**THE FACILITHON**

FM Pipeline FAQ’s

**What is the Pipeline program?**  A partnership aimed toward high school students. The pipeline is a liaison with SkillsUSA, a huge, successful national vocational student organization, via which high school graduates with career vision toward Facilities Management will emerge through participation in *The Facilithon*, a competitive event in Facilities Management.

**What is the Facilithon?**  A three-part competitive event. The Facilithon has a 50 question test, a 5 minute prepared test-case scenario role-play and an FM challenge, a monkey wrench scenario the competitor must think and act quickly to address. These three elements comprehensively address those of a great Facility Manager.

**How would my chapter participate in this program?**  Promotion and judges. The hard work is already done, courtesy of the FM pipeline team. Your chapter’s part is to connect with your state’s SkillsUSA staff to activate *The Facilithon* and to promote it with local schools through SkillsUSA communication channels and visits to local and regional state competitions.

**What’s in it for my Chapter?**  Win-Win-Win. Because our method avoids recruiting existing committee members, you’ll activate Facility Managers who don’t attend your regular events— this is something we experienced ourselves. Further, because this is next-gen stuff, your former chapter leaders will buy in as well, its legacy stuff a decade of leaders has asked for. Last, your chapter wins, as while engaging with the next generation The Facilithon elevates your chapter’s public image where its most needed.— those who will enter the workforce next. Finally, this creates a potential bridge between your foundation contributions and an outcome you can touch and talk with, as most SkillsUSA graduates stay closer to home.

**Are there a schedules & deadlines?**  Yes. SkillsUSA has an active calendar on their national site that reflects the march to their national leadership conference in Louisville, KY in June. New events are “activated” by states in December. Local, district and regional competitions occur in December, January & February, while state conferences occur in April & May. Your toolkit helps you easily align with your specific state’s schedule.

**Is there money involved?**  Yes and no. State-level events need funding for paper test materials and competition space. The FM Pipeline Team’s first foray cost $200 for all materials and a $1370 scholarship (not required) to make this a highlight event. In an event’s second year, one can expect some level of contribution though purchasing a booth space ($300-$500). Upon national recognition at year 3+, a national sponsor
donations of consequence trickle down to the states via SkillsUSA HQ. A national Faciliton launch approaches $25-$30K, supplied by a major vendor (FM Pipeline will work toward funding).

**Why can’t I just hand this off to our education or outreach team?** Because without this as a focused single task, the FM pipeline team will not support it. We learned in 2015 that without said dedicated team it will fail. The FM pipeline team are volunteers too— we can’t waste efforts on anything but the best model.

**Can I enlist anyone other than “quiet FM’s”, checked-out elders and retirees?** Yes, sure, and … We wouldn’t suggest recruiting lots of active regular chapter members not because they can’t do it, but because they should be doing other team functions in most instances. It’s just fine to ask them to judge, yet that’s only a one or two-day stint, hardly a difficulty to any exiting committee.

**What if another chapter in my state started this before us?** Work Together. Given that each state only has one state conference, sharing the program makes attending the district and regional conferences easier. The FM pipeline team will help you join the cause toward a great state event and better inner-chapter liaison.

Is SkillsUSA only in High Schools? No. SkillsUSA has a strong post-secondary presence in many colleges across the country. The Faciliton was designed to elevate to the post-secondary level upon High school success merely be increasing the difficulty of the questions.

**How do I join in on the conversation to get my feet wet?** Conference Call. Join us on our monthly conference call, first Tuesday of each month at 12:00 CST, Phone 760-569-7171 Code 171018142