SkillsUSA Fun Facts

1. SkillsUSA empowers its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. (SkillsUSA Mission Statement)

2. The SkillsUSA motto is: Preparing for Leadership in the World of Work.

3. The SkillsUSA Pledge:

Upon My Honor, I pledge:

-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

4. The SkillsUSA Creed:

I believe in the **D**ignity of work

I believe in **E**ducation

I believe in **F**air play

I believe in the **A**merican way of life

I believe **S**atisfaction is achieved by good work

I believe in **H**igh moral and spiritual standards

5. The symbols of the SkillsUSA emblem:

The shield represents patriotism

The gear represents the industrial society

The torch represents knowledge

The orbital circles represent technology

The hands represent the individual

6. 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 of the chapters.

**Gold** represents the individual, the most important element of the organization.

7. There are 5 SkillsUSA regions in the United States. Pennsylvania is in region 1.

8. There are 11 districts in Pennsylvania. Districts 4, 5, 6 and 7 are in the Central Region.

9. VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America) which is known as SkillsUSA was founded in 1965.

10. The first national conference was held in Nashville, Tennessee in 1965.

11. SkillsUSA Pennsylvania was founded in 1967.

12. The first national competitive events were held in Columbus, Ohio in 1967.

13. In 1979, the national headquarters in Leesburg, Virginia was formally dedicated.

14. In 1983, President Ronald Reagan spoke at the National Leadership Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

15. The national competition changed its name to SkillsUSA Championships and the national conference became known as the National Leadership and Skills Conference in 1995.

16. In 1999, VICA changed its name to SkillsUSA – VICA.

17. SkillsUSA – VICA became SkillsUSA in 2004.

18. The SkillsUSA chapter President serves as the overseer of all chapter activities and works to meet the needs of each chapter member. The president supports each officer as they fulfill their duties, helps to plan meeting agendas, runs meetings, and interacts with members.

19. The SkillsUSA chapter Vice President is responsible for managing the chapter’s committees, fills in for the president at meetings, and ensures all committees are functioning and completing the work of the chapter. The vice president provides training for committee members, checks in with committee chairs and regularly reports committee operations to the president.

20. The SkillsUSA chapter Secretary maintains a complete list of members as well as committees, their members and leaders. The secretary takes care of chapter correspondence and reads all communications directed to the chapter. The secretary helps create an agenda and takes minutes for each meeting.

21. The SkillsUSA chapter Treasurer assists in developing the annual budget and maintains accurate records of income and expenses. The treasurer makes a complete inventory of chapter equipment and materials and provides updates on the budget to the chapter.

22. The SkillsUSA chapter Reporter is the public relations officer for the chapter. The Reporter informs the school about what is going on in the chapter including news about upcoming events and achievements. The reporter may create informative and promotional bulletin boards, compose news stories to submit to local media outlets, take photos and videos of SkillsUSA events and write stories for the school newspaper or website.

23. The SkillsUSA chapter Parliamentarian makes sure that chapter meetings are run in a manner that is respectful of each member. The parliamentarian has a working knowledge of parliamentary procedure, follows the meeting agenda to ensure the meeting is run according to the rules, and helps the president lead a fair and efficient meeting.

24. Basics of Parliamentary Procedure:

1. A motion is made

2. The motion requires a 2nd motion in order to move on

3. A discussion of the motion is held by the assembly

4. A vote is taken on the motion to determine the result

25. During the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, officers have a specific role.

-The President calls the meeting to order, introduces the Emblem Ceremony, explains and affixes the “*SkillsUSA”* pieceon the emblem, leads the Pledge of Allegiance, and adjourns the meeting during the closing ceremony.

-The Parliamentarian explains and affixes the shield on the emblem

-The Reporter explains and affixes the gear on the emblem

-The Treasurer explains and affixes the torch on the emblem

-The Secretary explains and affixes the orbital circles on the emblem

-The Vice President explains and affixes the hands on the emblem

-One of the officers explains the colors of the emblem after all of the components of the emblem are placed

26. Common tipping guidelines:

Restaurants – 15 to 20% of the total bill. If the restaurant is a buffet or cafeteria, tip 10% to the server who brings drinks or part of your meal.

