

SkillsUSA Minnesota
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TO: SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference Attendees

FROM: Jennifer Polz, Executive Director
SkillsUSA Minnesota

DATE: June 12, 2017

SUBJECT: Information on your trip to Louisville, Kentucky

Be Prepared for a Great Trip to Louisville, Kentucky and the SkillsUSA National Conference!

SkillsUSA heads to Louisville, Ky., June 19-23, 2017, for the 53rd Annual National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC), a showcase of career and technical education students. More than 16,000 people — including students, teachers and business partners — are expected to participate in the weeklong event.

Louisville is honored to once again say, "Louisville's Got Skills"!

The entire city is filled with the most talented young people from across our nation and around the globe. To say SkillsUSA makes a positive impact on our community would be an understatement.... whether it be the 1,000+ students working on community outreach projects or the donations of building materials and structures to organizations helping improve the lives of those in need locally, Louisville understands the value of this partnership.

Whether you are enjoying a concert at [4th Street Live!](#), taking in a baseball game at the one-and-only [Louisville Slugger Field](#) or making a splash at [Kentucky Kingdom's Hurricane Bay](#), we feel certain everyone will enjoy their time in Louisville and make memories to last a lifetime! <https://www.gotolouisville.com/skills-usa/>

Ensuring a good experience in Louisville means being prepared for your contest and your trip in general. This packet is full of information to help you prepare for your trip. Be sure you know your travel schedule and trip details. If in doubt, check with your advisor well before departure day. If you are a SkillsUSA contestant or voting delegate, check to be sure you have the proper contest uniform, SkillsUSA official attire for the Opening & Awards Ceremony, and all tools or equipment specified for your contest. If you need clothing or tools, acquire these items well ahead of time. Rules and requirements are different for national events than for state events and can change year to year. Be sure you have the latest rules for your contest. And don't forget to visit the national web site at <http://www.skillsusa.org/> or the state web site at <http://www.mnskillsusa.org/> or <http://www.skillsusa.org/competitions/skillsusa-championships/contest-updates/> for the latest SkillsUSA contest updates and conference information.

- ✓ Your Advisor's have a copy of your Conference Registration form. Please check with them to see that hotel accommodations and transportation arrangements are ready for you. Those of you that signed up to ride the State Motorcoach busing transportation, you have schedules provided in this mailing.
- ✓ Advisor's make sure you have sent in your State Conference Registration Payment & transportation payment to the state office ASAP. All Schools are responsible for their OWN HOTEL CHARGES this year.
- ✓ The Minnesota registration table will be set up in the hotel **MAIN LOBBY**, on Monday afternoon from 3:30 pm – 7:30 pm. Please check in and **pick up your conference registration materials**, name badge, t-shirt and trading pins. This will give you a chance to look over the materials before our state delegation meeting.

- ✓ Students & Advisors need to attend a **Mandatory State Delegation Meeting in the hotel on Monday, June 19th**. **There will be (2) Different Time slots for this year's Meeting. You will only need to attend one of them.**

You can choose to attend either 5:00 PM or 8:00PM (Ohio Meeting room) located in the lower level of the hotel. Dress is casual. **Bring your Official Credential Name Badge & all registration materials that you received in your bag at the registration table to this meeting.** * The **Professional Knowledge exam** for all contestants will be given at this meeting. (Information for this test is located on the Minnesota website to download. <http://www.mnskillsusa.org/>)

- ✓ If you plan to join us for the 5:00 PM meeting our meeting will be done by 6:45 pm so you can make dinner plans after the meeting. **If you are planning to join us for the 8:00 PM meeting** - Please make **SURE YOU HAVE DINNER** before arriving since **NO dinner or snacks will be served.**

- ✓ **The following Cell Phone Number: 612-460-8077 is a "NEW" number for the National Conference ONLY!** This phone number goes directly to your State Director, Ms. Jen Polz. *This Phone Number will be operational to Receive both phone calls and text messaging and will be activated from June 12th till July 8th!*

Important things you should know before you get to Louisville, Kentucky:

Your HOTEL Reservations have been made for you at the:

