



AUDIO PRODUCTION



SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards

2026 OKLAHOMA STATE SKILLSUSA CONTEST MEMO

CONTEST COORDINATOR:

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LOCATION:

Tulsa Technology Center, Riverside Campus, Hanger A
801 East 91st Street, Tulsa, OK, 74132

BRIEFING:

Monday, April 20th at 8:00am, Hanger A, Riverside Campus, Tulsa Tech. Contest starts immediately following the briefing. See the full contest agenda below.

PURPOSE

To evaluate each contestant's preparation for employment and to recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism in the field of audio/radio production.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to a team of two active SkillsUSA members enrolled in career and technology programs with audio/radio production as an occupational objective. The team must be of the same division, secondary or post-secondary. Each instructor may register 4 teams of any combination.

PROHIBITED DEVICES

Cellphones, electronic watches and/or other electronic devices not approved by a competition's national technical committee are **NOT** allowed in the competition area. Please follow the guidelines in each technical standard for approved exceptions. Technical committee members may also approve exceptions onsite during the SkillsUSA Championships if deemed appropriate.

SCOPE OF CONTEST

Each team is comprised of two student members from the same school and same division. Aside from interviews, these should be the ONLY two voices “On-Air”.

THEME: The theme & prompt are presented at the briefing. It will be based on a current event at the time of the contest.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

1. Supplied by the technical committee:
 - Theme and prompt for production.
 - Updates for the contest/additional information.
 - Flash drive for contest entry material.

2. Supplied by the contestants:
 - Computer with high-speed internet capability.
 - Audio equipment to include mics, cables, audio recorder, headphones and other misc.
 - Audio editing software
 - Memory card – must be blank

CONTEST ASSIGNMENT:

1. Students are to fully produce (plan, write, voice, record, edit, render, etc.) a two (2) minute audio podcast type production sound and interview. A 30-second ad spot will be produced and inserted into the production. The complete production requires students to demonstrate their ability to plan a project that meets a specific prompt and run time; gather, edit, and mix a variety of audio sources; and render the completed project to a specified audio file..

2. Contestants may use any person available at the Riverside campus for the interview but there will be designated staff available. The voice recordings and the commercial must be a team member.

3. The contestants are judged on the professionalism of their production, the quality of the audio and the conveyance of the information to the listener. Penalties given for projects under/over required run time.

4. The finished production must meet the run time determined by the competition committee (plus or minus one (1) second). Points will be deducted if the spot is outside the one-second tolerance.

5. If a team experiences a problem with its equipment, it is the *team's* responsibility to fix the problem. *No extra time will be given for equipment problems.* Teams may choose to bring in a second editing system in case of equipment problems, but no extra space will be given for the second system. *The competition committee strongly encourages the use of laptops.*

6. Teams may edit by using whatever software or method they choose, but they must supply their own equipment.

7. Competitors will demonstrate their ability to perform jobs or skills selected from the following list of competencies, as determined by the technical committee:

- a. Demonstrate knowledge of audio production technology, including proficiency in digital audio recording, editing, and mixing.
- b. Demonstrate knowledge of terminology for mic level, line level, dynamic range, microphone preamp, compressor/limiter, XLR cable, XLR connector, EQ, time-based processing, send, return, input, output, balanced, and unbalanced.
- c. Demonstrate working knowledge of microphones, microphone preamps, compressor/limiters, EQ, send, return, level control, and digital audio editing on a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation).
- d. Demonstrate proficiency in planning a radio production, including the proper commercial script form.
- e. Demonstrate knowledge of terminology for script, script form, copy, target demographic, live tag, intro, outro, format, 60-second spot, 30-second spot, PSA, broadcast, network, run time, voice over, FCC, and mic technique.
- f. Demonstrate practical knowledge of scriptwriting, pre-production story development, radio advertising development, proper microphone technique.

8. Teams that do not turn in their produced audio-radio production and script within the time limit will have 20 points deducted from their final score, plus one (1) point for each additional minute past the deadline.

MUSIC:

Contestants must have all rights to any music used in the audio/radio production. No copyrighted music is permitted unless the contestant can show documentation of the copyright permission. **Teams must show proof of the copyright free music to the contest coordinator.** It is highly suggested that contestants create original music during the contest.

SCRIPTS:

Teams are to create a script for the broadcast and the commercial (format of their choosing). Place completed scripts in the contest packet and turn into the contest coordinator.

RESUME:

All contestants are required to submit a resume online prior to contest. In person resumes will not be accepted.

TESTING:

All contestants will take two exams prior to the State competition; The Professional Development and a skills level test. These are administered at the contestant's school in March/April. See your school's testing coordinator for scheduled dates and times. The team's scores are averaged together and included in the total scoring points.

CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS:

- White SkillsUSA polo
- Black pants
- Male Competitors: Black belt
- Female Competitors: black pants or knee length black skirt

*Socks and pantyhose are no longer a requirement but if worn socks must be black, and pantyhose must be black or nude.

**State Video Audio/Radio Contest 2026 Agenda
Monday, April 20th**

8:00am: Contest briefing

8:15am: Contest begins

A boxed lunch will be provided for each contestant. Tulsa Tech also has a cafeteria and vending machines available to contestants.

3pm: Contest ends

Place all materials along with the completed project on a flash drive (provided by the Contest Coordinator) in the contest packet and turn into the contest coordinator by the end of the contest. No entries accepted after the 3:00pm deadline.

AWARDS CEREMONY:

The awards ceremony is Tuesday, April 21th at the Tulsa Cox Convention Center. Official SkillsUSA attire is required.