easy and impactful.

Chapters can also request a virtual visit from SkillsUSA national officers during SkillsUSA Week. On February 3, national officers are available to join students for 30-minute sessions, providing greetings and taking your group through a fun lesson. Be sure to complete the [virtual visit request form](#) by January 30. Space is limited, and visits are available on a first-come, first-served basis.



UPDATES FROM NATIONAL SKILLSUSA

»» Don't Miss Next Week's SkillsUSA Pathful Sessions!

Mark your calendars! We're hosting two live sessions next Wednesday to ensure you're getting the most out of your SkillsUSA Pathful access:

SkillsUSA Pathful (Focus: Resume Builder and Pathful 101)
Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. ET (60 minutes)

Join us for an introduction to SkillsUSA Pathful, your all-in-one platform for career exploration and workforce readiness. In this quick-start session, you'll learn how to navigate the platform, access live and on-demand career resources, connect with industry professionals, and integrate career exploration into your curriculum. We'll also unpack the Resume Builder tool, showcasing how students can build, export, and share resumes—and how advisors can access reporting features to support student success.

[Registration Instructions here.](#)



»» SkillsUSA National Signing Day is May 6, 2026 – or your chapter can choose its own date!

Celebrate students committing to their skilled career pathways. Host your Signing Day on the national date or whenever works best locally. Early-bird registration runs March 1–31. The first 20 chapters to register 10 students will receive a National Signing Day incentive, and the first 3,000 registrations completed by the early-bird deadline will receive the official NSD hat. Registration closes May 1. Explore resources at signingday.skillsusa.org.

»» Honorary Life and Outstanding Career and Technical Educator Nominations Open

If you would like to nominate someone for recognition by SkillsUSA as an [Honorary Life](#) or [Outstanding Educator](#), please complete the online applications. Be sure to notify those you nominate and provide all of the information that is requested. Learn more about these awards and eligibility by visiting the [Awards Programs](#) page on the SkillsUSA website. The deadline is March 1. For questions, contact [Chris Anderson](#).

»» New Scholarship Opportunity for SkillsUSA Members

SkillsUSA is proud to partner with the SkillPointe Foundation to expand scholarship access for students pursuing careers in Construction, Energy, Manufacturing, Transportation, Healthcare, Automotive and more.

The SkillPointe Foundation has committed \$250,000 exclusively for SkillsUSA members, giving them top consideration across dozens of high-demand career scholarships.

[Visit the SkillPointe Foundation's website](#) or scan the QR code to explore current opportunities and apply.

