SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA helps each student excel. We provide educational programs, events, and competitions that support career and technical education (CTE) in the nation’s classrooms.

SkillsUSA Louisiana is part of this national organization serving over a quarter million student members annually, organized into more than 14,700 chapters and 54 state and territorial associations (including Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands).

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 demanded by business and industry but lacking in many employees today
- Ensures that every student member receives a consistent and specific skill set
- Builds a multi-faceted network of educators, students, and business partners

SkillsUSA has an impact on the lives of its nearly 300,000 members. Through hands-on learning experiences, SkillsUSA teaches skills that are grounded in academics.
Any student enrolled in Career and Technical Education should become a member of SkillsUSA Louisiana.

Statistics:
3,500 members served annually
10 industries, representing 130 career fields
115 chapters across the state
400 business & industry partnerships

“SkillsUSA is the pipeline to supply America’s future skilled workforce. Our Program of Work provides students with the technical and employability skills to fill the growing demand for middle-skill workers in manufacturing, construction, healthcare, transportation and information technology.”

Charlie Positerry - Chapter Advisor

SkillsUSA Louisiana Competition Clusters

A/V Technology and Communications
- 3D Animation & Visualization
- Advertising Design
- Audio/Video \& Production
- Broadcast Technology
- Internet/Networking
- Motion Graphics
- TV \& Video Production
- Video Production

Architecture and Construction
- Architectural Drafting (Board)
- Architectural Drafting (CAD)
- CAD/MC lunch
- Carpentry
- Drafting/Technical Drafting
- HVAC
- Machine Drafting (Board)
- Sheet Metal
- Welding
- Welding Fabrication
- Welding Art/Sculpture

Health Sciences
- Basic Health Care Skills
- Biological Science
- Health Occupations Professional Portfolio
- Medical Assisting
- Medical Terminology
- Nursing Assistant

Leadership Development
- Action Skills
- Career Display/Suitcase
- Creative Photography Display: Digital Color
- Creative Photography Display: Film - Black & White
- Creative Photography Display: Film - Color
- Effective Listening
- Essay
- Extemporaneous Speaking
- Job Interview
- Job Skill Demonstration
- Leadership Development
- Opening & Closing Ceremonies
- Project Management
- Professional Speech
- Prepared Speech
- Promotional Bulletins-Suitcase
- Quiz Bowl
- Scrapbook

Manufacturing
- Automation Manufacturing Technology
- Automated Manufacturing Technology
- CNC Machining Technology
- CNC Printing Technology
- CNC Turning Technology
- Welding
- Welding Fabrication
- Welding Art/Sculpture

Public Safety
- Crime Scene Investigation
- Criminal Justice
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Firefighting
- First Aid & CPR

STEM/Information Technology
- Adobe Photoshop Design
- Computer Programming
- Computer Science Technology
- Cybersecurity
- Digital Photography
- Electronic Technology
- Electrical Technology
- Electrical Engineering Technology
- Engineering Technology Design
- Medical Engineering Technology
- Mobile Robotics Technology
- Principles of Engineering Technology
- Related Technical Math
- Robotics
- Security & Surveillance
- Telecommunications
- Technical Writing
- Web Design

Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics
- Automotive Refinishing Technology
- Automotive Service Technology
- Collision Repair Technology
- Diesel Equipment Technology
- Full-Service Auto \& Heavy Truck Repair
- Power Equipment Technology

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The State Leadership and Skills Conference is the pinnacle conference for the students in SkillsUSA Louisiana.

The SkillsUSA Louisiana state competition recognizes career and technical education students who excel in their occupational areas, and spotlights leadership development activities that are such an integral part of the SkillsUSA program.

The philosophy of the SkillsUSA Louisiana Championships is to reward students for excellence, to involve industry in directly evaluating student performance, and to keep training relevant to employers’ needs. Contests directly follow technical standards established by industry each year.

