



Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet Kentucky Exposition Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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6,000 Career and Tech Students Compete during SkillsUSA Conference

Louisville community benefits from students' skills and expertise.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (June 18, 2018) — — SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, the world's largest showcase of skilled trades, returns to the Kentucky Exposition Center June 25-29. The event brings with it an estimated economic impact of \$18 million to Louisville.

More than 16,000 middle-school, high-school and college students; teachers; education leaders; and representatives from national corporations, trade associations, businesses and labor unions participate in the event.

The conference highlight is the annual SkillsUSA Championships. During the competition, top career and technical students participate in more than 100 hands-on contests, representing a wide range of technical, skilled, service and health occupations, including:

- Architectural drafting
- Welding
- Carpentry
- Firefighting
- Cosmetology
- Plumbing
- Culinary arts
- Aviation maintenance technology
- Crime scene investigation
- Electrical construction wiring
- Masonry
- Digital cinema production
- Practical nursing
- Sheet metal

In addition to competing, 600 Skills USA students will complete community service projects in the greater Louisville community. Projects range from framing houses for Habitat for Humanity to helping clean up local parks.

SkillsUSA Championships is free and open to the public Wednesday, June 27 and Thursday, June 28 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parking is \$8 per car, \$20 for a bus.

The mission of SkillsUSA is to ensure a skilled workforce by preparing students for success in their chosen technical, service and health fields. Founded in 1965, the organization has served 12.5 million members, and more than 335,000 advisors and students participate each year.

For more information, visit www.skillsusa.org.

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One of the 10 largest facilities of its kind in the U.S., the [Kentucky Exposition Center](#) (KEC) features 1.3 million square feet of contiguous exhibit space, including Freedom Hall, an indoor arena that seats 13,500 people. The facility's class "A" exhibit space totals 680,700 square feet and accommodates a wide range of events year round. KEC is the permanent home of the Kentucky State Fair, National Farm Machinery Show and North American International Livestock Exposition. For more information, go to www.kyexpo.org.

Conveniently located adjacent to the Louisville International Airport and near the junction of three major interstates, KEC is easily accessible and just seven minutes south of downtown Louisville. Entrances to the facility are located off Phillips Lane, Crittenden Drive and Preston Highway. Parking is \$8 per vehicle and \$20 per bus.