

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Skills Ontario hosts 2020 Virtual Skills Ontario Contests, provides students with opportunities to compete in skilled trade and tech fields

*The 2020 Virtual Skills Ontario Contests for secondary students offer several online contests related to skilled trades and tech, as well as four scholarships*

**Ontario (June 3, 2020)** – Skills Ontario is pleased to host the 2020 Virtual Skills Ontario Contests, an online initiative for secondary students to test their skills in their chosen skilled trade or technology field. With contests in culinary arts, mechanical CAD, coding, welding, fashion design, and more, the Virtual Skills Ontario Contests offer secondary students a chance to virtually participate in a similar manner to the Skills Ontario Competition.

While the 2020 Virtual Skills Ontario Contests are not a replacement for the 2020 Skills Ontario Competition, which was cancelled in light of COVID-19, Skills Ontario has modified contests for a virtual at-home setting in order for students to develop and test their skills in their chosen field. Students can access the scope of their contest, as well as safety checklists and other required documents, on the Skills Ontario website.

“Our Virtual Contests are one of the many ways we’re continuing to encourage youth to pursue the skilled trades and technologies,” says Ian Howcroft, CEO of Skills Ontario. “We’re proud to have developed and delivered many online initiatives to encourage experiential learning while Ontarians stay safe at home. As we’ve seen both at our in-person events and through our virtual initiatives, the future of Ontario is in good hands, and contests like these highlight that and help to support and celebrate Ontario’s future skilled workforce.”

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, registration officially opened for students to participate in the 2020 Virtual Skills Ontario Contests. Registration closes on June 7<sup>th</sup>, and submissions are due June 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, dependent on the contest-specific rules. On June 25<sup>th</sup>, Skills Ontario will host a live virtual Awards Ceremony to award first, second, and third place for each contest, as well as four scholarships: one being an Award of Excellence for the Best Overall Score, valued at \$1000, and three valued at \$500.

While not all contest areas typically represented at the Skills Ontario Competition can be available virtually, Skills Ontario has provided this initiative in as many areas as possible. More information can be found at [skillsontario.com/2020-virtual-skills-ontario-contests](https://skillsontario.com/2020-virtual-skills-ontario-contests). Skills Ontario looks forward to continuing to provide fun and interactive learning opportunities to build a strong and robust workforce.

### Skills Ontario – Promoting skilled trades and technologies in Ontario since 1989

Over the last 30 years, Skills Ontario has been growing a portfolio of programs including in-school presentations reaching 125,000 students across Ontario, career exploration summer camps, Young Women’s and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Career Exploration Conferences, and annually hosting Canada’s largest skilled trades and technologies competition which attracts 37,000+ spectators who cheerlead the 2,400+ competitors in 68+ trades and tech categories. To see how you can partner with Skills Ontario and help make a difference in the lives of Ontario’s youth, visit [skillsontario.com/get-involved](https://skillsontario.com/get-involved).

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