Besides showcasing students’ skills, the SkillsUSA Louisiana Championships, by the very nature of competition, urges students to take pride in their work. It also provides prospective employers with an opportunity to see dedicated, motivated potential employees at work.

Each year 800 students converge in Houma/Shreveport-Bossier, with 500 educators and 400 volunteers in tow, challenging themselves to showcase their talents.

The high-energy festivities kick off on Wednesday evening. Speakers deliver powerfully memorable inspiration for students to acknowledge the strength and possibility of their skills, embrace competition, and develop a deep sense of pride in their work.

The competition begins on Thursday with students competing across 58 contests designed to test their skills. Each competition is designed and run by representatives of respective industries, allowing students to gain a high degree of experience and insight. Afterwards, students are treated to ice cream and a social event for their hard work.

The involvement of industry in the SkillsUSA Louisiana Competition program is essential. Leadership, health, trade, industrial and technical experts donate their time to serve as contest judges and as technical committee members. They assume responsibility for selecting the skills to be judged, determining the format of the contests and establishing the standards by which the contestants will be judged.

The red jackets come out on Friday as the conference ends with an “Olympic Style” Champions Ceremony. It is truly a sight to behold as students stand tall and proud of their accomplishment, connect with their future, and prepare to represent Louisiana on the national stage.
The SkillsUSA Championships are competitive events showcasing the best career and technical education students in the nation. Contests begin locally and continue through the state and national levels.

This is a multi-million-dollar event that occupies a space equivalent to 16 football fields. In 2017, there were more than 6,000 contestants in 100 separate events. Nearly 1,500 judges and contest organizers from labor and management make the national event possible.

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National Leadership and Skills Conference

LEVEL UP!
During this one day training, chapter members will discover how to ignite the leader in them and maximize their potential, as well as develop a deep understanding of SkillsUSA. This high energy event allows state officers to work directly with local advisor(s) and members to create a program of work that can be used to continue to grow the chapter.

On-site training will:
• Discover SkillsUSA
• Explore the SkillsUSA Framework
• Learn about local chapter structure
• Set personal and professional goals
• Plan your future local SkillsUSA chapter

Specific Activities Include:
• Learning about the “Skills Gap”
• Interactive Activities
• Professional Development

Level Up! is an on site, chapter start up event that will help SkillsUSA members find their “start button” through hands-on, high-energy and motivational programming. Level Up! is open to all SkillsUSA members.
L.E.A.D. Conference

L.E.A.D. Conference provides students with opportunities to build early leadership skills and establish long rewarding tactics around responsibility and teamwork. Students build connections with students across the state as they create work groups with diversification in ages, skill areas, and school locations.

Students learn first hand what team skills and responsibilities are about. They work together to complete leadership tasks while drawing from the talents of the participants, dealing with personality conflicts, taking risks in new situations, practicing speaking and presentation skills, all while having fun.

300 Students find opportunities to:
- Explore values and character
- Maximize strengths and talents
- Develop and set goals
- Discover leadership characteristics
- Learn how to build a team
- Improve communication skills
- Interview with business and industry

Specific Activities include:
- Resumé building
- Interview skills
- Professional development

The State Officer Experience

The SkillsUSA Louisiana State Officer Team is made up of eight high school students from all across Louisiana.

The State Officer Team is a group of student leaders responsible for making the decisions that shape students’ SkillsUSA Louisiana experience throughout the year. These 8 student leaders speak for the membership, provide representation at local schools, industry events, and businesses throughout the state, and are state delegates to the SkillsUSA national organization.

