



Statesman Certification Award

The SkillsUSA Illinois Statesman Award has been revamped as a leadership certification offered by SkillsUSA Illinois. The SkillsUSA Illinois Statesman Certification Award gives recognition to SkillsUSA members (student and professional) who have demonstrated mastery of leadership skills and SkillsUSA knowledge to show career readiness. Those who earn the certification receive a certificate and pin for their achievement at the LEAD Closing Session. These members will also be recognized at The Championships: Illinois' Elite Career Competitions this spring. LEAD is the only event where this certification can be earned. This award can be earned each year and earning any other SkillsUSA Statesman Award does not count for or supersede this award. Please review the qualification and procedures below and on the following pages for more information. The expectation is that all members in attendance at LEAD earn this award. Please see a State Officer or LEAD Staff with any questions.

Qualifications

1. Must be a SkillsUSA member.
2. Must attend and actively participate in LEAD
3. Master requirements for the certification by Tuesday at 1:00 pm

Procedures

- Participate in all sessions of LEAD; Study and know each requirement for the SkillsUSA Illinois Statesman Certification Award.
- Section I (General Knowledge) requirements are demonstrated to and signed off by **chapter advisor(s)**.
- Sections II - IV requirements are signed off by **State Officers or LEAD Staff** (each officer/staff can sign off on 2 requirements)
- After you have completed the "record sheet," give it to one State Officer and a LEAD Staff member for their **final signatures**.
- Turn in completed record sheets to the LEAD Headquarters by Tuesday at 1:00 pm.

LEAD 2026

Section 1 - SkillsUSA General Knowledge		<i>**Chapter Advisor can Sign Off</i>
1-1	Recite the SkillsUSA motto and explain what it means to you.	
1-2	Demonstrate knowledge of the official SkillsUSA history.	
1-3	Demonstrate knowledge of the SkillsUSA Official Attire.	
1-4	Demonstrate knowledge of the SkillsUSA colors and what they represent.	
1-5	Recite the six main points of the SkillsUSA Creed.	
1-6	Recite the SkillsUSA Pledge.	

Section 2 - SkillsUSA Leadership Development		
2-1	Demonstrate knowledge of Parliamentary Procedure.	
2-2	Name (First and Last) all members of the current SkillsUSA Illinois State Officer Team and any current National Officer(s) from Illinois.	
2-3	Demonstrate knowledge of the five components of the SkillsUSA Emblem.	
2-4	Describe the basic Chapter structure and Chapter Excellence Program.	

Section 3 - SkillsUSA Framework		
3-1	Describe the purpose of the SkillsUSA Framework and its three components.	
3-2	Name the Personal Skills essential elements of the SkillsUSA Framework.	
3-3	Name the Workplace Skills essential elements of the SkillsUSA Framework.	
3-4	Name the Technical Skills essential elements of the SkillsUSA Framework.	
3-5	Present a one-minute SkillsUSA story, highlighting how you have developed in an essential element from the SkillsUSA Framework.	

Section 4 - SkillsUSA Reflection		
4-1	Recite the 2026-2027 SkillsUSA theme and explain what it means to you.	

