



## Overview of 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).

### Membership:

More than 300,000 students and advisors join SkillsUSA annually, organized into more than 18,000 sections and 52 state and territorial associations. Combining alumni and lifetime membership, the total number served this year is more than 360,000. SkillsUSA has served more than 12.2 million members since its founding in 1965.

### Mission:

SkillsUSA empowers its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. SkillsUSA improves the quality of America's skilled workforce through a structured program of citizenship, leadership, employability, technical and professional skills training. SkillsUSA enhances the lives and careers of students, instructors and industry representatives as they strive to be champions at work.

### Partners:

In 2015, more than 18,000 teachers and school administrators served as professional SkillsUSA members and advisors. More than 600 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.

## Motto and Pledge

### 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.)

## 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.



## Emblem, Colors and Official Attire

### Symbolism of the 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.

*Note: The emblem should not be used to represent the organization. Please use official SkillsUSA logos.*



## 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 Attire

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

### Official Attire for women:

- Red SkillsUSA blazer, windbreaker, sweater or black SkillsUSA jacket
- White collarless or small-collared blouse or white turtleneck, collar not to extend over the blazer lapel or the sweater, windbreaker or jacket
- Black dress skirt (knee-length) or black dress slacks
- Black sheer (not opaque) or skin-tone seamless hose
- Black shoes

### Official attire for men:

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

To order official clothing and work uniforms for competition, go to the [SkillsUSA Supply Service](#).



## Theme

The SkillsUSA competition theme for the 2016-17 year is:

### SkillsUSA: Champions at Work Preparing America's Skilled Workforce

The topic to be addressed by contestants in the Chapter Display, Prepared Speech and Promotional Bulletin Board competitions is how our theme, SkillsUSA: Champions at Work, addresses the SkillsUSA national program of work in the area of professional development.

## SkillsUSA Framework

### The SkillsUSA Framework Supports a Balanced Program



The SkillsUSA Framework illustrates how students fulfill the mission of the organization “to empower members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens.”

### What it does

- Provides a **common language** for students to articulate what they gain from SkillsUSA participation to employers, school administrators, parents and other students
- **Assesses student skill development** along a learning continuum of awareness, demonstration and mastery
- Creates a **vision for SkillsUSA programs** at the local, state and national levels to ensure quality student-led experiences that build skills in all members



### Why it works

- Empowers every student to achieve career success
- Delivers a skill set ***demand***ed by ***business and industry*** but lacking in many employees today
- Ensures that every student member receives a ***consistent and specific*** skill set

[Download SkillsUSA Framework art for your classroom.](#)