

## **BARBERING CONTEST**

**DATE OF EVENT: March 16, 2026**

**LOCATION OF EVENT: Paul Mitchell The School**

### **CONTEST CHAIR CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Name: Marwin McKnight**

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**E-Mail Address: mmcknight@fairfield1.org**

**Number of contestants permitted from each Instructor: 4**

### **PURPOSE:**

This competition is designed to evaluate student barbers, give them an opportunity to showcase their skills, and talent in preparation for employment. It also recognizes outstanding students for excellence and professionalism in the field of Barbering.

### **Eligibility:**

Open to active SkillsUSA members enrolled in a barbering program with an active SC Board of Barber Examiners student barber permit. Must provide a copy of student permit with permit number and expiration date.

### **SAFETY REQUIREMENTS:**

Contestants must follow all appropriate public protection and infection control procedures during all phases of the contest that will ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the public. In the event of a blood spill contestants will be expected to follow the **NIC Health and Safety Standards**. Failure to do so will result in points being taken.

### **CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS:**

**MEN: Barber Jacket**, Official SkillsUSA white polo shirt or Dress shirt and tie, black dress slacks, black socks, and black casual or dress shoes. **WOMEN: Barber Jacket**, Official SkillsUSA White polo top, black dress slacks or black skirt with black or skin-tone hose, and black work or dress shoes. To purchase official clothing, order online at <http://www.skillsusastore.org/>.

### **EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS:**

- A. **Cutting Shears**
- B. **Thinning Shears**
- C. **Razor and spare blade**
- D. **Clipper**
- E. **Trimmer**

- F. Combs
- G. Brushes
- H. Spray Bottle
- I. Haircutting Cape
- J. Antiseptic
- K. Neck Strips
- L. Hair Products
- M. Towels
- N. **Power Outlet (surge protector) if you're using more than one pair of clippers and trimmers**

#### **AGENDA:**

**Students must report to their contest area by 9:00 am for event orientation.** Students must bring their signed safety release form and the "code of conduct" form and give it to the Technical Chair. The "Code of Conduct" form can be found on the Technical Operations Manual on the SkillsUSA Web Site ([www.scskillsusa.org](http://www.scskillsusa.org)) under Leadership and Skills Conference link.

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA SKILLSUSA 2026 BARBERING SCHEDULE:**

<b>9:05 AM</b>	<b>ORIENTATION/ INTRODUCTION</b>
<b>9:15 AM</b>	<b>SETUP STATION / MODEL PREPARED</b>
<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>LIVE MODEL HAIR CUTTING COMPETITION BEGINS</b>
<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>LIVE MODEL HAIR CUTTING COMPETITION ENDS</b>
<b>10:25 AM</b>	<b>JUDGES TALLY FOR LIVE COMPETITION</b>

#### **CONTEST INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES:**

##### **SKILLS / COMPETENCIES:**

- Creativity is assessed in the competition
- Haircutting is assessed by demonstrating blending as well as it being tapered on a male or female
- Demonstrating sanitation by the use of tools, capes, and station set-up and breakdown throughout the contest
- **Contestants will be scored overall on their Preparation, Sanitation, Appearance, Time, Skill, Creativity, and Overall Finish.**

## **GENERAL RULES:**

### **45 Minutes for Live Model Hair Cutting Competition**

## **COMPETITION GUIDELINES**

### **NO PRE-CUTTING OF HAIR, MUSTACHE OR BEARD FOR HAIRCUTTING COMPETITION**

**Contest rules will be reviewed before the contest. After the review session, contestants need to be in their required dress code. Contestants will be escorted to the contest testing room. Contestants will then be escorted back to the contest site to receive final instructions.**