Best Western Plus West I-64

411 W Spring Street, New Albany, IN 47150-3615

Phone: 812/945-2771 | Fax: 812/949-7937 | 135 Rooms

Check Out Time: 12:00 PM | Check In: 3:00 PM |

<http://bestwesternindiana.com/hotels/best-western-plus-west-i-64>

The Minnesota Delegation has been assigned to stay at the **Best Western Plus West I-64** in New Albany, Indiana. Located only five miles from downtown Louisville, Kentucky and the YUM Center, the Best Western Plus West I-64. Because of our close proximity to Louisville, business travelers find the trip in and out of the city to be quite easy. Nearby businesses include Bass Pro Shop, Green Tree Mall, plus much more. Also nearby is the Kentucky International Convention Center, the Yum Center and numerous museums. We offer business amenities, such as two on-site meeting rooms and a 24- hour business center and complimentary high-speed Internet access. Unlike other hotels near Louisville, we offer New Albany's best heated indoor pool (Olympic size- 9 feet)

- **KFC Yum! Center • Kentucky International Convention Center • Muhammad Ali Center • Louisville Waterfront Park,**
- **Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory • Kentucky Derby - Churchill Downs**

Hotel Amenities & Services

- Exercise facilities
- **Free wireless Internet available in public areas; free in-room wireless Internet access;** free wireless Internet access available in public areas and all guest rooms; all guest rooms are hardwired and offer free wireless Internet access; all guest rooms are hardwired for Internet access
- 100 % smoke-free hotel
- Restaurant on-site
- **Complimentary breakfast:** each morning you can wake up and enjoy our complimentary hot breakfast buffet! Plenty of choices to get you going including, eggs, meat, cereal, fruit, yogurt, pancakes, waffles, muffins, juice, coffee and much more to choose from.

- **Indoor pool**, heated, relax and enjoy one of the largest indoor heated hotel pools in the area. Open year round. Depths go from three feet to nine feet.
- **Exercise facility**, 24-hour on-site facility featuring Universal Gym, Treadmills, Stationary bike, Stair Stepper and Cardiovascular Equipment. Equipment was replaced in 2013.
- Interior corridor
- 24-hour front desk
- Dry cleaning, same day available
- Express check out
- Late check out upon request and availability
- Safe deposit box, located at front desk
- Coffee shop Subway® on-site deli featuring specialty sandwiches, soups and salads. Hours of operation: 8:00am-9:00pm, 7 days a week.
- Hearing impaired services, smoke detectors for hear impaired individuals are installed in all accessible room types.

- ✓ **Please Note:** an incidental deposit of \$25.00 must be put down on each guest room; you may use cash or credit. Incidentals will be turned OFF until credit card or deposit is given. FREE High-Speed Wireless Internet for all guests.
- ✓ If your traveling to the conference on your own, (Independent), please travel safely and arrive in time before the **Mandatory State Delegation Meeting on Monday evening, June 19th**. **You can attend either the 5 PM or 8PM meeting in the Ohio Meeting room.**
- ✓ If you're traveling one of the state charter buses, finalized schedules are enclosed as mentioned. **PLEASE** if you are on the list and NOT planning to ride the bus, or not on the list and want to ride the bus, OR need to be picked up at a different location than the one assigned, **I need to know immediately!** Just call and we'll work out the changes. **BOTH BUSES have plenty of space left on the bus– PLEASE BE PROMPT IN LOADING AND UNLOADING.**
- ✓ *Each Bus is equipped with a Wi-Fi and TV/ DVD Player, so pack a DVD to share with everyone on your Journey to Louisville. **ALL DVD's that you plan to watch should be RATED PG-13.** Each bus has both high school & college students riding, so please make sure the DVD is rated as a good clean movie.*
Advisors are located on all Buses to help with chaperoning and taking HEAD COUNT.
- ✓ **Résumé Requirement: All competitors must create a one-page hard copy résumé** and submit this to the technical committee chair at the contest orientation. Failure to do so will result in a 10-point penalty. Competitors can bring a **résumé** to the contest on the day of competition however; the penalty will remain in effect.
- ✓ **All student competitors- you have a copy of the Technical Standards for your contest included in your email.** These are the current 2017-2018 Standards. **For any additional Conference UPDATES before you leave please visit the Minnesota SkillsUSA Website at: <http://www.mnskillsusa.org>**
Look under "Friday Flash"! Or visit the National SkillsUSA Website at the following Link for Contest Updates: <http://www.skillsusa.org/competitions/skillsusa-championships/contest-updates/>
- ✓ I've included the **LINK to the Official NLSC Conference program with Contest Schedules, meetings and debriefings for all contests included in program. <http://www.skillsusa.org/events-training/national-leadership-and-skills-conference/agenda/>**
- ✓ **Official SkillsUSA dress or business attire will be needed during the week in Louisville if you are a delegate or contestant.** Observers should have business like attire to wear for Tuesday night opening session and the Friday night award session. **ALL Students & Advisors should be dressed in Official SkillsUSA Dress and or Contest Uniform.**

