

## Skills Club Introduction

Every year, a number of adults in skilled trades and technology careers volunteer their time to share their knowledge with youth through specialized Skills Clubs. In these Skills Clubs, students receive instruction and mentoring from experienced professionals in various occupations from carpentry to welding to graphic design and more.

In most cases, these Skills Clubs are offered to students in grades 9 through 12, although some communities may offer the clubs to a broader age range. Clubs generally include weekly two-hour sessions within an 8-24 week period.

If you are interested in coaching a Skills Club, the Skills Canada NWT office has various resources to help you get started. We also have some funding to help buy the materials you need.

Although we are still working to develop more resources, we currently have:

- **Skills Club Guidelines:** This document includes policies and procedures regarding the administration of a Skills Club in cooperation with our office. This includes information about funding.
- **Attendance Record:** An excel spreadsheet that can be used as a template for tracking participant attendance.
- **Skills Club Registration Form:** A two-page document that all participants **must complete**. This document provides contact information as well as participant rules and conditions. If this form is not completed, our insurance may not cover an individual in the event of an accident or injury.
- **Contest Scopes:** Before each Territorial Skills Competition and Canadian Skills Competition, contest scopes are made available. The scope documents provide information about what skills may be tested, what tools and equipment are needed including safety equipment, etc. For new clubs in particular, these documents provide a good starting point for determining where to focus attention during Skills Clubs sessions.
- **Contact information for other Skills Club coaches:** If you are starting a new club in your community but another community is already hosting a club in this skill area, we are often able to provide contact information for the other coach (with the individual's permission). This networking can be very helpful for new coaches looking for support and suggestions.

Many Skills Club participants display what they have learned at the annual Territorial Skills Competition (TSC) with first place winners advancing to nationals. Some participants go on to pursue careers in skilled trades and technology, which is our best measure of success.

If you want to start a Skills Club in a trade or technology area that doesn't have a contest at the TSC, that's fine so long as it is still related to skilled trades and technology. You can also talk to the Skills Canada NWT office about the possibility of launching your contest area at the TSC.

**Skills Canada NWT**  
**P.O. Box 1403**  
**Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P1**  
**Tel: (867) 873-8743 Fax: (867) 873-8197**  
**E-mail: [skillsnt@northwestel.net](mailto:skillsnt@northwestel.net)**  
**Internet: [www.skillscanadanwt.org](http://www.skillscanadanwt.org)**



We greatly appreciate the contribution of our volunteer instructors and the participants who make these clubs happen. We believe the Skills Clubs are one of our best programs and offer fantastic opportunities to northern youth.

If you have any questions or want to get started, please contact our office at any time. We look forward to working with you!

Jan Fullerton  
Executive Director