



## 2026 STATE FAIR - Welding Tuesday September 29 – 10am State Fairgrounds

**LOCATION:** 13191 Dawn Boulevard in Doswell Virginia 23047 – “Blue Ribbon” 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](http://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:** ARC3 GASES

**SKILLSUSA CONSTRUCION CLUSTER COORDINATOR:** Aarin Critzer – Glenn Glass

**CONTEST CHAIR:** Kevin Horstmyer – ARC3 Gases

**SKILLSUSA HOST:** Kevin Griffith – Alumni and Friends

**NUMBER OF CONTESTANTS:** Competition is limited to 21 contestants. Three students from the first seven SkillsUSA Virginia chapters will be allowed to enter the contest. Addition slots will be offered to any additional chapters wishing to participate or to previously registered school in the order of registration.

**CLOTHING:** Attire appropriate for the trade or official SkillsUSA attire if not a safety issue.

**STATE FAIR SCHOLARSHIPS:** The State Fair of Virginia is offering the first place secondary Welding winner a scholarship of \$200.00 to continue their educational pursuit. The State Fair champion **MUST** complete the provided scholarship form before departing the State Fairgrounds.

**SCOPE OF THE COMPETITION:** Each contestant will demonstrate their ability to perform competencies associated with the welding trade.

**TOOLS AND MATERIALS REQUIRED BY CONTESTANTS:** Each participant shall have welding tools as outlined in the SkillsUSA *Technical Standards*.

- a. One-page résumé
- b. Hearing and/or ear protection that is OSHA-approved
- c. OSHA approved eye protection
- d. Leather work shoes
- e. Welding helmet with appropriate filter plate/lens and protective cover plate/lens in a flip or slide front. Automatically darkening shields are permissible.
- f. Welding helmet with appropriate filter plate/lens and protective cover plate/lens in a flip or slide front **for OFC, PAC**. Automatically darkening shields are permissible.
- g. Spare spatter and filter lenses/plates for arc welding helmet and oxyacetylene goggles
- h. Pocket calculator
- i. No. 2 pencils
- j. Pens
- k. Soapstone with holder
- l. Scribe with magnet
- m. Combination square set
- n. 10' (3.1 meters) steel tape measure
- o. Fillet weld gauge
- p. 16-ounce (.45 kilogram) ball peen hammer
- q. Center punch
- r. 10" (254 millimeters) vise grips
- s. 6" (152 millimeters) side-cutting pliers or diagonal-cutting pliers
- t. 6" (152 millimeters) needle-nose pliers
- u. Chipping hammer with or without wire brush
- v. Carbon steel brush

**JUDGING CRITERIA:** See weld size and cut specifications in attachments

**PROJECT:** Refer to the last page of this document

**SAFETY STATEMENT:** All entries must present at registration, the attached Safety Statement signed by students and advisors. **Safety glasses required.**

## **Safety Form for Tools and Materials**

### **State Fair SkillsUSA Virginia Welding Competition**

The SkillsUSA Virginia Welding Competition will involve the use of power tools, equipment and materials in completing the task within the contest. It is absolutely necessary that complete operating instructions and safety for the use of power tools, equipment and materials have been given to the contestant in their training program in the local school division as stated in the National SkillsUSA National Standards before he competes. This includes the proper safety instruction in the use of the tools listed in the scope of the competition and the use of protective equipment while using the tools and materials. Safety glasses are required.

By the affixing of my signature below, I certify that my student, who is entering the Welding Competition at the State Fair, has had proper operating and safety instruction in the use of the power tools, equipment and materials.

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(Signature of Instructor/Advisor)

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(SkillsUSA Virginia Chapter)

By the affixing of my signature below, I certify that I have used the power tools, equipment and materials to be used in the State Fair Welding Competition and that I understand the correct operating procedures and safety precautions for the use of this power tool, equipment and materials.

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(Signature of Student)

