

Dear SkillsUSA Advisor, (SkillsUSA 2020-2021 #18)

### Item #1: Regional Online Testing Registration Opens Next Week!

It's almost time to register your students for SkillsUSA Regional online testing. As a reminder, due to pandemic-related restrictions online testing is replacing all in-person regionally-qualifying competitions designated as "per region" on the attached MS Excel spreadsheet.

Important: online tests replace in-person regional-qualifying competitions **only**, so communicating/surveying within your region to determine the number of students planning to participate in "per region" competitions is still necessary. Remember, (for example) if a contest allows 3 students/teams per region to advance to a state-level competition and only 3 students/teams in your region are planning to participate students/teams can advance directly to state competitions (without online testing) as has been the rule every year.

Advisors will be utilizing the SkillsUSA Conference Management System (CMS) to register students for online testing (same platform used for membership and conference registration). Testing instructions and sample test questions will be released soon. Registration will be open **February 1-15, 2021**.

If you need registration assistance please contact Dennis Peaton, SkillsUSA Maryland Conference Registration Coordinator, [dennis.peaton@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.peaton@gmail.com).

### Item #2: Reminder: Membership Deadline Extended

The SkillsUSA Maryland January 31 membership deadline has been extended to **February 26, 2021**. Continue recruiting new members and think about inviting a State Officer to one of your chapter meetings to get students excited about being or becoming a member! Contact Charlene Zinnel, State Officer Team Advisor, to schedule a virtual visit, [zinnelc@dcpsmd.org](mailto:zinnelc@dcpsmd.org).

### Item #3: February is CTE Month – February 8-13 SkillsUSA Week!

Career and Technical Education Month, or CTE Month, is a public awareness campaign that takes place each February to celebrate the value of CTE and the achievements and accomplishments of CTE programs across the country.

As part of the month-long celebration, **February 8-13** is SkillsUSA Week! National SkillsUSA and state associations across the country are planning interesting, engaging and fun experiences for student and professional members. The Maryland State Officer Team will be hosting several online experiences aligning to/complementing National SkillsUSA Week activities, including:

- 2/8 "Recognition Day"
- 2/9 "Give Back Day"
- 2/10 "Partner Day"
- 2/11 "Advocacy Day"
- 2/12 "SkillsUSA Day"

Visit the following websites to learn more about CTE Month and SkillsUSA Week:

<https://www.acteonline.org/why-cte/cte-awareness/cte-month/>  
<https://www.skillsusa.org/events-training/skillsusa-week/>

Item #4: 2020-2021 State Officer Application and Interviews

Please encourage your most involved and motivated local officers to run for state office. The 2021-2022 application is available online and located on the SkillsUSA Maryland official website, State Officer page (“State Officer Application” at bottom of page): [http://mdskillsusa.org/state\\_officers.html](http://mdskillsusa.org/state_officers.html)

The application must be completed and returned electronically to the State Director by **February 15, 2021**. Please mail original copies with signatures to:

MSDE  
DCCR / Chuck Wallace  
200 W. Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

State officer candidates must complete/pass a written test as part of the application process. Online testing will be available **February 18-March 1**, and test results will be shared with candidates before the interviews. See test study guide on SkillsUSA Maryland official website, State Officer page:

[http://mdskillsusa.org/documents/Officer\\_Test\\_Study\\_Questions.pdf](http://mdskillsusa.org/documents/Officer_Test_Study_Questions.pdf)

Interviews will be held virtually this year, **March 10-11, 2021**. Please contact Charlene Zinnel for interview details: [zinnelc@dcpsmd.org](mailto:zinnelc@dcpsmd.org)

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