

TIPS FOR GROUPS VISITING THE SKILLS ONTARIO COMPETITION



Each year over 20,000 students, teachers, parents, and members of the general public come from across the province to observe the Skills Ontario Competition. With such a crowd converging in one venue over a short two-day period, it is helpful to plan your trip with this mass of people in mind. We hope the tips listed below assist you in planning a fun and valuable class trip for your students!

- Please follow directional signs for bus drop-off. Buses entering the Toronto Congress Centre Dixon Road will be directed to drop students off in front of the North Building. All visitors are to enter through Entrance D. There will be parking attendants to assist. Bus Parking will be available in specified lots.
- Make a brightly coloured sign that clearly identifying your group to put in the bus window- this may help you connect when it's time to board the bus
- Arrange a meeting place and time with your students prior to arriving at the Toronto Congress Centre. I.e. in front of the Home and Team Building Contest. **Please note: there is NO PA system that can be used to page students.**
 - The designated "lost and found" persons area is the 'Yesdesk' in the Main lobby. Our staff will direct any lost people or people looking for lost people to this area.
- Instruct your students to use the buddy-system. When exploring the event, no student should be left to tour alone.
- Review the floorplan ahead of time with your students. They will benefit from being familiar with the layout of the venue.
 - Print copies of the floor plan for your students, with your meeting place (and perhaps your cell phone number) clearly marked on them.
 - First Aid Stations are marked on the floor plan- point this out to your students, in case of an emergency (Students can also ask for help from any Marshall or Skills Ontario Staff).
 - Designate a location that you will stop at throughout the day, where students can find you if they need to- make this location clear to your students, i.e. the seating area next to the robotics competition.
- Instruct your students to dress for the weather, while the majority of contests and showcase booths are now indoors, there will still be 2 outside. Due to limited space inside, the majority of concessions will also be outside.
- Pack a lunch or a lot of patience- the concession lines can be very long, especially at peak lunch times.
- Plan an activity for your students to complete throughout the day. There is a Scavenger Hunt Activity posted on our website for public use.