

SkillsUSA VA 2025

3D Visualization and Animation Contest

### **Purpose:**

This contest is designed to evaluate each competitor's preparation for employment and to recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism in the field of 3D visualization and animation.

3D Visualization and animation can be costly when produced without a plan. This contest is designed to allow teams to be creative while meeting the constraint a client would impose on a production house.

**This contest is for teams to demonstrate knowledge in 3D Visualization and Animation. Teams must create all wireframes, rigs and animation keyframes.**

### **Equipment and Software:**

#### **Allowed**

Teams will have access to the computer lab with Blender 4.4.0 installed. If teams can bring their own laptops and use other 3D digital content creation software such as Unreal, Unity, Maya, 3DS Max or etc.

Teams are can to use texturing software such as Substance Painter, Substance Designer, ArmorPaint, 3DCoatTextura and etc.

#### **\*Important – Teams Using Game Engines**

- If teams opt to use real-time rendering technology such as Unreal they still must create all 3D assets either in engine or import the digital asset created in software such as Blender and Maya.
- Submissions to the judges must be rendered or screen recorded and submitted in the video format specified below.

Teams are encouraged to create their own textures and sounds, but are allowed to use support assets sites to download 2D Textures, HDRI Skyboxes, sounds and non-copyright music.

### **Prohibited**

Teams are not allowed to use asset stores like Blender Market, TurboSquid, Unreal Marketplace, Unity Asset Store or similar.

Motion Capture libraries like Mixamo, Rokoko and similar

### **Materials Needed By Teams:**

1. Drawing Pad
2. Drawing Utensils – Pencils, pens, markers, and etc
3. Two USB Drives

### **Challenges:**

As digital content creator you will be tasked with creating content for clients. For the duration of this contest your client will be the Judges who have a need for 15 to 30 second animation.

Teams will be given a time budget to complete the project. The judges will request teams turn in the 3 deliverables at specific deadlines during the contest period. Your team goal is to deliver work by each deadline with all team members in agreement on work completed.

Teams will be given a choice of prompts to pick as inspiration for their animation.. As a team you will need to choose wisely because, once a prompt is selected your team is locked to that decision.

*Teams are encouraged to make up a team production company name prior to contest day. Please be creative and have fun with your name.*

## **Deliverables:**

- Storyboard – Physical Paper
- Animatic (Viewport Render, Playblast) – USB 1
  - Wireframe and Materials View
- Final Animation and Supporting Files- USB 2
  - MP4, M4V, MKV or Mov

### *Storyboard*

- Drawing skills are not important here.
- The judges are looking for project planning and what to expect in your final submission

### *Animatic/Blocking animation*

- Judges will want to see a wireframe or viewport render planned animation
- Can be a single angle or multiple files

### *Final submission:*

- Still Rendering – Judges will review still images of your animation in wireframe, material and final composition. Team must submit still from the following time periods in the animation. There should be a **total of 9 images**
  - Near the start of the animation
  - Middle of the animation
  - Near the end
- Final Animation
  - Team Production Stinger
  - An animation with at least 3 different camera angles
  - Team Credits
- Thumbnail Image

Final submission on the USB should place save the completed animation to a folder name **“final”** and the still in a folder named **“rendered”**

Teams will have a total time budget of 6 hours.

Chicken fajita with extra tortilla

Beef enchilada meal

Nachos

Triple dipper - 3 strips crispy chicken plain - burger without the bacon bits-  
southwest egg rolls

Tripple dipper - honey chipotle- burger- hot mozz

Bacon guac crispy chicken sandwich or honey-chipotle chicken crispers combo