2026 OKLAHOMA SLSC STATE MEMO
Photography

==**NO SUBSTITUTIONS WILL BE ALLOWED AFTER FRIDAY, Wednesday April 15th, 2026**==

==**THERE WILL BE NO SUBSTITUTIONS ALLOWED ON-SITE AT THE CONFERENCE**==

==**Tentative-Information is subject to change, check back often**==

Please double-check all registrations prior to the deadline. This includes secondary versus postsecondary as well as contests

*Contest will follow national technical standards unless otherwise stated in the state memo.

The 2026 Oklahoma SkillsUSA **Photography contest** will be held **Monday, April 20th, 2026,** 9:00 a.m. and will be hosted at **Cox Convention Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma.**

CONTEST FEES

In addition to the regular conference registration, there will be a $25.00 lunch fee. This charge covers a boxed lunch for contestants during the contests. This fee will be added to the contestant's registration when it is completed online.

SETUP

The contest setup is Monday, April 20, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The contest begins at 9:00 a.m., and instructors will not be allowed to help set up after this point. The setup location will be provided to contestants before the contest.

CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS

Contestants will follow the official contest dress as described in the national technical unless otherwise stated in the state memo. Students cannot wear any identifying information on their uniform that will associate them with a school or technology center.

Class E: Competition Specific—Business Causal

- **Official SkillsUSA White Polo Shirt**
- **Black Dress Slacks, Black Khakis or Black Dress Skirt**
- **Comfortable closed-toe shoes (Can be tennis shoes for the competition)**

SCOPE OF CONTEST

The Photography State Contest will consist of four portions:
• A submitted themed image
• A field assignment
• A Q&A with the judges
• Contest Testing (PDP and knowledge test taken before state competition)

Themed Image:
Contestants will submit an image following a theme. This year's submitted theme image is : **Product Photography.** The themed image does not need to be taken in a studio, but attention to lighting and location need to be considered. Participants will submit **two copies** of a printed 8x10 image. These images should not be matted or mounted. Photos that are not 8x10 will not be accepted. Students will place their contestant number on the back of the image before submitting it at contest check-in; no names or schools should be listed.

Field Assignment:
Judges will give contestants a theme at the beginning of the contest. Contestants will be given two hours to capture an image they believe represents the given theme. The photos will be captured inside the Tulsa Arvest Convention Center; **contestants are not permitted to leave the Arvest Convention Center. Contestants will be DQ'd if they leave the convention center's parameters.** They can go anywhere inside the convention center that the public and observers can go. Contestants are not allowed to go into the parking garage of the convention center. The convention center is still operating during the conference, and contestants are not allowed to enter areas not open to the public.

Contestants should not interact with anyone when competing. It is understood that students from the same school may trade equipment, but they should not assist each other with the technical or compositional side of the photo assignment. Other photography students can serve as models if they agree.

At the conclusion of the two-hour shoot, students will have two hours to edit their images. Each contestant will select four images to submit. Contestants will submit one .jpg image, edited however they see fit. This image should be their best image of the shoot. The contestants should also submit one 4-image contact sheet. Contact sheets should be 2x2 and made in Photoshop or Lightroom and shouldn't include anything besides the images. The best image selected to submit, on its own, should be included along with three other images that the contestant likes. Students need to understand how to create a contact sheet. Help will not be given in creating a contact sheet.

Judges Q&A:

Contestants will have a two-to-three-minute question-and-answer session with the judges. The judges will ask photography-related questions that may include the contestant's submitted themed image. The submitted themed image will be judged before Q&A, and the Q&A will not affect its scoring. The Q&A will occur by a random number draw during the field assignment editing time and through lunch.

CONTEST TESTING

Contestants will be judged on their SkillsUSA knowledge through the Professional Development test and a knowledge test based on their contest area, unless otherwise stated in the state memo. Testing will be completed online and proctored through their technology centers. Online testing opens March 16, 2026, and closes April 3, 2026.

LUNCH
A box lunch will be provided to the contestants, paid for through registration. Students will stay in the contest area during lunch. Students will not work on a computer at this time but may be asked to step into the Q&A session with Judges.

INDUSTRY AWARDS

*** Prizes are the responsibility of the individual contests. Prizes are not guaranteed and are not supplied at the SkillsUSA Oklahoma at the state level.

At the time of writing this memo, the contest chair has received donated prizes from Think Tank Photo and Apertures Photo.

It would be greatly appreciated and highly encouraged for **each participating school to furnish an industry award.** Industry awards should be labeled with the name and address of the award supplier so that an appropriate "Thank you" may be sent, must be accompanied by an *industry award donation information sheet* (available on the Oklahoma SkillsUSA website). **Please bring prizes to the awards area at the Arvest Convention Center on Sunday, April 19th between 12-4pm or Monday, April 20th between 8am-5pm.**

APERTURES PHOTO

Locally Owned and Operated Since 1990
(and darn proud)

AWARDS CEREMONY

Winners will be recognized at the General Session on Tuesday morning, April 21st at 9am.

All competitors must wear official SkillsUSA dress to the Awards Session, where winners are announced. Competitors who are not dressed appropriately or lack official attire will be denied access to the awards stage. Students must be present when their contest is announced. If a student is improperly dressed, absent, or misses their contest being called, the production will not be paused for any reason, and they will forfeit their opportunity to go on stage to receive the award. No exceptions will be made. No hats or sunglasses will allow to be worn on stage.

- Official dress for men: Official blazer, jacket or sweater; black dress slacks; white dress shirt; plain black tie with no pattern or SkillsUSA black tie; black socks and black dress shoes.
- Official dress for women: Official blazer, jacket or sweater; black dress slacks or knee-length skirt with business like white, collarless blouse or white blouse with small, plain collar that may not extend onto the lapels of the blazer, and black dress shoes.

TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

Supplied by technical committee:
- Worktables with space for personal computers
- Chairs
- Electrical outlets

Each contestant will need to bring the following:
- Resume
- One DSLR or Mirrorless camera with removable lens capabilities (If the competitors' camera does not have a removable lens, they may be asked to show the judges it has a manual exposure mode.)
- All needed accessories for the camera (battery, memory cards, lens)

- There are no restrictions on camera equipment accessories. Students may use tripods, monopods, lens, or filters. Contestants may also bring props, but the field assignment theme will not be released early.
- Computer with USB and/or SD Card Slot (laptop preferred). Ensure the student knows the password.
- Related software (Photoshop recommended; students will have to be able to create a 2x2 contact sheet.)
- Extension cords and power outlet strips.
- 2 8x10 photos (submitted theme images) will be turned in at the beginning of the contest. One photo will be judged; one photo will be presented to the general public.

CELLPHONES AND OTHER SMART DEVICES

Cellphones, electronic watches and/or other electronic devices not approved by a competition's 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. **If a competitor is seen using an unapproved device during the competition, an official report will be documented for review. If it is confirmed that the competitor used the device in a manner that compromised the integrity of the competition, the competitor's scores may be removed.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
If you have any questions about the contest, please contact:

Mitchell Alcala, Oklahoma State University
Mitch.alcala@okstate.edu

Afton Jameson, CV Tech
ajameson@cvtech.edu

National Technical Standards can be found on Pathful, which you can access with a professional SkillsUSA membership. Technical are updated periodically, please check regularly.