- ✓ The Minnesota delegation will be seated together at the Tuesday Opening Session and the Friday Award Session. Please make sure you arrive on time and plan on remaining at both sessions until they are entirely finished. **NO ONE FROM THE MINNESOTA DELEGATION WILL BE LEAVING EARLY FROM EITHER SESSION!**
- ✓ The dress code for award winners will be strictly enforced. Photos of medalists and industry supporters are used in general, trade and SkillsUSA publications. It's important that all members demonstrate their professionalism by looking the part. Therefore, the national Board of Directors has ruled that *all contestants receiving medals at the ceremony must be dressed in official SkillsUSA attire** (see description directly below) or *official SkillsUSA Championships work clothing*. Winners who are dressed inappropriately will not be allowed on stage. Other attire, jeans, T-shirts, sneakers, boots and sandals are not allowed. Please leave behind any cameras, purses and hats.

*(*SkillsUSA official attire: As defined in the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards, official attire begins with the red blazer or windbreaker. For women, it also includes a white blouse [collarless or small-collared], knee-length black dress skirt or black dress slacks, black sheer [not opaque] or skin-tone seamless hose, and black shoes. For men, it includes the blazer or windbreaker, plus a white dress shirt, solid black tie, black dress slacks, plain black socks and black dress shoes.)* Guests please wear business attire to Opening & Awards sessions.
Jeans, shorts and/or tennis shoes are NOT allowed!
- ✓ A full AGENDA for the MN Delegation is enclosed so you have an idea of what is happening. The program you receive at registration will have a full agenda including times and locations of all meetings. The agenda you receive at the conference will be the most accurate.
- ✓ Following the awards on Friday evening, we will go immediately to the hotel for a Minnesota Delegation Rally, which should **begin shortly after 7:30 PM in the Ohio Meeting Room & Overflow section** located on the lower level of the hotel. Sandwich/Chips/cookies and beverage will be served to registered attendees. Competitors, delegates and winners will be recognized and certificates of participation and honor will be distributed. We should be done by approximately 9:00 PM. We ask that you make the time to attend this short meeting.
- ✓ Minnesota buses will leave the hotel at **9:30 PM on Friday night, June 23rd** * If your riding the bus, I want to encourage everyone to be down in the main lobby by 9:00 PM so we can expedite loading all luggage before the buses depart for Minnesota.
- ✓ You should have a copy of your NLSC conference registration form and a copy of you **INSURANCE CARD**. Please carry them with you at all times during conference for insurance purposes. Please keep track of it.
- ✓ The name badge you have been issued with your registration materials will be your ticket for everything! Without it you do not compete or gain entrance to sessions, entertainment! If you lose your name badge and can prove you are a registered conference attendee, there is a \$10.00 replacement fee. You MUST see your State Director for a "NEW" one.
- ✓ Competitive events are open to the public on Wednesday and Thursday. All other events are open to those with a Name Badge ONLY. Friends or family attending but not registering may purchase passes for the Friday Award Session at \$10.00 each in advance. Non-registered people will not be able to get in to the opening session on Tuesday evening. **Tickets will be available at the door on Friday night for the Awards session.**
- ✓ **SkillsUSA University** is an opportunity for students and educators to attend educational sessions scheduled throughout the SkillsUSA national conference. Sessions may include professional development, legislative updates, occupational and technical career trends and program overviews. Click on the link to download schedule: <http://www.skillsusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/SkillsUSA-University-2017.pdf>

✓ **Entertainment- Options – *Check out Page 18-19 in the Official Program for more details***

Tuesday Night: Champions Night at Fourth Street Live! 9 p.m. -11 p.m. (immediately following Opening Ceremony)

Wednesday Night: first pitch at 7:05 p.m. Bats Baseball at Slugger Stadium (vs. Columbus Clippers)

Thursday Night: 6 p.m.-10 p.m. SkillsUSA Night at Kentucky Kingdom

✓ **Live Conference Video Link to share with your family**

Live from Louisville: Coverage of the 2017 SkillsUSA Opening and Awards Ceremonies

The Opening Ceremony will air on June 20 beginning at 7 p.m. EDT

The Awards Ceremony will air on June 23 beginning at 5 p.m. EDT.

