**SkillsUSA Pennsylvania Western Region**

**Jerry Longwell Memorial Gold Star Competition**

**Objective:**

The student will demonstrate skills in the areas of leadership, SkillsUSA knowledge and public speaking.

**General Rules:**

Each Western Region school may enter two contestants.

The contest will be conducted exclusively at the Western Region Leadership Workshop. Contestant must be in official SkillsUSA attire. Observers will be permitted to enter the contest area only at the beginning of the contest. No one may enter or leave the contest area once the contest has begun. All candidates will be screened and six semifinalists will be chosen. The semifinalists will then be asked an impromptu question.

**Contest Chairperson:**

Western Region Board Member or his/her designee.

**Judges:**

Special guest judges including leaders of education, business and industry.

**Contest:**

1. ***Introduction***

The contestant will prepare and present an introduction of his/herself to the judges. The introduction should not be less than a minute in length and not to exceed two minutes. No note cards or other material may be used. No name or identifying school identification in any form should be used by the student in the introduction. Penalties will be the same as used in the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards for prepared speech. Judges will score each area on a five-point scale:

Appearance 1 – 5

Poise 1 – 5

Body Language 1 – 5

Diction 1 – 5

2. ***SkillsUSA Pledge***

At the signal of the judges, the contestant will recite the SkillsUSA Pledge Judges will score each area on a five-point scale:

Appearance 1 – 5

Poise 1 – 5

Body Language 1 – 5

Diction 1 – 5

3. ***SkillsUSA Knowledge Question***

The contestant will remain standing at the central designated area and will answer three informational knowledge questions from the revised Leadership Handbook. Judges will score each area on a five-point scale:

Appearance 1 – 5

Poise 1 – 5

Body Language 1 – 5

Diction 1 – 5

4. ***Public Speaking***

A two-minute prepared speech on the current SkillsUSA theme will be presented. Note cards may be used for this speech. The speech shall not be less than one minute nor exceed two minutes. Penalties will be the same as used in the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards for prepared speech. Judges will score each area on a five-point scale:

Appearance 1 – 5

Poise 1 – 5

Body Language 1 – 5

Diction 1 – 5

Organization 1 – 5

Addressing the question 1 – 5

5. ***Impromptu Speaking* – semifinalists only**

The contestant will answer one general question such as:

What has SkillsUSA done for your school?

What does SkillsUSA mean to you?

How does one measure the quality of SkillsUSA?

How has SkillsUSA helped you?

If you were \_\_\_\_\_\_ what would you do to promote SkillsUSA?

The contestant will be given one minute to think and two minutes to answer the question. A timekeeper will be present to control the clock. At the 50-second mark, the contestant will be signaled, indicating that he/she must begin speaking in 10 seconds. The contestant will again be signaled at the 1 minute 45 second mark, indicating that he/she must conclude his/her speech in 15 seconds. Penalties will be the same as used in the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards for extemporaneous speech. Judges will score each area on a five-point scale:

Appearance 1 – 5

Poise 1 – 5

Body Language 1 – 5

Diction 1 – 5

Organization 1 – 5

Addressing the question 1 – 5

**Awards:**

Winners will be announced at the Fall Leadership banquet. Second and third place winners will receive a certificate. The first place winner will receive a plaque and shall be prepared to give a 1-2 minute acceptance speech that includes an introduction of him/her and what the award means to him/her.