Pin Design Competition Guidelines 2026-27

Purpose: To evaluate a contestant's creative, technical, and oral presentation skills and to recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism.

Deadline: **October 15 by midnight MT, complete form and upload PDF to https://tinyurl.com/2627SkillsUSAPinDesign**

QR Code:

Eligibility: Open to active SkillsUSA NM student members enrolled in career and technical programs.

Contestant Guidelines: **PLEASE REVIEW AND FOLLOW EACH GUIDELINE BEFORE SUBMITTING**

1. All entries must be rendered in color (full color or two color).
2. Entries will be created in a design software package such as Illustrator, Photoshop or other comparable software (Computer-generated Design), OR entries may also be hand-drawn, painted, or rendered in color pencils or markers (Free-hand Design). No AI generated art is allowed. Any entries that are generated on AI will not be disqualified and not eligible for voting.
3. Entries should be submitted on a single 8.5"x11" page and include two sizes: 7" and 1.5". Both sizes must be identical. The larger version must not exceed 7" wide by 7" tall. The smaller version must not exceed 1.5" wide by 1.5" tall (to show how the actual pin will look at production).
4. The SkillsUSA emblem or SkillsUSA logo (or elements of either) should NOT appear on the pin.
5. The design must be the original concept of the student. Use of the students' own original photos, drawings or digital art is highly recommended. Design may be constructed of small amounts of Creative Commons licensed materials, material in the public domain, or commercial stock images. These materials must be accompanied by proof of license and must credit the originator. NO AI generated designs.
6. Designs do not have to be in the shape of New Mexico, however, it is strongly encouraged to incorporate some aspects of the state's heritage, culture, or physical attributes for easy recognition by individuals from other states.

7. "SkillsUSA" in its official format must appear somewhere on the face of the design, along with the year in which the SLSC and NLSC will be held, "2027", and "New Mexico" or "NM" should also be included.
8. All copyright laws and SkillsUSA branding guidelines must be followed in the creation of the design.
9. A typed statement presentation about the significance of the design and its components must be submitted with the pin design entry. Any design submitted without a typed statement presentation will be disqualified.
10. On the design and typed statement, place the contestants name and email, educational program, school, and advisors name and email. A verification by the advisor must be included in the email.
11. Pin design and typed pin design submission form must be submitted in PDF format to https://tinyurl.com/2627SkillsUSAPinDesign October 15 by midnight. Please note that only an electronic submission is required (no paper submission). Any submission presented after **October 15, 2026,** will be disqualified.

Categories:

1. Free-hand Design (FH)
    - Must be submitted electronically, scan before submitting
2. Computer-generated Design (CG)
    - Must be 350 dots per inch (DPI)

Voting:

1. The submitted designs will be displayed and voted on during the SkillsUSA New Mexico Regional Fall Leadership Conference and CTSO Fall Leadership Rallies.
2. Members submitting designs do not need to be present to win.
3. Each student member will have the opportunity to cast one vote in each category, Free-hand Design and Computer-generated Design.
4. The top two pin designs in each category will be considered a SkillsUSA New Mexico State Pin Design Contest finalist.
5. Finalists will be announced via email and displayed on the website and social media sites.
6. The winning design* will be determined by the SkillsUSA New Mexico Board of Directors.
7. The SkillsUSA New Mexico Board of Directors has the option to edit the design in the interest of printing considerations (colors, size, detail, placement, etc.). The primary concept of the design will NOT change.
8. Recognition will take place during the SkillsUSA New Mexico State Leadership and Skills Conference (SLSC).
9. The winner should be prepared to present the winning pin design during the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC) pin design competition. Should the winner not attend NLSC, the second-place winner will then have the option of attending NLSC.

**The winning design becomes the property of SkillsUSA New Mexico and may not be duplicated without expressed written consent of the SkillsUSA New Mexico Board of Directors and SkillsUSA New Mexico State Office.*