



2026 STATE FAIR – Fantasy Nails Monday September 28 – 10am State Fairgrounds

LOCATION: 13191 Dawn Boulevard in Doswell Virginia 23047 – “Best-in-Show” Pavilion

ENTRY FEE: \$20.00 per student entering the competition. Payment is due by **September 25, 2026** to SkillsUSA Virginia – 115 Hutcheson Hall (0908), Blacksburg VA 24061. Please register on-line at www.skillsusava.org – opening Event - State Fair - Competitions.

DEADLINE: Registration will close on **September 11, 2026**.

ADMISSION TICKETS:

- Participants must have a Student Competition Ticket (\$8 student and \$12 adult) to enter the Fairgrounds.
- Teachers are responsible for ordering tickets by **September 18, 2026 ONLINE** directly from the State Fair Ticket Office at <https://www.etix.com/ticket/c/0B673755704EB0C7B865819C1BE568E9/4h-ffaadvanced-payment..>
- **Advance** payment schools must print a “Gate 2” entrance sign available on their website and will be allowed to park next to the SkillsUSA competition in “Lot K” or the overflow “Lot L”.
- Schools with **reserved** tickets must bring a check to enter the State Fairgrounds. The State Fair does not accept cash or credit cards at our special entrance gate.

CONTEST SPONSOR: Hair Cuttery

SKILLSUSA HUMAN SERVICES CLUSTER COORDINATOR: Janice Lyons Jackson – Hair Cuttery

CONTEST CHAIR: Kristina Jones - Hair Cuttery

SKILLSUSA HOST: Veronica Nordan – Alumni and Friends

NUMBER OF CONTESTANTS: Unlimited

CLOTHING: Students are required to wear the following while competing: Black slacks or knee length skirt, white top with sleeves (**no low cut necklines, bare midriffs**), black low-heeled, closed toe-dress shoes (no tennis shoes, flip flops, stilettos). Students must present themselves with a clean, professional appearance. Students need to stay in dress until awards are presented.

STATE FAIR SCHOLARSHIPS: The State Fair of Virginia is offering the first place secondary Fantasy Nails team a scholarship of \$100.00 to each team member to continue their educational pursuit. The State Fair champion **MUST** complete the provided scholarship form before departing the State Fairgrounds.

THEME: "Halloween or Harvest Night"

SCOPE OF THE COMPETITION: Contestants will demonstrate their ability to perform fantasy nail design on a live model, a written description of the theme and an oral presentation at the conclusion of the design application.

- **Student model's nails must be pre-applied before arrival with the proper length and shape for the planned design.**
- Time will be allowed for team setup of workspace which will consist of the end of a 3-foot by 4-foot paper covered table with two chairs.
- **Time allowed for design application – 2 hours. If all contestants have completed their design, time will be called and final judging will take place.**
- Contestants will supply all tools necessary to achieve their desired design.
- **NO ELECTRICAL** outlets or appliances will be used during the nail design competition. Battery operated fans may be used.
- This is a Fantasy Theme Nail Art Contest. Students are encouraged to demonstrate their maximum artistic flair and creativity in Nail Technology. No storyboards, backdrops or table accessories will be allowed.
- The nail design must extend past the nail tips up to the elbow on both arms. Nails must be the main focus of the design. **Nails may NOT serve only as a base for the art.**
- Model's nails will be prejudged to make sure of no artwork other than the application of the nail tips or artificial enhancements.
- Competing technicians will leave after time is called and workstations cleared. Models will remain until the final judging is complete and they are told they are dismissed.
- Competing technicians will present a one-minute oral presentation to the panel of judges describing why the theme was selected, how your interpretation of the theme is connected to the nail art and details of any nail design techniques.
- Theme description must be presented typed at the start of the contest. Contestant may use drawings, pictures or typed description. (loose leaf paper will NOT be excepted)

JUDGING CRITERIA: Contestants will be evaluated based on their performance in the following areas:

- **Creativity/Originality** - The art may be any type of nail art. This may include these techniques, but is not limited to – encased, 3D, flat, etc. Any art medium may be used. No decals/stickers, copyrighted art, designs or logos allowed.
- **Level of Applied Skills** - The degree of difficulty properly executed in the design. Is application of technique used mastered by contestant.
- **Complexity of Detail** - How intricate and precise are lines, colors and design fine points in the Nail Art?
- **Attitude** - Was the attitude of the contestant and model positive and professional towards the contest and other contestants?
- **Sanitation** - Were all state sanitation rules and regulations adhered to?
- **Neatness of Workstation** - Did the contestant and model keep the workstation clean and neat, kept lids on products and discarded all used supplies and products when they not in use?

JUDGING CRITERIA (continued):

- **Theme Continuity** - Is the theme carried through on all ten nails and arms? Theme must be submitted typed at the start of contest.
- **Informal Presentation** - Was the presentation grammatically correct, contents about theme formulation and a technique used, and was there good eye contact, proper gestures and voice qualities present? Was the presentation one minute or less? Was it done in a professional manner?
- **Overall Workmanship** - The total overall appearance of the nails and arms. Is the design in good taste and appealing?

NOTE:** You will have 2 hours to complete nail art on all 10 nails and arms up to elbow of your model. This is a Fantasy Nail Art contest. **REMEMBER THE FOCUS IS THE NAIL ART.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS REQUIRED BY CONTESTANTS: Each participant shall provide the following:

- One-page typed résumé
- All necessary sanitation, implements and supplies to perform their selected nail design and student model with **pre- applied nail tips or artificial enhancements.**