



# **NOVA SCOTIA SKILLS COMPETITION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

## **What is the Nova Scotia Skills Competition?**

Students and apprentices from across Nova Scotia compete against their peers in a variety of skilled trade and technology contest areas. The participants, ranging from junior high, senior high, college and apprenticeship, set out to test their skills and try for a chance to earn the title of best in their field for the province. The competition is an Olympic-style event complete with gold, silver and bronze medals for those who achieve the highest scores. Awards are decided by judges, and most gold medalists then proceed on to represent Team Nova Scotia at the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC). Through industry, government, labour and education partnerships, the Nova Scotia Skills Competition provides students with the opportunity to achieve excellence in their field.

## **What is Skills Canada – Nova Scotia?**

Skills Canada – Nova Scotia (SCNS) is a provincial not-for-profit organization that promotes careers in skilled trades and technologies to Nova Scotia youth. The organization's largest and most popular event is the Nova Scotia Skills Competition.

## **What is a PTC?**

The PTC (Provincial Technical Committee) is the organizing body behind each of the 55 competitions in the Nova Scotia Skills Competition. Their role is to identify the skills and technologies to be tested in the contest area, determine required equipment and the number of competitors allowed to participate, develop contest scopes and projects, recruit judging panels, and report to SCNS.

## **What is the difference between the secondary and post-secondary competitions?**

The secondary competitions are for students in junior and senior high school. The post-secondary competitions are designed for post-secondary students and apprentices.

## **Why is there an age cap for the post-secondary competition?**

The post-secondary competition is limited to participants 30 years or younger as of January 1 in the year of the competition. This regulation is in accordance with Service Canada's definition of *youth*.

## **Is there an age cap for secondary competitions?**

The secondary competition is limited to participants 21 years or younger as of January 1 in the year of the competition.

## **Is there an age cap for the abilympics competitions?**

No, there is no age limit. (The abilympics are open only to persons with disabilities.)

## **What is a contest scope?**

A contest scope is essentially a summary of each of the contest areas. It specifies the following information:

- location and date of contest
- level of contest
- purpose of the contest
- skills and knowledge to be tested
- judging criteria
- duration and timing of contest
- materials the competitor must supply
- materials that Skills Canada – Nova Scotia will supply
- safety requirements
- technical committee members
- direction to any additional subject matter the competitor should review prior to the competition

The competition scopes will be posted on the SCNS website during the month of December.

## **What is the Career Showcase?**

The Career Showcase is made up of interactive display booths provided by partners and/or local employers which give students the chance to see some of the career options available in skilled trades and technologies. This is an ideal opportunity to research many viable career and education opportunities in skilled trades and technology.

## **Do I need to participate in any other competition before registering for the Nova Scotia Skills Competition?**

In most cases, there are no qualifying competitions that need to be completed before you are eligible to register for the Nova Scotia Skills Competition. However, there are certain contest areas that include qualifying competitions. These are offered at the discretion of the PTC Committee for that contest area. The scope for your competition will include this information.

## **I'm a high school student interested in one of the competition areas, but don't have any formal training. Can I still register for the competition?**

The competition scope will specify if training/experience is required for the competition. You must be under the age of 21 and enrolled in a public or private education institute to participate in the secondary competition. You must also be a Canadian citizen and be a resident of Nova Scotia.

## **Can I register for more than one competition?**

We recognize that some participants may have more than one area of specialization, so registration for more than one competition is allowed; however, if the individual wins a gold medal in one area, they must then forfeit their space in another competition.

## **Can a secondary level student compete in a post-secondary competition?**

No. To compete in a post-secondary competition you must be enrolled in an educational program at a provincial community college, private career college, university or training institution (or be a registered apprentice).

## **How do I register? Is there a fee?**

Registration is easy. Simply:

- Register online at <http://www.skillsns.ednet.ns.ca> and follow-up with payment
- Contact Skills Canada – Nova Scotia's office to request a registration package and include payment when submitting registration

There is a non-refundable registration fee that must accompany your registration. The fee is set-up to offset the costs of the competition materials.

\*Please note: In many cases, employers and educational institutions will cover the registration fees, so please find out this information before submitting payment.