

# VINYL SIGN MAKING (Missouri only Demonstration Contest)

## **Purpose:**

To evaluate each contestant's preparation for employment and to recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism in the field of vinyl sign making.

## **Refer to General Regulations.**

## **Clothing Requirements:**

Contestants must wear the official SkillsUSA attire or Class A or Class E. As it can be rather cool in the contest site, contestants are allowed to **add** a sweatshirt, hoodie or jacket as long as such item does not present a safety concern and SkillsUSA is the only visible branding.

## **Eligibility:**

This contest is open to active SkillsUSA Missouri members enrolled in programs with computer graphics as the occupational objective.

## **Equipment and Material (*per team, not per school*):**

### **Supplied by the contestants:**

- Squeegees
- Rulers
- Cutting and weeding tools
- Colored pencils or marker
- Sketch pad or paper
- Additional tools or supplies as desired  
*Note, teams may only use the vinyl & application tape supplied by the contest.*
- (1) Computer with appropriate design software installed and ability to accept a USB flash drive  
*If necessary, another computer may be used for the purpose of running a vinyl cutter, but no design work may be performed on the second computer.*
- Vinyl cutter  
*A vinyl cutter with a printing function may be used, but printing is not allowed during this contest.*

### **Supplied by the technical committee:**

- Tables, chairs, extension cords, and power strips provided by State Technical College
- Vinyl and application tape provided by 3M, Nevada
- Cutting surface provided by Eldon Career Center
- Sign material provided by Missouri SkillsUSA
- Participant gifts provided by Reece Supply, Irving, TX, and Central Sign & Lighting, Eldon, MO

## **Software license:**

Each team/school is responsible for providing the design and cutting software needed for its equipment. Teams will be allowed to access the internet to validate software licenses if needed. Instructors need to ensure competitors have authorization to enter a WiFi password and reset network settings if needed.

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## Scope of the Contest:

Contestants will demonstrate their ability to perform jobs or skills selected from the following list of competencies as determined by the SkillsUSA Championships technical committee.

### *Competencies*

#### **Communication (DOK)**

- a) Demonstrate the ability to read and comprehend instructions. (3)
- b) Demonstrate the ability to plan and communicate ideas through thumbnails and roughs. (3)

#### **2. Concept/Principles of Sign Design (DOK)**

- a) Create a message to communicate, convince, reassure, or sell to a target audience. (3)
- b) Apply typography elements (letter family and size for readability). (3)
- c) Apply appropriate color use (contrast, thematic, psychological). (3)

#### **3. Create Artwork (DOK)**

- a) Create a layout consistent with design principles. (1)
- b) Create an impositions layout (lay out multiple objects when making pieces like stickers or labels). (1)
- c) Generate a cut line for cutting around a shape when sending a design to a vinyl cutter, laser or print-cut solution. (1)
- d) Apply Design Concepts (e.g. Whitespace, color, focal points, headlines, design principles, layering). (1)
- e) Manipulate graphics and images (scale, crop, rotate, group/ungroup). (1)
- f) Create and use color registration marks for layering vinyl. (1)

#### **4. Plotter/cutter (DOK)**

- a) Demonstrate correct settings on a plotter/cutter. (2)

#### **5. Vinyl prep (DOK)**

- a) Apply correct cutting and weeding techniques. (3)
- b) Select and apply proper application tape for vinyl and substrate application. (3)
- c) Demonstrate waste management in utilizing vinyl and tape. (3)

#### **6. Vinyl Application (DOK)**

- a) Demonstrate ability to accurately measure for placement of vinyl using guide markers. (3)
- b) Demonstrate vinyl placement techniques (substrate prep, laying/layering pieces, squeegee technique, removal of application tape, cleaning). (4)
- c) Remove bubbles and other imperfections using proper tools. (4)

#### **7. Job related practice (DOK)**

- a) Check specifications and planning. (3)
- b) Keep work areas organized and neat. (3)
- c) Orientate jobs to eliminate waste. (3)
- d) Organize and utilize scraps when applicable. (3)
- e) Time management

#### **8. Employability skills (DOK)**

- a) Produce a creative resume. (4)
- b) Demonstrate professionalism. (4)
- c) Demonstrate ability to work as a team (4)

2. The scenario, size, product and vinyl colors will be standardized. Imagery and logo art will be supplied for the project. Contestants may use provided imagery and logo art, but also may create their own on site.
3. Contestants will not be allowed to use any reference materials that are not supplied at the contest.
4. Contestants will not be allowed to use cell phones at any time during the contest.
5. Contestants will not be allowed to use the internet during the contest for any purpose other than software license verification as needed.

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## Rating Sheet:

<b>Item Evaluated</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>
Communication . . . . .	100
Concepts/Principles of Sign Making . . . . .	100
Artwork Creation . . . . .	100
Plotter/Cutter Use . . . . .	100
Vinyl Prep . . . . .	100
Vinyl Application . . . . .	100
Job Related Practice . . . . .	100
Employability Skills . . . . .	100
Project Evaluation . . . . .	200
<b>Earned Points Possible . . . . .</b>	<b>1000</b>
Clothing Penalty . . . . .	0 to -50 per contestant
Resume Penalty . . . . .	0 or -10 per contestant
Safety Penalty . . . . .	0 or -50 per incident, -150 maximum
Contest Assistance Penalty . . . . .	0 or -50 per incident, -150 maximum
Supplies Penalty . . . . .	0 or -50 per incident, -150 maximum
<b>Deducted Points Possible . . . . .</b>	<b>up to -630</b>