

Opening and Closing Ceremonies

Purpose

To evaluate the contestants' understanding of the symbolic representation of the colors and assembled parts of the SkillsUSA emblem.

Clothing Requirement

SkillsUSA blazer, sweater, or windbreaker and accompanying official dress or professional business attire. For information about "accompanying official dress" or purchasing official clothes, refer to the separate file called "Clothing Requirements."

Penalty: Two points will be deducted for each competing team member not wearing official SkillsUSA dress.

Observer Rule

Observer will be allowed to view the demonstration provided space is available. No talking or gesturing will be permitted. No one is to enter or leave the demonstration room while a team is competing.

Scope of the Contest

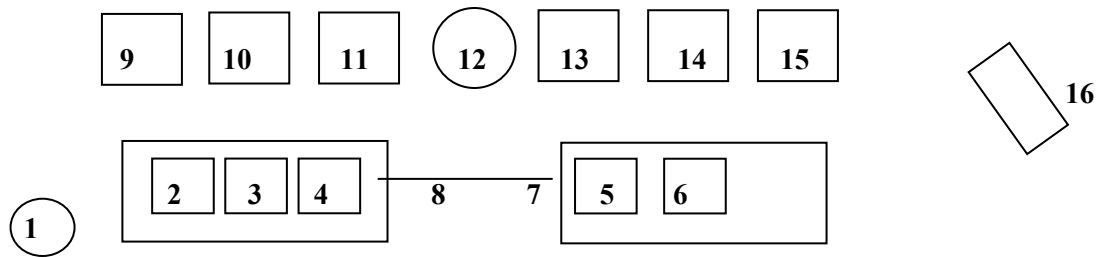
1. Contestants will be judged on the following abilities:
 - a. Teamwork and coordinated movements of walking, standing and sitting.
 - b. Memorization and recitation in unison.
 - c. Good grooming in dress and personal hygiene
 - d. Pronunciation of words in a clear and understandable manner.
 - e. Good platform deportment and confident appearance.
 - f. Variances of voice pitch, tone, tempo, and volume.
2. The contest is a demonstration of the SkillsUSA Opening and Closing Ceremonies conducted according to the script and description as printed in these Wisconsin Skills Championships Technical Standards. No other method of performing the ceremony will be allowed for the purpose of the contest demonstration.
3. Teams will draw numbers during the pre-contest orientation meeting to determine the order of performance and demonstration times.
4. Each team will consist of seven registered members in the roles of president, vice president, parliamentarian, reporter, treasurer, secretary, and optional officer.

Note: Each local chapter will determine the assignment of the seventh officer (for example, historian, sergeant-at-arms or chaplain). The team may perform with six members without penalty in the event that a member fails to show up or was forced to withdraw within five days of the competition. Another officer will be assigned the part of the missing member.

Note: Team members do not have to be elected officers of the roles they are playing for the contest.
5. One member of the team will deliver the thought for the day.
6. There is no time limit for the demonstration.
7. The team will be allowed three minutes to properly assemble the contest paraphernalia before their demonstration begins. No points will be awarded or deducted for method of set-up.
8. Only the official SkillsUSA emblem will be used.
9. The ceremony and procedures described in these *Technical Standards* will be used in the contest.
10. If notification is given at the contestant orientation to the state technical contest chair that one or more team members cannot say the Pledge of Allegiance for religious reasons, no points will be counted against them. However, if no one on a team says the pledge, no points will be awarded.

Arrangement of Demonstration Room

The room provided will be arranged to seat an audience and will have a demonstration area at the front of the room. The room will be set up by the technical committee according to the diagram below, as closely as possible, based on the confines of the facility. The room will contain a center aisle, if facilities permit, and at least one side aisle.



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|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. American Flag | 7. Letters (V-I-C-A) | 13. Secretary (chair) |
| 2. Shield | 8. Speaker's Stand | 14. Vice President (chair) |
| 3. Gear | 9. Parliamentarian (chair) | 15. Optional Officer (chair) |
| 4. Torch | 10. Report (chair) | 16. SkillsUSA Emblem Stand |
| 5. Orbital Circles | 11. Treasurer (chair) | |
| 6. Hands | 12. President (no chair) | |

Special Instructions to Contest Chair

All judges must have thorough knowledge of the SkillsUSA Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

Equipment and Materials

1. Supplied by the Technical Committee
 - a. Official SkillsUSA Emblem
 - b. Easel for Emblem
 - c. U.S. Flag
 - d. Gavel and sound block
 - e. Speaker's stand (lectern)
 - f. Two Draped Tables 8' long by 30" wide
 - g. Six Chairs
 - h. Copy of "Official Wisconsin Skills Championships Opening and Closing Ceremonies" for each judge.
 - i. All necessary information and furnishings for judges and technical committee

●Opening Ceremony

The officers will walk in from the outside entrance to their respective places and remain standing.

