



»» Ignite the Shop with John Deere: A Technical Session for Educators

John Deere is here to help! Join us for a technical session focused on diesel equipment technology, skilled trades, and career pathways.

Thursday, October 8 | Noon – 12:50 p.m. ET

Educators will explore John Deere resources and support for instructors and programs, including a basic electrical lesson and demonstration, the John Deere TECH Program, dealership career pathways, and opportunities to connect with local John Deere dealerships.



[Register for the Zoom Session](#)

John Deere is ready to partner with SkillsUSA educators and help prepare the next generation of skilled professionals.

»» Level Up Your Skills This Fall Through LEARN on SkillsUSA Pathful

Exciting ideas, valuable resources and new connections are waiting for you this fall! SkillsUSA offers a variety of professional development opportunities designed to fit the needs of busy advisors and educators - including virtual trainings, industry-led technical sessions, advisor-focused learning and opportunities to connect with educators from across the country.

One new, exciting addition to the PD lineup this year are the **monthly Advisor Town Halls taking place on the first Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. ET**. All advisors are encouraged to register and attend to hear timely updates from subject matter experts. [Sign up now for the first town hall](#) coming up on **Monday, Oct. 5**.

There's plenty more to explore: visit the [SkillsUSA Professional Development webpage](#) to find the full schedule, program details and registration instructions and choose the opportunities that work best for you!

»» Don't Miss Out! Back-to-School Display Challenge Sponsored by Simple Green®

Twenty SkillsUSA Chapters that create and host an informational display table by Oct. 1 are eligible to receive a special giveaway from Simple Green®, featuring products selected especially for their CTE program. Official rules, submission guidelines and [full details are available on the Back-to-School webpage](#).

»» New SkillsUSA Membership Handbooks are Available for Purchase NOW!

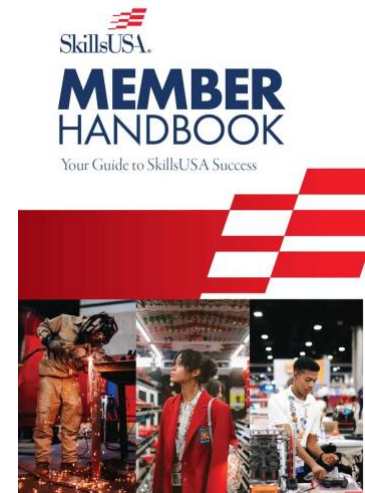
The SkillsUSA Member Handbook: Your Guide to SkillsUSA Success

\$6.50 1-50; \$5.95 order of 51+

The foundation for every SkillsUSA member, the handbook answers the “why” behind their experience. Inside, students discover:

- The history, purpose and mission of SkillsUSA
- The SkillsUSA Framework
- Opportunities for leadership, service and workplace learning within the Program of Work
- How chapter participation drives personal and professional growth
- Practical ways to become an active, engaged member

Orders can be [placed in the shopping cart here](#).



»» September SkillsUSA Pathful Challenge

This month's SkillsUSA Pathful Challenge invites students to complete the **Interest Assessment** and the **SkillsUSA Framework Essential Elements Self-Assessment** to discover career pathways that align with their interests, identify their strengths, and build a personalized career plan.

After completing both assessments, students will submit a short reflection for a chance to win exciting prizes!

Challenge Deadline: September 23, 2026

[Click here](#) for full challenge details, submission instructions, and prize information.

»» The Careers in Your Community Challenge

The U.S. Department of Education has launched the [Careers in Your Community Challenge](#), the fourth challenge in its [CTE Momentum](#) series to prepare high school students for rewarding careers and increase access to career and technical education (CTE). The challenge invites high schools to propose solutions that improve career exploration at their schools. Submissions are due by Nov. 19, 2026 at 6 p.m. ET, and up to 10 winning teams will receive an equal share of the \$50,000 prize pool.

Ready to get started? CTE teachers can review the [challenge details](#), [selection criteria](#) and available [resources](#) with students, then work together to identify opportunities to strengthen career exploration at your schools. Subscribe to the [CTE Momentum newsletter](#) for challenge updates and reminders.

»» SkillsUSA Hope Fund Applications

Applications for the **SkillsUSA Hope Fund** are open for the new membership year.

The Hope Fund provides support to current, active SkillsUSA members and chapters facing unexpected hardships. Funding is available to:

- Assist **SkillsUSA members experiencing a financial or personal crisis** that may impact their education or career pathway.
- Assist **SkillsUSA chapters affected by natural disasters** with recovery needs.

Applications must be submitted by a **SkillsUSA state director or chapter advisor**.

Applications and additional information are available on the **SkillsUSA Scholarships page** or through [the Hope Fund application](#).

»» When Student Leaders Stood Tall

Six weeks after Sept. 11, 2001, New Jersey state director Peter Carey faced a question he didn't feel he could answer alone: What should a student leadership conference look like in a country that was grieving, frightened and angry? He took it to his state officers. Twenty-five years later, he still remembers what those teenagers chose — and what they taught him about patriotism, service and standing together.



Read the full story on the [SkillsUSA Champions Hub](#).

»» Share Your Community Service Stories with SkillsUSA!

The [SkillsUSA Champions digital hub](#) provides new content frequently, from inspiring features to stories about the great work chapters and partners are doing. We know your chapters are doing some amazing community service work this holiday season and we would love to write about it. To submit a story idea, send us the details through our [“Submit a Story”](#) link, and we’ll contact you.