State Officer Final Signature	
LEAD Staff Final Signature	



Statesman Information

Section 1 - SkillsUSA General Knowledge

1-1	Recite the SkillsUSA motto and explain what it means to you.
1-2	Demonstrate knowledge of the official SkillsUSA history. 1965 - The Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, Inc. (VICA) was founded by students and teachers who were serious about their professions and saw the need for more training in the areas of leadership to complement their vocation. In Nashville, TN, 14 states were represented, as VICA chose it's name, colors, motto, purposes and goals. 1974 - VICA purchased land for the new National Leadership Center in Leesburg, VA. 1975 - VICA's 10th anniversary with the induction of the one millionth member. 1998 - The Board of Directors voted to change the name of the organization to SkillsUSA-VICA. VICA officially changed to SkillsUSA-VICA on July 4, 1999 at the National Leadership and Skills Conference. 2002 - The Board of Directors approved shortening the name of the national organization from SkillsUSA-VICA to SkillsUSA, effective Sept. 1, 2004 . 2004 - On Sept. 1, the organization's name officially changed to SkillsUSA
1-3	Demonstrate knowledge of the SkillsUSA Official Attire. • Official SkillsUSA red blazer, or official SkillsUSA red jacket. • Button-up, collared, white dress shirt (accompanied by a plain, solid black tie), white shirt (collarless or small-collared), or white turtleneck. • Black dress slacks or black dress skirt (knee-length) with black closed-toe dress shoes.
1-4	Demonstrate knowledge of the SkillsUSA colors and what they represent. The colors red, white, blue and gold represent the national SkillsUSA organization. Red and white represent the individual states and chapters. Blue represents the common union of the states and chapters. Gold represents the individual, the most important element of SkillsUSA.
1-5	Recite the six main points of the SkillsUSA Creed. I believe in the dignity of work. I believe in fair play. I believe in the American way of life. I believe satisfaction is achieved by good work. I believe in education. I believe in high moral and spiritual standards.
1-6	Recite the SkillsUSA Pledge. Upon my honor, I pledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prepare myself by diligent study and ardent practice to become a worker whose services will be recognized as honorable by my employer and fellow workers. To base my expectations of reward upon the solid foundation of service. To honor and respect my vocation in such a way as to bring repute to myself. And further, to spare no effort in upholding the ideals of SkillsUSA.

Section 2 - SkillsUSA Leadership Development

2-1	Demonstrate knowledge of Parliamentary Procedure. First, make a motion: "I move to _____." Then someone else has to second the motion, in order for the motion to go any further. If it is not seconded, the motion is dropped. If it is seconded, then it may be discussed. The individual who first proposed the motion has the right to speak on the motion first. After discussion, the motion is put to a vote. The motion must be passed by a majority (50% + 1 vote). If the motion is passed, it is adopted, if the motion is not passed, it is dropped and no longer discussed.
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Section 2 - SkillsUSA Leadership Development

2-2	Name (First and Last) all members of the current SkillsUSA Illinois State Officer Team and any current National Officer(s) from Illinois. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jane Chan Mila Cronkleton Iris Pawlowski Sarah Saunders Kaleb Schirmer Patrick Morge Sophie Thrasher
2-3	Demonstrate knowledge of the five components of the SkillsUSA Emblem. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Shield represents patriotism The Gear represents the industrial society The Torch represents knowledge The Orbital Circles represents technology The Hands represent the individual
2-4	Describe the Chapter Excellence Program. The Chapter Excellence Program (CEP) provides a guide to help plan and measure these activities, allowing students to develop and be recognized for their employability skill development.

Section 3 - SkillsUSA Framework

3-1	Describe the purpose of the SkillsUSA Framework and its three components. The SkillsUSA Framework illustrates how students fulfill the mission of the organization "to empower members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens." Provides a common language for students to articulate what they gain from SkillsUSA participation to employers, school administrators, parents and other students.
3-2	Name the <i>Personal Skills</i> essential elements of the SkillsUSA Framework. Integrity • Work Ethic • Professionalism • Responsibility • Adaptability/Flexibility • Self-Motivation
3-3	Name the <i>Workplace Skills</i> essential elements of the SkillsUSA Framework. Communication • Decision Making • Teamwork • Multicultural Sensitivity and Awareness • Planning, Organizing, and Management • Leadership
3-4	Name the <i>Technical Skills</i> essential elements of the SkillsUSA Framework. Computer and Technology Literacy • Job-Specific Skills • Safety and Health • Service Orientation • Professional Development
3-5	Present a one-minute SkillsUSA story, highlighting how you have developed in an essential element from the SkillsUSA Framework.

Section 4 - SkillsUSA Reflection

4-1	Recite the 2026-2027 SkillsUSA theme and explain what it means to you.
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