



2026 STATE FAIR – Natural Hair Braiding 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: Tracy Harrison - Hair Cuttery

SKILLSUSA HOST: TBD – 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 or bare midriffs**); black low-heeled, closed toe dress shoes (no tennis shoes). Students must present themselves with a clean professional appearance. Students need to stay in dress for awards.

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

THEME: Contestant will perform a “Natural Hair – Braiding Creative Freestyle” design of their choosing

SCOPE OF THE COMPETITION: Contestants will be evaluated on their preparation for employment and to recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism in Natural Hair Design and Braids by challenging students to be creative stylists and practice technical skills.

- **All sanitation guidelines MUST be followed including:**
 - Sanitizing the workplace before beginning
 - Sanitizing the workplace upon completion
 - Items are not thrown on the floor
 - All used items placed in trash bag
- An original hand-drawn sketch of your total concept must be placed at your station
- Time allowed for contest is two (2) hours.
- Extensions are allowed
- No limits on ornamentations
- NO ELECTRICAL outlets or appliances will be used.
- Cell phones or other electronic appliances are **NOT** allowed.

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

- Creativity (250 Points)
- Originality (250 Points)
- Coordination of ornaments/extensions to finished design (250 Points)
- Overall finished total look (250 points)
- NOTE: Penalty points for sanitation / clean-up (1-100 points)

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

- One-page typed résumé
- Burmax: (2) “Debra, Tina or Lauren” or compatible manikin. Manikins can not be cut and cannot be pre-sectioned.
- Manikin stand/holder tripod
- Trash bag