Spotlight on the “Connect” Track of the Connect to My Future Conference

The upcoming Connect to My Future (CTMF) conference will be comprised of three separate tracks: “Explore” is for middle school students, “Aspire” is for high school students, and “Connect” is the first SkillsUSA virtual career experience designed specifically for high school seniors and college/postsecondary students. Connect is designed to develop the Essential Elements of Job-Specific Skills, Professional Development and Professionalism. Students will receive a personalized interview schedule that allows them an opportunity to connect directly with industry and receive coaching and feedback. Connect will be held **May 6 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET**. Morning and afternoon sessions are available so that students can select the workshop times that fit best their schedules.

All **students** who are **“completers”** of the Connect track will receive a **T-shirt**! Students will be considered completers by participating in all three components of the program: pre-conference résumé review, completion of both scheduled mock interviews, and attendance at each of the three conference workshops. Completion of each of these components will be tracked by SkillsUSA staff and reported back to participants’ advisors. **Teachers** who register 10 students will also receive a **T-shirt**, and those who sign up 50 will receive a SkillsUSA Member Handbook. Teachers who sign up 100 or more students will receive the T-shirt, the handbook, and a bundle of educational resources.

Registration is now open until Friday, April 16. The cost of the conference is $25 per SkillsUSA school, thanks to the support of our lead sponsors — Toyota, Magna, NCCER — and numerous partnering companies. More information on the CTMF conference is available here. You can also reach out to our Customer Care Team at customercare@skillsusa.org or by phone at 844-875-4557.

Home Depot Foundation Scholarship Deadline Days Away

In honor of SkillsUSA’s National Signing Day 2021, The Home Depot Foundation has announced its “Building a Path to Pro” scholarship opportunity for eligible high school seniors. This effort is part of The Home Depot Foundation’s larger commitment to fill the nation’s skilled labor gap, and the scholarship program will enable six students participating in National Signing Day to further their education in the trades.
Active SkillsUSA members who live in Region 2 (Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia) — and are high school seniors planning to continue their education in the building/construction trades — are eligible to apply before the **March 31** deadline. Six scholarships of up to $5,000 each are available.

[Full details on this Home Depot Foundation scholarship can be found here.](#)

Check out all the [SkillsUSA scholarship opportunities for students here.](#)

**Plan Now for the Return of SkillsUSA National Signing Day on May 4**

On Tuesday, May 4, SkillsUSA National Signing Day will celebrate high school seniors and college/postsecondary students who have chosen to pursue careers as professionals in the skilled trades. Local SkillsUSA chapters are encouraged to host a signing day event by inviting business partners, school administrators, teachers, elected officials, SkillsUSA alumni, family and friends to honor students signing “letters of intent” for a job offer, apprenticeship or advanced technical training.

An electronic toolkit of resources is available to advisors at SkillsUSA CONNECT to assist them with planning their local chapter event. The toolkit includes items such as an event logo, an event invitation template, social media posts, a sample press release, thank you notes and an event planning checklist. To learn more, login to your account at SkillsUSA CONNECT or [visit the Signing Day page on our website](#). Please [register here](#) before April 16.

**Student2Student Mentoring Program Entries Due April 1**

SkillsUSA’s Student2Student mentoring program is a national recognition opportunity that connects young people to personal growth, development, and economic opportunities. When a SkillsUSA chapter mentors an elementary- or middle-school classroom, it helps younger students imagine careers and helps older students practice their skills.

Student2Student recognizes SkillsUSA chapters that are involved in a mentoring program in their communities. To enter, submit your mentoring project plan, description and outcomes. The winning chapter will be recognized at the National Leadership and Skills Conference. They’ll also receive a plaque and a $500 check to use toward expanding next year’s mentoring project. Winners are announced in May. For more information, contact Tyler Chaffin at tchaffin@skillsusa.org or visit the [Student2Student page on our website](#).
President’s Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) Applications Due April 1

SkillsUSA is a certifying organization of the President’s Volunteer Service Award (PVSA), allowing advisors, student members and registered alumni to earn recognition for community service activities and time spent volunteering.

This award is a presidential honor that recognizes the valuable contributions of volunteers across the country who are answering a national call to serve others through their current activities or lifetime efforts. With SkillsUSA’s focus on community service, advisors and students may already meet the requirements to receive the award. To qualify, SkillsUSA members, advisors or alumni can submit a record of their service hours.

Click here for more PVSA details and requirements for submission.