<http://www.skillsusa.org/events-training/national-leadership-and-skills-conference/national-conference-daily-photos-and-videos/live-conference-videos/>

Opening Ceremony

- Tuesday, June 20, at 7 p.m.
- There are no tickets for the Opening Ceremony on Tuesday – you must be a registered participant. The entire ceremony will be broadcast live via Internet

Awards Ceremony

- Friday, June 23, at 5 p.m.
- Tickets cost \$10. There is no charge for children age 10 and under.
- To purchase tickets, go to KEC Room E1 (East Wing, near North Wing Lobby). Times will be posted outside the door.
- You can also purchase tickets at the door at Freedom Hall.
- The entire ceremony will be broadcast live via Internet.

Parking at the Kentucky Exposition Center (KEC)

There are parking fees associated with the Kentucky Exposition Center. For general attendees, the structure is as follows:

Gate admission price structure - Passes sold Saturday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Cars

\$8 Daily admission – no in & out privileges

\$4 Daily upgrade admission with in & out privileges. Available inside at **South wing A lobby** service kiosk.

\$40 Weekly Pass with in & out privileges

Note: Customer must present a receipt of daily pass purchase to upgrade to a weekly pass with in/out access.

The SkillsUSA Championships will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. More than 6,000 outstanding career and technical education students — all state contest winners — will compete hands-on in 100 different trade, technical and leadership fields. Students work against the clock and each other, proving their expertise in occupations such as electronics, computer-aided drafting, precision machining, medical assisting and culinary arts. Contests are run with the help of industry, trade associations and labor organizations, and test competencies are set by industry. Leadership contestants will demonstrate skills including extemporaneous speaking and conducting meetings by parliamentary procedure. The competitions will be open to the public and free of charge.

I look forward to meeting each one of you in Louisville, Kentucky! Please call if you have any questions. I would like to make this experience as positive and successful as possible for each of you!

✓ Advisors & Students attending from Minnesota: Here's some helpful Louisville information to help you pack and plan your trip! Below is a link designed specifically to welcome SkillsUSA to our city and assist with any sightseeing you may wish to do while here.

<https://www.gotolouisville.com/skills-usa/>

While here, we definitely want you to not only have an enjoyable visit, we also want you to have a safe one! Please share these quick safety tips, which would be appropriate in any city:

- Remember to lock your vehicle and store all valuables out of sight.
- Please do not give money to panhandlers, there are other ways to show compassion through our Positive Change program, all donations go to The Louisville coalition for the Homeless, which has donation boxes around the downtown area.
- <https://www.gotolouisville.com/travel-tools/area-information/visitor-safety-tips>

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Please leave this phone number with a family member in case they need to reach the State Director (Ms. Jen Polz) while you're away in Louisville, KY.

*Your State Director Ms. Jen Polz will begin traveling to Louisville, KY on Friday, June 16th
The State Office will be closed beginning on Friday, June 16th.*

Safe travels to you all. See you in Louisville, Kentucky & New Albany, Indiana next week Monday evening!

Sincerely,



Ms. Jen Polz, *State Executive Director*
SkillsUSA Minnesota
612-460-8077 cell phone

Tolls - At the start of 2017 Kentucky/Southern Indiana enacted mandatory bridge tolls – for traffic crossing into Louisville and the surrounding areas. Here’s how it will work -

When passenger vehicles cross the Lincoln, Kennedy or East End bridges, they will have to pay \$2 to \$4 per trip, depending on whether they have a transponder.

For those who make 40 trips across the bridges, a 50-percent discount of \$1 per crossing for your first 40 crossings, plus any additional crossings within the same month, will be applied.

Cameras on toll gantries above the bridges will detect a driver's transponder or license plate and bill the vehicle accordingly.

For larger cars — two-axle vehicles over 7.5 feet tall — and trucks, crossing the bridge will cost anywhere from \$5 to \$12.

There are two bridges that do not collect tolls. They are:

* The 2nd Street bridge, as well the I-64 bridge (a.k.a, Sherman Minton Bridge). **Near the Best Western Plus Hotel**

The I-64 is closest to the Horseshoe Hotel.

Proposed tolls/rates

<http://www.wdrb.com/story/31925315/riverlink-releases-suggested-toll-rates-for-vehicles>

Information on toll bridges, payment options:

<https://riverlink.com/>

If the driver elects to do nothing, the camera scanner tracks the driver through the license plate and an invoice is mailed to the registered vehicle owner. If someone is driving a rental car, the rental agency will charge upon return of the car; if the driver is using a school vehicle, the school will receive the bill. The links provide instruction on how to obtain a pass in advance.

With the bridge construction complete, the travel is much, much better. I was in town in early April and stayed in Indiana. My experiences each day, during rush hour, were just fine. There are no exemptions from paying tolls. To avoid paying a toll, the best bet is to ride the shuttle busses, or use the bridges that do not charge.