



Facts about SkillsUSA and WorldSkills

SkillsUSA: SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA’s mission is to empower its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. SkillsUSA improves the quality of our nation’s future skilled workforce through the development of SkillsUSA Framework skills that include personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics. A nonprofit national education association, SkillsUSA serves middle school, high school, and college/postsecondary students preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations.

WorldSkills: Since 1950, WorldSkills has come to symbolize the pinnacle of excellence in vocational training and is currently represented by over 80 member countries and regions. WorldSkills inspires young people to pursue a passion for skills and pursuing excellence through competitions and promotions. The organization develops skills through global training standards, benchmarking systems and enhanced industry engagement. WorldSkills influences industry, government and educators through cooperation and research, building a global platform of skills for all. In 1973, President Richard M. Nixon recognized SkillsUSA (then known as VICA) as the official U.S. representative to WorldSkills. For more information on the WorldSkills organization, visit www.worldskills.org.

WorldSkills Competition: The WorldSkills Competition (WSC) is held every two years. (The first WSC was held in Madrid, Spain, in 1950.) It is the largest international showcase of the skilled trades. More than 1,400 competitors from over 80 countries and regions around the world compete in more than 60 different trade skills, including construction and building technology, creative arts and fashion, information and communication technology, manufacturing and engineering, social and personal services, and transportation and logistics. Countries bid to hold the event. The next WSC will be held in Shanghai, China, Oct. 12-17, 2022. The following WSC will be held in Lyon, France, Sept. 10-15, 2024.

2022 WorldSkills USA Team: SkillsUSA will field a team of talented young skilled trades experts who will represent the United States as the WorldSkills USA Team at the 46th WorldSkills Competition on Oct. 12–17, 2022, in Shanghai, China. SkillsUSA determines participation in specific WSC events based on the availability of a well-qualified competitor, a technical expert and confirmed industry commitment for advanced training and support. In 2022, the WorldSkills USA team plans to compete in the following skill areas: Automobile Technology, Car Painting, Cooking, Heavy Vehicle Maintenance, Plumbing and Heating, and Welding.

Selection: SkillsUSA selects team members through a process that considers technical ability as well as time and commitment for training. A competitor at the WorldSkills Competition must be 22 or younger in the year of the competition. Competitors in Information Network Cabling, Mechatronics, Manufacturing Team Challenge, and Aircraft Maintenance must be 25 or younger in the year of the competition. Due to the worldwide pandemic, the original date of the proposed 2021 WorldSkills Competition was moved to 2022. Consequently, if a competitor was age-eligible for the competition in 2021, they will also be age-eligible for 2022.

Experts: SkillsUSA appoints a technical expert for each contest in which the United States competes and is also responsible for working with technical experts from other countries to organize, conduct and judge that contest. The 2022 technical experts include: Mike Elder, Pittsburg, Kan. (Automobile Technology); James Redd, Columbus, Ohio (Car Painting); Greg Beachey, New Paris, Ind. (Cooking); Tom Wozniak, Lake Mills, Wis. (Heavy Vehicle Maintenance); Robert Hahn, Union, N.J. (Plumbing and Heating); Ray Connolly, Cedar Hill, Mo. (Welding).

Sponsorship: The WorldSkills USA team is funded solely through private donations. 3M will serve as the lead sponsor of the 2022 team. Other proud team sponsors include American Welding Society (AWS). SkillsUSA is actively seeking additional supporters for the 2022 WorldSkills USA team. To provide funding or donate in-kind support, go to: www.worldskillsusa.org/donate/.