1. All competitors must keep their working area clean and organized throughout the competition.
2. All competitors must follow sanitation and safety procedures throughout the competition.
3. A professional attitude and communication are expected throughout the competition.
4. Once time is called, the competitor must stop working. Touching the hair of the model after time is called will result in 10 penalty points.
5. Cell phones are not allowed during the competition at any time. They must stay in bag, turned off and out of sight. See "Prohibited Devices" section.
6. Additional items that are needed to complete any portion of haircut may be added to the kit. They will not be part of the kit check.
  - a. Extra blades for clippers (if needed)
  - b. Attachments for blow dryer (if needed)
  - c. Styling products of choice
  - d. Headlamp is allowed (if needed)
7. Items that are not allowed during the competition for any cut/style: stencils, ornaments, hairpieces, leveling devices, additional free-standing lighting.
8. No alterations to clippers or trimmers are allowed. Failure to abide by this guideline could be a cause for dismissal from the competition. This is a safety and sanitation issue.
9. Competitors should not wear any jewelry that could interfere with services.
10. Be aware of your personal hygiene and wearing strong perfumes or colognes could affect others with allergies.
11. Instructors talking/signaling to judges or competitors once the competition has started could cause their student to be dismissed from the competition.
12. The competitor must clean their station completely at the end of the competition as part of the sanitation grade.
13. Make sure to check [www.updates.skillsusa.org](http://www.updates.skillsusa.org) and the SkillsUSA Barbering Page on Facebook for any updates prior to the competition.

**Each Contestant may enter only one model per competition. Enhancements/Touch up color spray and color pencils can be used during the competition. Contestants will not be allowed to wear any smock, cape, or clothing that reflects their school name.**

**There will be no eating, drinking, and coaching by anyone from the audience during competition.**

1. Once competition begins, students will work alone, will not be addressed, gestured to, or communicate with the advisors. If a student should require a restroom break, they may speak to a judge or a technical chair before leaving the area. **Should a student leave their respective work station without proper approval, their work will be declared "COMPLETED" and no further work will be allowed on the project.**
2. Students who do not meet the safety and dress standards as set forth will be penalized and / or disqualified. Any infraction of this rule will be dealt with individually and immediately during the competition.
3. Students must make every effort to uphold the standards of this competition and are fully responsible for their personal contents, their work station and tools. Should the students have problems with their work station, interference from others, power problems, they should immediately summon a judge or technical chair to provide a solution. In the event of unforeseen delays in a student's ability to complete their project, the time required alleviate the situation and **will not** count towards the student's overall time.
4. No worn out, dirty, torn, drooping, very loose, or inappropriate clothing will be allowed.
5. No tennis shoes, open toe shoes, or sandals will be allowed. Leather or similar work shoes will be allowed.
6. Watches, rings, bracelets, etc. should be kept to an absolute minimum. Should a judge determine a safety issue exists relative to a student's dress or personal accessories, the student will be asked to make a remedy or be disqualified from the competition.
7. No personal electronic devices. If a student should have a PDA or phone which rings or otherwise becomes known to the judge, the student will be penalized according to the judge's discretion and the criteria of the competition.
8. No alcoholic beverages, non-prescription drugs, or foods allowed within the work stations. Plastic bottled water is accepted.
9. Students may go to the restrooms or water fountain only after notification of their respective judges and receiving permission to leave the workstation. Remember, time is a consideration.

10. Any special student or instructor needs must be addressed during the pre-competition meeting. The instructor should contact the technical chair and the state coordinator should special needs be present and required attention before the competition.
11. Work stations will be assigned by the technical chair and assigned during the pre-competition meeting.
12. It is the students and advisor's responsibility to advise all visitors, family, or friends of the competition rules regarding entering work station areas or communicating with the students during the competition.
13. Students will be in their work stations when the official time begins. Failure to be at your workstation when the competition begins will result in penalty points. Anyone not on station minutes after the official start of competition must report to the judges for permission to begin. A ruling will be made as to the validity of the tardiness. Disqualification is possible for this infraction.
14. All judges will be blind as to the name, and school of the contestant.
15. Students are to remain at their work station or on the competition floor adjacent to the work station until they are released by the respective judges.
16. Students are required to clean their work area upon completion of judging. Students will be advised and given directions for materials disposal and removal. Failure to completely clean the work station will result in penalties and /or disqualification.

## **Connection to National Standards:**

State-level academic curriculum specialists identified the following connections to national academic standards.

### **MATH STANDARDS:**

- Geometry
- Measurement
- Problem solving
- Communication
- Connections
- Representation

**LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS:**

- Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies, and their understanding of textual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics)
- Students adjust their use of spoken, written and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes
- Students use spoken, written and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning enjoyment, persuasion and the exchange of information)

**SCIENCE STANDARDS:**

- Understand the principles of heredity and related concepts
- Understands relationships among organisms and their physical environment
- Understands the nature of scientific inquiry