President: (Raps twice with gavel). The meeting will come to order. The thought for the day will be given by the (designated officer).

Designated Officer: (Gives the thought for the day and return to his or her seat.)

President: (Raps gavel once to seat the officers). The emblem is symbolic of the SkillsUSA organization. You are about to witness the Emblem Ceremony, in which the meaning of each component of our emblem will be given and the significance of the colors described. (Raps gavel once, calls for the parliamentarian and steps directly back).

Parliamentarian: (Picks up the shield and moves to the speaker's stand). The shield represents patriotism. (Pauses). The shield denotes our belief in democracy, liberty, and the American way of life.

(Affixes the shield to the SkillsUSA emblem stand, calls for the reporter and returns to seat).

Reporter: (Picks up the gear and moves the speaker's stand). The gear represents the industrial society. (Pauses). The gear, symbolic of the industrial society, denotes the interdependence and cooperation of the individual working with labor and management for the betterment of mankind. (Affixes the gear to the SkillsUSA emblem stand, calls for the treasurer and returns to seat).

Treasurer: (Picks up the torch and moves to speaker's stand). The torch represents knowledge. (Pauses). The flaming torch reflects the light of knowledge, which dispels the darkness of ignorance. In the light of the torch, progress will be made toward the vocational goals of the individual.

(Affixes the torch to the SkillsUSA emblem stand, calls for the secretary and returns to seat).

Secretary: (Picks up the orbital circles and moves to speaker's stand). The orbital circles represent technology. (Pauses). The circles represent the challenge of modern technology and the training needed to accept and master new technical frontiers and the need for continuous education.

(Affixes the circles to the SkillsUSA emblem, calls for the vice president and returns to seat).

Vice President: (Picks up the hands and moves to speaker's stand). The hands represent the individual. (Pauses). The hands portray a search for knowledge and our desire to acquire a skill. In the process of attaining knowledge and skill, we will develop a respect for the dignity of work and become productive and responsible citizens.

(Affixes the hands to the SkillsUSA emblem, calls for the optional officer and returns to seat).

Optional Officer: (Moves to emblem, pauses). With the affixing of the golden hands, we add the final official color of SkillsUSA. The colors of the emblem represent our organization. Red and white represent the individual states and the chapters; blue represents the common union of the states and the chapters; and gold represents the individual, the most important element of the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America.

(Calls for the president and returns to seat).

President: (Picks up the letters and moves to the SkillsUSA emblem. Affixes the letters to Skills emblem). (Pauses). All of the components comprise our emblem. Separately, they could be applied to many organizations, but as one unit, they represent the fundamental principles and purposes of our organization. The emblem represents the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America. (Returns to position. Pauses. Raps three times with gavel for all to stand). We will respect the flag with the Pledge of Allegiance.

In Unison: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of American, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

President: (Raps once with gavel for all to be seated).

•Closing Ceremony

President: Mr./Madame Secretary, have you a record of any further business to come before the meeting at this time?

Secretary: (Rises) I have none, Mr./Madame President. (Is seated).

President: Does any member know of any new or unfinished business, which should come before this meeting? (Pauses for response). Since there is no further business to come before the meeting at this time, we will prepare to adjourn. Since the rule is the basic instrument of our work, it is particularly fitting that we select the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," to govern our lives. Let us speak our pledge.

(Raps three times with gavel for all to rise and leads in reciting the pledge).

In Unison: UPON MY HONOR, I pledge

To prepare myself by diligent study and ardent practice to become a worker whose services will be recognized as honorable by my employer and fellow workers,

To base my expectations of reward upon a solid foundation of service,

To honor and respect my vocation in such a way as to bring repute to myself,

And further, to spare no effort in upholding the ideals of the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America.

President: I now declare this meeting adjourned until our next regular meeting or until a special meeting shall be called by your president.

(Raps once with gavel).

All officers exit the room in a formal manner.

Opening and Closing Ceremonies Rating Sheet

TEAM NUMBER:	Points Possible	Points Earned	REMARKS
ITEMS EVALUATED			
Teamwork			
Coordinated Activity	8		
Pledge of Allegiance	8		
Emblem Handling	8		
Group Seating	8		
SkillsUSA Pledge	8		
Individual Team Members			
Voices Pitch, tempo, volume, enthusiasm Stage presence Poise, posture, eye contact, attitude, gracefulness Mechanics Diction, pronunciation, enunciation, memorization, chronological presentation	President	25	
	Parliamentarian	10	
	Reporter	10	
	Treasurer	10	
	Secretary	10	
	Vice President	10	
	Other Officer	10	
Accuracy of presentation	40		
General team appearance (Uniformity of dress, personal grooming, neatness)	35		
CLOTHING PENALTY (Minus 0-5 points)			
Total	200		