



SkillsUSA Utah State Director's Message: 8/23/21

Greetings. I hope everyone has started to settle into a normal routine after completing the first few days of school. I realize that many colleges and universities have not started yet, but they will be fully engaged with their students soon. As we embark on another academic year, I am excited to work with the best CTE students and their advisors through the SkillsUSA organization.

I am pleased to announce the addition of Natalie Johnson to the SkillsUSA Utah state leadership team. Natalie will serve as the Communications Manager, with the primary responsibility to develop and maintain a better communication process between the SkillsUSA Utah leadership team and our students, advisors, administrators, and business/industry partners. We are fortunate to have a person with her skills and qualifications join our organization.

I am also pleased to announce that SkillsUSA Utah is accepting new chapter applications from Middle School CTE programs throughout the state of Utah. We look forward to including these young people in our organization and providing them with many career preparation and development opportunities.

I just received an update from the National Leadership and Skills Conference Contest Manager. He indicated that all 2021 national conference medallions have been mailed and should arrive at the students' home address or their school by the end of August. There were fewer national contest industry prizes awarded this year. These prizes are being shipped directly from the industry sponsors and some prizes may not arrive until early in October. Please be patient.

Please read the information below. There are valuable updates included in this message.

Contact information:

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SkillsUSA Utah State Website: utahskillsusa.org

The state website provides information for all SkillsUSA Utah events. Please check it often to obtain current messages from the state director and information about state events.

National SkillsUSA website: skillsusa.org

The national SkillsUSA website is to be accessed and used by all advisors to start a new SkillsUSA school chapter, complete membership registrations and complete event registrations for their students and themselves.

Customer Care Team:

The Customer Care Team is an essential advisor resource at the national office. These individuals are specifically trained to help advisors with their chapter, membership and event registration duties.

Customer Care Team contact information and hours of operation:

844-875-4557

Chat

customercare@skillsusa.org

Hours:

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 8:00 – 5:00 Eastern Time (6:00 – 3:00 Mountain Time)

Tuesday/Thursday 11:00 – 7:00 Eastern Time (9:00 – 5:00 Mountain Time)

(Hours of operation may be extended during high volume times, such as during state and national conferences.)

Membership Registration:

The membership registration system for 2021-2022 is open and accessible. All membership registrations and dues payments are completed through the national SkillsUSA website (skillsusa.org) and/or the national SkillsUSA office. (Customer Care Team - customercare@skillsusa.org) Students must be properly registered and paid members, before the membership registration deadline (February 15, 2022), to be eligible to participate in the state and national conference events.

I strongly encourage every SkillsUSA advisor to register as a professional member. The paid professional membership gives you free access to the current national contest technical standards and numerous on-line curriculum resources. These resources will be very valuable as you help your students lead your chapter activities this year.

SkillsUSA Utah Membership Dues for 2021-2022:

The membership registration dues have not changed from previous years. These membership dues must be paid to the national SkillsUSA office by the membership registration deadline (February 15, 2022) for students to be eligible to participate in state and national conference events.

Annual membership dues for all students: \$16.00 per student (Middle school, High school/Secondary, College/Post-Secondary)

Annual professional membership dues for all instructors/advisors: \$30.00 per instructor/advisor (Middle school, High school/Secondary, College/Post-Secondary)

SkillsUSA Utah Fall Leadership Conference:

We are so excited to prepare and present an in-person SkillsUSA Utah Fall Leadership Conference, scheduled for Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at the Utah Valley University Student Center in Orem, Utah. Registration for this event must be completed in the national website Conference Management System, starting Monday, August 30, 2021. The registration process will include obtaining the proper student and parental signatures on a Code of Conduct, a photo/sound release and liability waivers for each participant. More registration details will be forthcoming.

As you all know, the COVID-19 pandemic is still a major concern, so we must remain flexible and be willing to follow the current health guidelines as required by the local health officials and the UVU administration. This may include a switch to an alternative delivery method. Let's all cross our fingers and toes with hope that the in-person event will happen.

Feel free to contact Savannah or I with any questions, and we will do our best to respond in a timely manner. I wish you the very best this week and throughout the coming year.

With Warm Regards,

Richard Wittwer