08 September 2026

LEVEL UP
2026 - 2027



State Conference 2027

Date Range: March 9-12
Schedule Coming Soon. Stay tuned!

NLSC Dates for 2027
June 21-25 in Atlanta, GA

Take the first step NOW for your students! Register students as National Members for 2026-2027. Reminder: All students competing at our State Conference *must be registered as National Members* by December 31. Don't delay!
Register @ https://www.skillsusa-register.org/Login.aspx

Welcome Back, Team Delaware!
A message from Andrea Keen, State Director, SkillsUSA Delaware

Welcome back, advisors! I hope this first edition of the First State Flash finds you rested, recharged, and ready for what I already know is going to be a remarkable year.

Before we look ahead, let's take a moment to celebrate how far we came together in 2025–2026, because you earned every bit of it. Last year, SkillsUSA Delaware didn't just grow. We broke records.

- We reached an all-time high of 1,233 student members across 20 active chapters — the largest membership in our state's history, and nearly double where we stood just four years ago.
- We sent our largest delegation ever to the National Leadership & Skills Conference in Atlanta: 119 students and advisors strong.
- And Team Delaware delivered on the national stage: six national gold medalists across four competitions, plus 44 students earning industry-endorsed Skill Point Certificates.

This only happens because of you. Every chapter that grew, every competitor who advanced, every student who found their confidence this year did so because an advisor believed in them and put in the work. Thank you, truly.

So how do we follow a record-breaking year? We **Level Up**.

That's our theme for 2026–2027, and it's more than a slogan. It's a challenge to every one of us. Leveling up doesn't mean starting over. It means taking what's already working and pushing it one step further:

- If your chapter grew last year, level up your leadership: hand students the reins and watch them rise.
- If you sent competitors to states, level up their preparation and set your sights on that national stage.
- If you're brand new to SkillsUSA, welcome! Your first level up is simply getting started, and we are here to help you every step of the way.

Growth like ours isn't a ceiling. It's a launch point. What we built last year gives us the strongest foundation we've ever had. Now let's see how high we can climb from it.

I am so proud of this team, and so excited for what's ahead. Let's make 2026–2027 our best year yet.

Let's level up, Team Delaware!

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DELAWARE STATE LEADERSHIP & SKILLS CONFERENCE UPDATES

Updated Technical Standards for 2026 through 2028

- Be sure to log into your Pathful account and view your updated technical standards from our national office.

State Leadership & Skills Conference (SLSC) 2027

- The dates are locked in! March 9 through 12; Awards Session on March 18.
- We are working with our location partners and contest coordinators now to finalize the competition schedule, so please stay tuned.

Town Halls

- We will host our first Lead Chapter Advisor Town Hall soon. We will send the date to the lead advisor at each Chapter (school).
- We plan to host mini-Town Halls this fall to help you prepare for this year's competitions. We will release those dates when they become available.

Register Your Students as National Members by December 31

- Don't delay! This is a requirement if you have students who plan to compete at the 2027 Delaware SLSC. We recommend you take care of registration early to avoid any issues when it comes time for Conference Registration.

UPDATES FROM NATIONAL SKILLSUSA

Industry Insider: Showcasing Your Future with IBM

Explore how technology is shaping careers across industries while learning more about in-demand techpathways and the skills needed to succeed in a rapidly evolving workforce. Join SkillsUSA and IBM for an exclusive Industry Insider session showcasing the FREE career exploration resources available through IBM SkillBuild.

During this interactive virtual event, students will hear directly from industry professionals, spanning roles in Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, and Data Analytics, explore emerging technology careers, and learn how IBM SkillBuild can help them build valuable skills for the future. We encourage students and advisors to have their computers nearby so they can actively participate and explore the available courses in IBM SkillsBuild during the session!

Date: September 17, 2026 | Time: Noon - 12:50 p.m. ET | Audience: Students and advisors

Registration Details

Already a SkillsUSA member? Log in to SkillsUSA Pathful and register for the event here.
SkillsUSA Pathful is SkillsUSA's all-in-one career-readiness platform and an exclusive benefit of SkillsUSA membership, connecting students and educators with career exploration, work-based learning and career-readiness resources.

Not a SkillsUSA member? You can still participate! Register for the event here.

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UPDATES FROM NATIONAL SKILLSUSA

John Deere Partnership: Technical Session

John Deere is here to help! Join us for a technical session focused on diesel equipment technology, skilled trades, and career pathways.

Thursday, October 8 | Noon – 12:50 p.m. ET
SkillsUSA Pathful LMS

Educators will explore John Deere resources and support for instructors and programs, including a basic electrical lesson and demonstration, the John Deere TECH Program, dealership career pathways, and opportunities to connect with local John Deere dealerships.

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