

## **WHAT IS SKILLSUSA?**

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. We help each student excel.

## **WHY SHOULD I JOIN SKILLSUSA? / WHAT CAN SKILLSUSA DO FOR ME?**

- SkillsUSA is the only national organization designed exclusively for students preparing for technical, skilled and service careers, including health careers. It is the student's professional organization. It offers the opportunity for prestige and recognition, and it is the only national organization working full time to create good public attitudes for this specific group of students.
- SkillsUSA is an essential part of career and technical education. It provides the opportunity to develop technical, academic and employability skills, and it makes career and technical education more relevant to the demands of the work force. Education, labor and management organizations recognize SkillsUSA important role in the total development of students training for technical, skilled and service careers.
- SkillsUSA offers opportunities for competitive events and awards from the local to international levels.
- SkillsUSA promotes the involvement of business, industry and labor in career and technical education for better training and employment opportunities.

## **MOTTO**

"Preparing for Leadership in the World of Work."

## **2012– 2013 Theme**

**SkillsUSA: SkillsUSA Champions at Work; Prepared with the SKILLS America Needs.** This Theme should be used in the following Contests: Chapter Display, Promotional Bulletin Board, and Prepared Speech.

## **PURPOSES**

- To unite in a common bond, all students enrolled in trade, industrial, technical and health occupations education.
- To develop leadership abilities through participation in educational, vocational, civic, recreational, and social activities.
- To foster a deep respect for the dignity of work.
- To assist students in establishing realistic vocational goals.
- To help students attain a purposeful life.
- To create enthusiasm for learning.
- To promote high standards in trade ethics, workmanship, scholarship and safety.
- To develop the ability of students to plan together, organize and carry out worthy activities and projects through the use of the democratic process
- To foster a wholesome understanding of the functions of labor and management organizations and a recognition of their mutual interdependence.
- To create among students, faculty members, patrons of the school and persons in business and labor a sincere interest in and esteem for trade, industrial, technical and health occupations education.
- To develop patriotism through a knowledge of our Nation's heritage and the practice of democracy.

## **THE SYMBOLISM OF THE SkillsUSA EMBLEM**

### ***The Shield Represents Patriotism***

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

### ***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 new technical frontiers and the need for continuous education.

### ***The Gear Represents the Industrial Society***

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

### ***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.

## **COLORS**

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

Red and White represent the individual States and Chapters.

Blue represents the common union of the States and the Chapters.

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

## **THE 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 the SkillsUSA

## **THE CREED**

### *I Believe in the Dignity of Work*

I hold that mankind has advanced to his present culture through the intelligent use of his hands and mind. I shall maintain a feeling of humbleness for the knowledge and skills that I receive from craftsmen, and I shall conduct myself with dignity in the work I do.

### *I Believe in the American Way of Life*

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

### *I Believe in Education*

I shall endeavor to make the best use of knowledge, skills, and experience that I learn in school in order that I may become a better workman in my chosen occupation and a better citizen in my community. To this end I will continue my learning both in and out of school.

### *I Believe in Fair Play*

I shall through honesty and fair play respect the rights of my fellow man. I shall always conduct myself in the manner of the best craftsmen 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 service will be in proportion to my creative and productive ability.

### *I Believe in High Moral and Spiritual Standards*

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

## **MEMBERSHIP and FINANCING**

The official membership year runs from September 1 through August 31. National membership dues are established by the Board of Directors upon the recommendation of student delegates to the SkillsUSA National Leadership Conference. Members submit their dues in the fall at the beginning of the school year. State associations and local executive councils set their own dues, which are in addition to national dues. *Active* student membership is eight (\$8.00) dollars and fifty cents for National dues and two (\$2) for Connecticut. *Professional* membership is fourteen (\$14) dollars for National and two (\$2) dollars for Connecticut.

## SkillsUSA Regions

### **Region 1**

Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Washington, D.C.

### **Region 2**

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, U.S. Virgin Islands, Virginia

### **Region 3**

Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Wisconsin

### **Region 4**

Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas

### **Region 5**

Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

## TYPES OF SkillsUSA MEMBERSHIP

- **Active Membership**  
Students in trade, industrial, technology and health occupations education at either the secondary or postsecondary level. Students must be enrolled in a coherent sequence of courses or career major preparing them for further education and/or employment, and they must be earning credit toward a diploma/certificate or its equivalent
- **Professional membership**  
People associated with or participating in the professional development of SkillsUSA active members, as approved by their state association. Professional members include section advisors, teacher educators and supervisors. Professional members pay dues but are not eligible to serve as national voting delegates, hold national office or otherwise represent their state association in SkillsUSA.
- **Alumni membership**  
Former active members who are no longer enrolled in trade, industrial, technology and health occupations education.
- **Honorary life membership**  
Individuals who have made significant contributions to the development of SkillsUSA and the areas of career and technical education SkillsUSA serves. Honorary life members do not pay national dues.