

## SkillsUSA at WorldSkills

**HISTORY:** WorldSkills was founded in 1950 and currently has members from 51 countries. In 1973, President Richard M. Nixon recognized SkillsUSA (then known as the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America or VICA) as the official organization representing the United States. Only one organization may represent a country in the official delegation and certify that country's international contestants.

**SELECTION PROCESS:** Being selected to compete in the WorldSkills competition is a source of great pride and honor. Despite language barriers, the experience has a lasting personal and professional impact on all participants. SkillsUSA currently is determining competitors and corporate sponsors for SkillsUSA WorldTeam, formerly known as TeamUSA. Because the WorldSkills Competition is a biennial competition, students from two SkillsUSA Championships are considered. The number of competitors and selection procedures are determined by technical experts and industry sponsors. Because invitation to the trials is based on scoring in selected skills to be tested at the WorldSkills Competition, SkillsUSA Championships medal winners are not guaranteed an invitation to qualifying trials. Contestants are judged not only against other competitors in qualifying trials, but also against international performance standards. Advanced training may require contestants to temporarily relocate. SkillsUSA currently is determining competitors and corporate sponsors for SkillsUSA WorldTeam. To expand American participation in this global competition, SkillsUSA is working to field a team of 15 competitors, the most ever for the United States. Competitors must be under the age of 23.

**CONTESTS:** To date, SkillsUSA has garnered support in the following trades: auto body repair, auto service, car painting, cabinetmaking, CNC Milling, CNC Turning, hairdressing, cooking, IT/PC networking, mechatronics, mobile robotics, plumbing, printing, refrigeration and welding. A complete team roster will be established from eligible candidates from the 2007 and 2008 SkillsUSA Championships. The WorldSkills competitions set world-class standards in 45 skill categories.

**SUPPORTERS:** Thanks to the SkillsUSA Youth Development Foundation, financial support for SkillsUSA WorldTeam includes general operating costs, financial and in-kind support for qualifying trials and advanced training of WorldTeam members. Recognizing the importance of a global skilled workforce, numerous sponsors help send the SkillsUSA WorldTeam members to the competition each year. They include the following:

American Welding Society  
Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)  
Center for Applied Technology High School  
Cisco Systems Inc.  
Culinary Institute of America

Ferris State University  
FESTO Corp.  
Graphic Arts Education and Research Foundation  
Haas Automation, Inc.  
Kraftsman Auto Body, Inc.  
Lincoln Electric Co.  
Lowe's Companies Inc.  
Louisiana SkillsUSA  
Massachusetts SkillsUSA  
Miller Electric Mfg.  
National Auto Service Technical Committee  
New Jersey SkillsUSA  
Pennsylvania SkillsUSA  
Pittsburg State University  
Refrigeration Service Engineers Society  
Romeo Engineering and Technology Center  
Snap-on Tools  
Society of Collision Repair Specialists  
Stanley Community College  
Stevens College of Technology  
Welding Education and Consulting  
United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting  
Industry  
Warren Tech

For more information: [www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org)  
[www.worldskills2009.com](http://www.worldskills2009.com)