



*SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce.*

## **TECHNICAL COMMITTEES**

The SkillsUSA Tennessee Championships are the preeminent showcase of public technical education in the state of Tennessee. Each spring students from across the state gather at the State Leadership and Skills Conference to compete in more than 100 different leadership and career competitions. These competitions recognize career and technical students who excel in their occupational areas, as well as in the leadership development activities that are such an integral part of the SkillsUSA program. Competitions begin locally and continue through the state and national levels.

The involvement of industry in the Championships program is essential. Experts in leadership, health occupations, and skilled and technical fields volunteer their time to serve as contest judges and as technical committee members. They assume responsibility for selecting the skills that are to be judged, determining the format of the contests, and establishing the standards by which contestants will be judged.

The philosophy of the Championships is to reward students for excellence, to involve industry in directly evaluating student performance and to keep training relevant to employers' needs. To continue to meet the needs of potential employees and prospective employers, the lines of communication between technical education schools and industry must be kept open. Educators must be able to identify industry's needs and, in turn, develop appropriate curricula.

### **HOW ARE CONTESTS SUPPORTED?**

State staff along with the State Education Team (SET) recruit business and industry partners to serve as Technical Committee members and to participate in the creation and facilitation of the Championship contests. Technical Committees work together with the SET to ensure contests are relevant to both industry and the classroom. On site, the Technical Committee facilitates the contest with the support of state staff and the SET.

### **WHAT IS A TECHNICAL COMMITTEE?**

A technical committee is composed of business and industry professionals who are proficient in their trade. For each competitive event, a technical committee should be formed of industry professionals who are responsible for creating contest variables, judging or recruiting judges, facilitating the contest, and ensuring that the contest is fair and equitable for all participants. Technical committee members may elect a committee chairperson who will work closely with state staff and the State Education Team.

## **WHAT DOES THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE DO?**

1. Determine the skills that are to be demonstrated in the contest based on the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards.
2. Determine the amount of space needed according to the number of contestants. Preliminary planning should be completed based on historical averages until registration closes and final numbers are confirmed.
3. Determine the amount of time necessary in order to complete the contest. Contest hours are 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Contests may not begin earlier than 8:00 AM or finish after 4:00 PM without the approval of state staff. All scoring must be submitted by 5:00 PM on the final day of competition.
4. Develop the contest problem(s), variables, plans, drawings, or other materials that will test the student's mastery of the identified skills.
5. Assist in securing contest materials and equipment required for contestants to execute the contest. Soliciting donations or borrowing items is preferred. Any additional expenses to be incurred for materials or equipment should be communicated to state staff at least one month prior to the contest.
6. Provide contest materials to state staff by established deadlines.
  - a) Tools, equipment, & materials needed for the contest are identified and communicated to state staff at least one month before the contest. The list should include tools and materials to be provided by both the contestant and SkillsUSA Tennessee, as well as any donated supplies and materials.
  - b) Any updates to the Technical Standards, contest supply lists, or information for contestants are provided in writing to state staff to be posted on the SkillsUSA Tennessee website.
7. Design, assemble and disassemble the contest area on the day of competition.
8. Recruit qualified contest judges from the ranks of the profession.
9. Conduct a pre-contest orientation and post-contest debriefing for contestants and their instructors.
10. Assist in acquiring industry awards and prizes offered to the place winners in the contest.
11. Provide guidance to the SkillsUSA State Office on contest standards and industry expectations for entry-level skilled workers in the profession.

## **WHO QUALIFIES AS A TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBER?**

Technical committees consist of experts from business, industry, and organized labor. Technical committees should be as broadly representative of their industry as is practical. Our competitive events speak to a variety of skills within a trade, and participation is encouraged from any industry professionals who have at least 5 years experience in their trade. It is important that technical committee members have the ability to draw upon their company's resources to finance their participation on the committee, and to provide the equipment and materials needed to make the contest successful. No financial compensation or reimbursement is provided by SkillsUSA Tennessee to Technical Committee members.

## **WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT TO SERVE ON A TECHNICAL COMMITTEE?**

The Technical Committee generally meets three times in preparation for the Championships.

1. Meeting with Technical Committee and State Education Team, virtually or in person, to discuss preliminary and introductory information
2. Meeting with Technical Committee, virtually or in person, to plan for contest variables
3. Meeting with Technical Committee and State Education Team onsite at the contest location, prior to the start of the contest, to ensure the area is set up properly and materials are distributed

If you would like to serve SkillsUSA Tennessee on a Technical Committee, [please sign-up here](#) by January 31, 2022.

### ***Questions? Contact the SkillsUSA Tennessee State Staff***

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