

The 2009 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference will offer some wonderful new opportunities for participants, as well as for those waiting back home for news of the event.

GIVEAWAYS FOR ALL REGISTERED ATTENDEES

This year's conference registration materials will include two vouchers. The first voucher, sponsored by Lowe's, is for a free souvenir Conference T-Shirt, a free souvenir set of two Conference Pins (one is the official conference pin), and a free souvenir Backpack. To receive the items, officially registered attendees must take the voucher to the Lowe's Giveaway Area, which is located in the foyer of the Music Hall in Municipal Auditorium. The area is clearly marked and is listed in the conference program.

The second voucher, also sponsored by Lowe's, is for national competitors only and is good for a pair of Kobalt safety glasses. All giveaways are first-come, first-served. We should have adequate inventory of all items and we will have a variety of sizes for the shirts. However, we do suggest your registered participants visit the giveaway area early in the week.

LIVE VIDEO FEED OF GENERAL SESSIONS

SkillsUSA is working with partners School Video News and School Tube to offer a live video feed of both general sessions, the Opening Ceremony on Tuesday, June 23 and the Awards Ceremony on Friday, June 26. We encourage you to pass the word to sponsors, parents, or chapter members, advisors or school staff who are supporting your members who made the trip to Kansas City. There will be a flier in each registration packet with the specific URL. For more details, go to:

www.skillsusa.org/events/nlscvideo.shtml

SkillsUSA Opening Ceremony

Starting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23, 2009:

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/skillsusa09-opening>

SkillsUSA Awards Ceremony

Starting at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 26th:

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/skillsusa09-awards>

TEXT ALERTS DURING NATIONAL CONFERENCE

This year, the national headquarters staff is piloting a text messaging system that allows cell phone users to opt in to receive daily conference alerts. We will also use this system in case of emergencies such as inclement weather, traffic alerts, etc. Information about this program can be found in Medallion magazine and in the official conference program.

To receive conference updates by cell phone, text:

JOIN13752M to the number 68398.

Standard text messaging fees apply

CONFERENCE SHIRT AS ADMITTANCE TO THE CHAMPIONS FESTIVAL:

Champions Festival takes place Wednesday, June 24 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in the Exhibit Hall, sponsored by Downtown Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund.

To enter the Champions Festival, participants must wear their free, official conference T-shirt and appropriate casual attire suited for recreation (knee-length shorts, Capri pants or long pants are best since there are active games including big-glove boxing, bungee challenge, human foosball, rock climbing and more. There will be a caricature artist and a DJ will provide a mix of today's music. There will also be gift card giveaways during the evening.

Dress Code: To be admitted to this event, participants must wear the free, official conference souvenir T-shirt as part of their attire. This will be enforced. Make sure students pick up their free T-shirt at the Pin Trading Pavilion in Municipal Auditorium by Wednesday afternoon (details in conference program). Note: the reason for this dress code is that SkillsUSA lost an industry sponsorship of this event due to inappropriate student attire in the previous year.

SkillsUSA CHAMPIONS 5K RACE

We encourage students and advisors to join us for the second annual SkillsUSA Champions 5K Run at Liberty Park on Wednesday, June 24 at 7 p.m. at Liberty Park, across from the Westin and Union Station. Students can ride the SkillsUSA shuttle bus down to the Westin, then walk across the street and arrive to the SkillsUSA Champions Run 5K race. Please get to the starting line by 6:45 p.m. for an on-time start. We'll have snacks and a DJ.

After attendees participate in the 5K Run at Liberty Park, they can then walk back across the street and down to the Hyatt for Champions Festival. We suggest that individuals bring a water bottle plus a change of clothes for after the race. Advance sign ups are appreciated! To sign up, go to www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumni5k.shtml.

Thanks and we look forward to seeing you soon in Kansas City!