
Note from SkillsUSA

From Scott Fossum <Scott.Fossum@mitchelltech.edu>
Date Wed 4/17/2024 4:23 PM
To Whitney Bruinsma <whitney.bruinsma@mitchelltech.edu>

Whitney,

Here are the notes I took during SkillsUSA on campus. Let me know if you have any questions.

Opening and Closing seating.

- Was there enough seating?
- Do we need theater seating and rounds?
- Are there are changes needed for 2024?
- Is additional seating needed for family members who attend the awards ceremony?

Approximately 125 SkillsUSA participants ate lunch at MTC on Thursday.

- Do we plan on similar numbers for meals next year?
- What do we do about seating for our students and SkillsUSA participants during lunch on Thursday? We only had seating for 64 with the rounds.

Doors at NTRC.

- Someone pushed the doors to open them which caused a chain-reaction issue with the doors.
- When Eric called David at 7:20 pm, were the contests running late or did they continue after completion of the opening ceremony?
- Were inside lab doors unlocked or was that an issue also?

Additional Personnel

- Someone to take refreshments around to judges. Meghan can't do that along with everything else.

Let me know if you have any questions.

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Notes for Job Interview Competition for 2025:

- We need a place to make comments or suggestions within the scoring sheet and/or time to review with the student. They will receive scores in 2024, but no real feedback on what they can do to improve.
- The Skills criteria for Job Interview require a portfolio, yet not one student in 2024 had one and there was nowhere to score it in the scoring sheet.
- The Skills criteria require a certain dress code of Skills attire. Only one person met that criterion.
- Whoever is the receptionist in future years should start with "May I help you" to ensure the communication starts more professionally. Many applicants seemed too quiet or waited for me to talk to them, which I did because I'm a teacher and wanted to help!
- For the spreadsheet I received with the information on the participants, if they could have been sorted by date and time, that would have been more "user friendly" for me.
- I would recommend a table for the receptionist and another for the applicant to complete the application. It may have been awkward for both to occur at a small round table. Also, I had to be extra careful while scoring when someone was at the table.

For Skills coaches at high schools:

- Review the criteria with students more thoroughly.
 - Clothing requirements
 - Portfolio
 - Introduction to receptionist
 - # of resumes to have
 - How to effectively complete an application
- Most resumes were excellent, but some students only brought one; three were required.
- On applications, instruct students to not leave anything blank. If something doesn't apply, put N/A in the box. For this competition, I would recommend they "make up" addresses or phone numbers to make sure they complete the application but obviously do NOT do that on a regular application for actual employment.
- Most students had good interview skills and good resumes. Communication with the "receptionist" needs to be more professional. No one was rude, but they seemed a little too relaxed or didn't always professionally introduce themselves.

For MTC as Skills Host:

- I would recommend a poster with the locations of all the contests be placed in each building. I had a couple of people asking me where something was and I wasn't at my computer and couldn't look it up.
- If not a poster, I would recommend a general "information table" with someone at it in each building to direct people where they needed to go, answer questions, etc.
- I would also recommend a "judge" hospitality room in each building where judges/contest organizers could go for a cup of coffee or a bottle of water, or a snack. I realize most contests were over pretty quickly, but Job Interview judges arrived at noon on Thursday, had a little break after our lunch meeting, had to be back at 2:00, and were there until 6:30 PM. On Friday, they were there from 7:30 AM until 10:00 AM. I'm not completely sure of this, but I think some people were judging more than one contest, so if they had a break between them, it would have been nice if they had a place to go.

Please share any ideas or feedback you may have for the SD SkillsUSA Board of Directors.

3 responses

You guys are awesome!

Thank you forsd f asdf asfe as

for photography competition: students should label photos as originals or edits, a dropbox should be created ahead of time for each competitor to upload their photos to, a comment box should be added to the score sheet for judges to give feedback