Hotels - Baggage Carriers - $1 to $2 for each bag carried to your room.

Room Service – add $1 if a 15% gratuity (tip) is included, otherwise tip as if in a restaurant.

Housekeeping – leave $3-$5 on your pillow each day because the staff may change daily.

Airport skycaps - $2 per bag handled, more for heavy bags.

Taxi driver – 15% of the fare, up to 20% if they handle your luggage. If courtesy shuttle drivers help with your bags, tip $1-$2 per bag.

27. Common table etiquette suggestions:

-Watch the host for the cue to start eating.

-Pass the salt and pepper together, even if only one of them was requested.

-Silverware is set with the pieces used first on the outside. As you finish a course, leave the utensil in the empty dish or bowl. Use the next utensil inward with each additional course.

-When seated at a prepared table, your bread plate is to your left and your drinking glasses and coffee cup is to your right.

-When you have finished eating, placing your utensils at the 10 o’clock and 2 o’clock position on the plate will signal the server.

-Use the butter knife to transfer butter from a serving dish to your bread plate. After the butter is on your bread plate, then you may put it on your bread.

-When you are finished with your meal, place your napkin on the table beside your plate.

28. Committees can develop **SMART** Goals for Program of Work Activities:

**S** – **Specific** – What do I want to accomplish?

**M** – **Measurable** – How will I know when I accomplish this goal?

**A** – **Achievable** – How can I accomplish this goal?

**R** – **Relevant** – Does this goal align with other objectives?

**T** – **Time Bound** – What timeframe will I use for this goal?

29. The Chapter of Excellence Program (CEP) recognizes chapters that masterfully integrate the SkillsUSA Framework in the chapter’s Program of Work activities. There are three award levels.

30. When preparing to do a presentation, the **POWERR** formula can be used.

**P** – Pre-work: Ask yourself who the presentation is for and how much time is available.

**O** – Outlook: What is the purpose of the presentation?

**W** – Wisdom: Develop objectives to achieve the overall purpose of the presentation.

**E** - Engagement: How will the content be introduced to the audience? How will you connect to the audience? A brief preview of the presentation can be provided.

**R** – Review: At the end of the presentation, review the content with a strong and bold statement which calls the audience to action specific to the content of the presentation

**R** – Reflection: Ask yourself if there can be any improvements made for next time. Feedback from the audience may also be helpful.

31. **The Four Pillars** help SkillsUSA members develop their leadership skills through positive influence.

1. **Trust**: being consistent – to be counted on for consistent behavior and action; doing what is right; following through with promises and commitments.

2. **Compassion**: truly feeling sorry for someone else’s situation and simply caring about others. A leader is concerned for others, using words and actions to demonstrate this concern.

3. **Stability**: consistent in behavior and will not forsake his or her values in turbulent times.

4. **Hope**: gives us confidence in our leaders and in the future. Patience is an important aspect of hope. The greater the hope, the more patient the follower will be in working toward the future. It is reinforced in the words and actions of the leader.

32. **SkillsUSA Program of Work (PoW)** is the delivery mechanism of the SkillsUSA Framework. It consists of 6 components:

1. **Advocacy and Marketing** – Promote SkillsUSA chapter programs and CTE program, public relations initiatives and experiences to build social responsibility

2. **Community Engagement** – Assess community needs, identify services and employ skills to meet needs that develop long-lasting partnerships

3. **Financial Management**- Develop personal financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills through relevant work experience, project management and chapter fundraising

4. **Leadership Development** – Establish interpersonal relationships, individual and team development through chapter operations, leadership competitions and individualized growth plans

5. **Partner and Alumni Engagement** – Engage former members, parents, advisory committees, administrators, faculty and business and industry partners in SkillsUSA chapter and classroom activities

6. **Workplace Experiences** – participation in career exploration, planning and work-based learning opportunities including the SkillsUSA Championships

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