These students are elected to run the organization for the coming year. State Officers:
- Develop personal leadership skills and abilities
- Appreciate team dynamics and diversity
- Learn communication and collaboration techniques
- Teach, coach, mentor, and potentially affect 3,500 members
- Build life long friendships and professional connections
"I'm very serious about my life and my career and my education. SkillsUSA shows that I have involvement in my school and leadership opportunities."  
Hannah Hunter - Student

"Before I joined SkillsUSA, I was your typical high school student. I went to school, I went home, I went fishing. That was about it. SkillsUSA made me appreciate the value of the work force so much more."  
Courtney Hogg - Student

"SkillsUSA has allowed me to be a better, more motivated person and it’s taught me the true values in life. Career-wise, it has trained me and given me all the qualities I need to get my job done right. I wouldn’t change anything that I’ve learned for the world."  
Ashley Sherman - Student

"I’ve learned that when you work hard you can play hard. There is a certain time and place for everything. SkillsUSA has taught me to be a professional in the business and industry world, but I learned to keep the kid inside of me alive."  
Tory Dickerson - Student

"It can represent a myriad of good things to different individuals, but to me it shows others that you value your future and that you want to bring out your best qualities as a person, worker, and leader."  
Dylan Fitch - Student

"SkillsUSA was the key to 'jumpstarting my success.' It helped me to create a goals list centered around expanding my skill set, making industry connections and getting my work recognized."  
Derrick Smith - Student

"Red Jacket" Grant

One of the largest issues students encounter in making their career choice is a lack of exposure to the careers they are interested in. In partnership with local business and industry SkillsUSA Louisiana is able to provide a select number of "Red Jacket" Grants each year. This grant helps SkillsUSA Louisiana Chapters cover costs associated with student involvement. These costs include travel, meals, and access to the educational experiences that deliver the deep impact of SkillsUSA.

$500 Grant for local chapter to kick-start a SkillsUSA chapter.*

"As a first year advisor, the Red Jacket Grant provided my chapter with the initial funds to jump start our fundraising and the ability to attend the L.E.A.D. Conference."

Daislynn Kimball - Career Magnet Center

*See website for details

"Red Jacket" Effect

Students who have been involved in SkillsUSA can attest to the benefits of being a part of the organization. Here are just a few of the many testimonials from SkillsUSA members:

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SkillsUSA Louisiana members learn teamwork and employability skills at the same time they are learning technical skills. SkillsUSA Louisiana creates well-rounded employees, with both the leadership and technical skills they need for employment.

SkillsUSA Louisiana members are also community leaders, giving back their time, energy and skills to their community.

SkillsUSA Louisiana members are key to the economic future and future workforce of America.

SkillsUSA helps industry recruit the kind of talent they want to hire. They know SkillsUSA is a pipeline of skilled workers who are training in career and technical education programs.

SkillsUSA Events:
• Level Up! Training (Fall; Your School!)
• L.E.A.D. Conference (Fall; Shreveport, LA)
• State Leadership & Skills Conference (April; Houma, LA)
• National Leadership & Skills Conference (June; Atlanta, GA)

Why join...

SkillsUSA makes a difference in student performance.

SkillsUSA benefits students by:
• Teaching teamwork and leadership
• Reinforcing employability skills
• Offering a national contest program
• Providing ways to serve the local community
• Offering $1 million in scholarships annually
• Helping students meet potential employers

SkillsUSA benefits teachers by:
• Enhancing the technical curriculum
• Helping improve class attitudes
• Giving students a way to test their skills
• Providing avenues for local industry support
• Helping showcase training programs
• Gaining greater administrator support
• Providing opportunities to network

SkillsUSA benefits schools by:
• Showcasing the school to the community
• Helping instructors meet educational standards
• Improving the quality of training programs
• Providing opportunities for recognition
• Helping to produce more qualified graduates
• Assisting with recruitment and enrollment
SkillsUSA is a national organization serving more than 350,000 high school and college/postsecondary students and professional members in career and technical education training programs. Through SkillsUSA, students gain self-esteem and pride in their work, along with the leadership and professional development skills to help them make a smooth transition from school to the workplace.

I hope you take advantage of this opportunity to join SkillsUSA Louisiana.

Not sure where to start? I’m here to help.

*Larry Rabalais* SkillsUSA Louisiana - Executive Director

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