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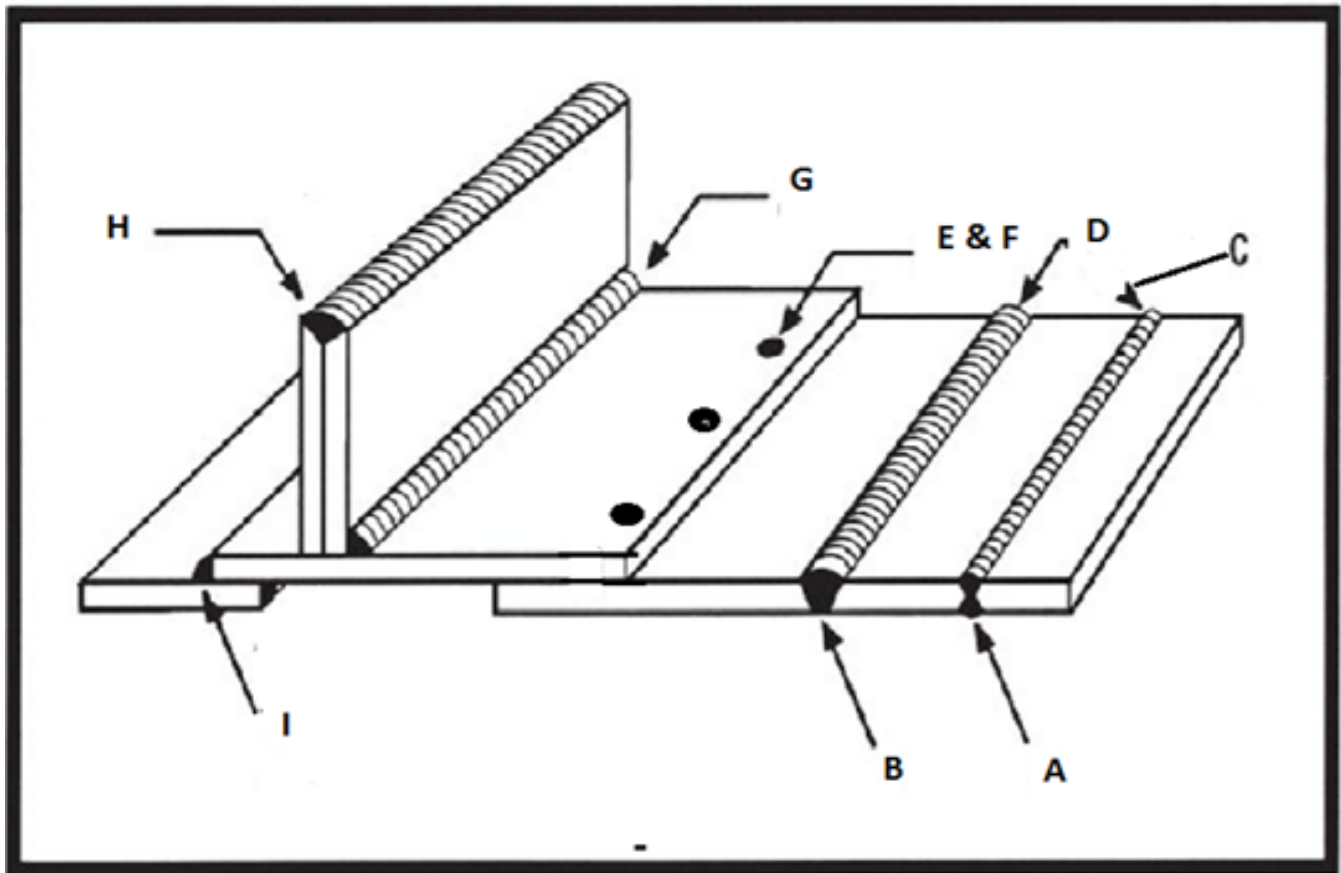
(Date)

**THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED AND TURNED INTO THE COMPETITION CHAIR ON THE DAY OF THE COMPETITION. FAILURE TO TURN IN THIS FORM WILL RESULT IN THE STUDENT NOT BEING ALLOWED TO COMPETE.**

## 2026 SkillsUSA State Fair Welding Contest Project Instructions

All welds are to be performed at the participant's school under the supervision of their instructor and brought to the contest to be judged. Pay attention to the instructions for weld position and electrode/process to be used. Weld repairs are allowed but the final weld surface is what is judged so do not sand, grind or paint the cap portion of the weld. Additional welds will be performed at the State Fair Grounds so please arrive on time, with proper safety gear and be ready to work.

Please view the project drawing below:



- A) Oxy-Fuel cut in half then prepare bevel 
- B) Oxy-Fuel double bevel 
- C) 7018 Weld 1G 3/32 Weld Crown 1/8 Gap
- D) 7018 Weld 3G 3/32 Weld Crown 1/8 Gap
- E) Drill 3 holes 3/8" diameter evenly spaced 1.5" OC
- F) Plug Weld 1G Flush 70S6
- G) 70S6 Weld 2F 1/4 Fillet
- H) 70S6 Weld 1G Position
- I) 7018 Weld 3F 1/4 Fillet

### Material List:

6pc 3x6x1/4 Flat Bar

2pc 1x7x1/4 Optional Backing Bar

All welds should be cleaned of slag and left unpainted.

Grinding and weld repairs are permitted  
Backing bars for groove welds are permitted but not required

Material will need to be repositioned to accomplish all welds

3G and 3F welds are to be welded vertical up.

Finish or cap weld surface cannot be ground off.