



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 12, 2017) — SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, the world's largest showcase of skilled trades, returns to the Kentucky Exposition Center June 19-23. 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, June 21-22. During the competition, top career and technical students participate in 100 hands-on contests, representing a wide range of technical, skilled, service and health occupations, including:

Architectural drafting

Carpentry

Cosmetology

Crime scene investigation

Masonry

Practical nursing

Welding

Culinary arts

Firefighting

Plumbing

Aviation maintenance technology

Electrical construction wiring

Digital cinema production

Sheet metal

"The Kentucky Exposition Center is proud to host SkillsUSA again this year and through 2020," said Jason Rittenberry, President and CEO of Kentucky Venues. "We have a strong partnership with them, and we're uniquely able to deliver the space they need." Rittenberry also praised the students' local service projects that benefit the community, including Habitat for Humanity, Supplies over Seas and Youth Build.

SkillsUSA community service projects include:

- **Build-A-Table Event:** June 21-22, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
West Wing of Kentucky Exposition Center
The public is invited to help build 250 picnic tables for local nonprofit organizations: schools, public parks, playgrounds, food pantries and more.
- **Blood Drive:** June 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Kentucky Exposition Center Parking Lot: Outdoor Trade Show
The public can donate blood to the local community via the Kentucky Blood Center.
- **Service Projects:** June 23
Locations throughout the Louisville area.
Students will share their skills and work on local projects that include: Supplies over Seas, Louisville Metro Parks, Habitat for Humanity, Youth Build, Louisville Rescue Mission and more.

SkillsUSA Championships is free and open to the public Wednesday, June 21 and Thursday, June 22 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 1.2 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 677,000 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.