Greetings and Congratulations!

We are looking forward to seeing each of you at this year’s 2019 SkillsUSA Architectural Drafting Contest. The architectural committee has prepared an excellent program for you this year. Contestants will be tested on their individual architectural knowledge and ability to prepare a professionally drafted set of architectural construction documents. Each contestant will also be required to submit a resume, participate in a brief job interview, sketch a wall section, and complete a short, multiple-choice, written test.

Architectural Problem:

This year’s architectural problem will be similar in scope to previous year’s problems. Contestants will not be asked to draft their solutions by hand, with one exception. Contestants will be required to provide one (1) hand sketch of an exterior wall section. The problem has been designed to test each contestant’s CAD drafting skills and hand sketching abilities. Contestants are strongly encouraged, although not mandated, to utilize BIM CAD software such as Revit, ArchiCAD, or Chief Architect due to the inherent accelerated speed of production often capable by these softwares compared to more traditional 2-D CAD platforms.

Written Test:

Not all architectural knowledge can be expressed in the preparation of a set of architectural drawings. Many of the design decisions you will ultimately make will be based on your knowledge of architectural history and standards. The short multiple-choice exam is designed to test your knowledge of construction, architectural standards, history of architecture, as well as drafting terms and procedures.

Resume:

Your resume is your initial introduction in your interview and will definitely affect your success in employment. Contestants will be required to provide a one-page resume that captures their skills, ambition, attitude, and character. Resumes must be submitted in a letter, legal, or 9x12" envelope with contestant’s personal Contestant Number clearly written on their resume and envelope. No names or other identifying marks should be on the envelopes or in the Resume. Resumes will be submitted and graded during the short Job Interview portion of the skills test.

Job Interview:

A job interview acts as your chance to “sell” your abilities to your prospective employer, as well as your chance to see if the employer is a good “fit” for you. Are you confident and articulate? Can you perform under pressure? Do you think on your feet? These are all characteristics every professional should possess in today’s work place and economy. The job interview is your time to impress and set yourself apart from all of the other applicants that you are competing against.

Clothing:

Contestants must dress professionally by wearing the official Skills USA red jacket uniform or other professional-looking attire. Students who do not will be subject to a 5%-point deduction from their overall score. Professional attire is considered to be your choice of either a white SkillsUSA polo shirt or a collared dress shirt with a tie and with black dress pants and black dress shoes. Female contestants may wear a black business skirt. Short, reveling, and attention-grabbing clothing is not considered to be professional and is subject to a deduction in points.
What to Bring & Setting:
You will need to bring the following:

- Sketch pad, gridded would be preferable (8 ½ x 11" paper size minimum) and pencil or pen for hand sketch portion of the exam. An eraser is advisable to have.
- CAD work station with industry level CAD software capable of exporting or printing to ".pdf" drawing file format.
- Blank USB/Thumb drive with your contestant number on it for submitting your completed CAD drawings.
- If you chose to hand draft your solution to the design problem, then please bring your
  • A hand-held calculator or one built into your computer.

Setting:
- Contestants will share a table side-by-side with another competitor and each competitor's area will be approximately 4' wide by 30" deep.
- Power will be provided to locations so that extension cords are not required. Extension cords are not desired since they are tripping hazards.

Special Notes:
1. If you do not have enough reference books for each of your contests, it is suggested that you check out extra reference books from your school library, local public library, or a local architect you may know. Also, just as a point of interest, the test is designed so that a contestant's architectural text book should be more than adequate as reference material. Reference materials may also be loaded onto your computer.

2. Teachers: Having students take practice tests at school, after school, and/or on weekends to prepare for the competition will help in their success. Please make sure that the contestants' computers can operate independently of a server and with all necessary software and files loaded, fully functional, and ready to use.

3. Per the 2020 National Technical Standards, this year's Architectural Drafting Contest will include:
  • A written, multiple-choice test
  • CAD architectural drafting problem
  • Hand sketching exercise
  • Submittal of a resume
  • Job interview

Schedule:
The following is the tentative schedule for Architectural Drafting contestants:

**Wednesday, April 1st - 2:00pm-5:00pm**
Computer set up (by Contestants)

**Thursday, April 2nd - 8:00am-4:00pm**
Architectural Drafting Contest. Show up a bit early to make sure that you are on time to hear the briefing at the start of the contest.

**Thursday, April 2nd - 6:00pm-6:30pm**
Debrief and Comments from the Jury. [Not required but strongly recommended]

**Friday, April 3rd Morning**
Awards Ceremony
The contest committee is excited to challenge you, as you are the best and brightest architectural drafting students Nevada has to offer. We want to see you go to National and win. We hope this experience prepares you for the future and helps you excel in both your personal and professional lives.

Congratulations again upon being able to compete in this year’s SkillsUSA competition. Each of you should look forward to showing just how good you really are!

Good Luck and Have Fun!

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