Facilithon Executive Summary

The Facilithon is 3-part competitive event in facilities management with SkillsUSA, America’s second-largest Career Technical Student Organization, created and managed by the FM Pipeline team. It consists of a 50 question test, 5 minute role-play and the FM Challenge, an emergency scenario.

The purpose of the Facilithon is to introduce high school students to facilities management as a profession through the competition and more significantly, its marketing through attendance and interactive speeches at local, district and regional SkillsUSA conferences, touching 100’s of students.

Contrary to most national scholarship programs, a unique aspect of the Facilithon program is the ability of your chapter to “own” the outcome locally, as SkillsUSA graduates have a high propensity to stay or return to their home locale. WI’s 2015 state winner is now a guest of IFMA-Milwaukee.

Running Facilithon in a chapter’s first year is surprisingly easy and engaging for members. The team requires selection of a chapter champion, event manager and board approval as an ad-hoc team prior to SkillsUSA participation. It is a non-negotiable proven model that ensures your effort will succeed as a team through focused efforts and streamlined, energized leadership.

Another unique aspect of the Facilithon is how it doesn’t rob your regular teams of talent. Your champion and event manager will recruit “Quiet FM’s” and chapter elders for their district and regional events. These folks simply don’t attend regular chapter stuff- this program draws them out.

The only time general membership is enlisted is to judge your initial State Facilithon competition. It sets up just like a golf outing, yet engages members in an unexpected manner; it’s really rewarding.

Typically, your first year’s Facilithon will only be run at the state conference in April. Second year teams can run Facilithon at regional events where concentrated geographic interest exists.

The SkillsUSA year

**November**- State SkillsUSA approves your participation & determines whether initial Facilithon will be run at State Conference. Recruits “Quiet FM’s” for team participation at district and regional events. Some states hold fall leadership conference, students’ intro to the CTSO’s environment.

**December**- early March – your team (& other state IFMA chapters) attend district and regional conferences.

**March**- SkillsUSA reports your state participant count & holds technical team meeting, attended by champ and event manager. Chapter champion recruits regular members to judge at state conference. Promoted like a golf outing- this requires several judges and an exam proctor.

**April**- Facilithon launch at state conference. Champion and event manager run it, 2 judges needed for each 8 contestants. Consider a scholarship and student membership for winners if you can.

**Note**- Each State has minor differences derivative of geography or organizational structure, so the above dates and standards vary. Don’t worry, this is all published on each states’ website and the FM pipeline team will help negotiate and navigate your chapter’s journey toward great success on several levels. When run correctly, the Facilithon truly is your chapter answer.