



**Q: What is WorldSkills?**

**A:** WorldSkills is part of a global movement, to develop, recognize and inspire skilled talent. Organizations and committed individuals around the world are focused on developing and promoting high performance among young people in skilled trades and technologies. WorldSkills International represents 49 countries with a major objective to carry out a WorldSkills competition every two years. Skills/Compétences Canada is the member organization for Canada, and it organizes regional, provincial and national competitions.

A WorldSkills competition is held over four days. There are more than 40 skill categories ranging from welding, graphic design and autobody repair to landscape gardening, plumbing, IT PC, and network support. Each competition is designed to test technical, communication, team-work, and business skills, as well as the ability of the competitors to work on specific projects. Competitors strive to achieve an international standard within a specific timeframe.

**Q: What are the skill categories?**

- A:**
- Welding
  - Wall & Floor Tiling
  - Autobody Repair
  - Plumbing
  - Web Design
  - Bricklaying
  - Painting & Decorating
  - Cabinet Making
  - Beauty Therapy
  - Jewellery
  - Floristry
  - Ladies Dressmaking
  - IT/Software Applications
  - Joinery
  - Mobile Robotics
  - CNC Milling
  - CNC Turning
  - Electrical Installations
  - Industrial Control
  - Manufacturing Team Challenge
  - Mechanical Engineering CADD
  - Ladies/Mens Hairdressing
  - Carpentry
  - Car Painting
  - Refrigeration
  - Graphic Design Technology
  - Computer Animation
  - Sheet Metal Technology
  - Song & Dance
  - Telecommunications
  - Distribution Technology
  - Mould Making
  - Printing
  - Landscape Gardening
  - Automobile Technology
  - IT PC/Network Support
  - Polymechanics/Automation
  - Mechatronics
  - Sheet Metal Technology
  - Stonemasonry
  - Restaurant Service
  - Industrial Electronics
  - Cooking
  - Metal Roofing
  - Confectioner/Pastry Cook
  - Caring
  - Bakery
  - Aircraft Maintenance
  - Heavy Equipment Technician

**Q: Why should schools support students in participating in WorldSkills 2009?**

A: The WorldSkills competition will expose students to the world of industry and business, bringing relevance and understanding of concepts that are presented in the classroom. It will also encourage them to think more about their career paths, increase knowledge about different opportunities available to them, display the link between different skills and occupations, and provide them with more information to consider when choosing high school courses.

**Q: What learning opportunities exist for students attending this event as spectators?**

A: Students can take part in Try-A-Trade Demonstrations, which provide a hands-on, behind-the-scenes look at some of the most in-demand occupations. There will also be a Learning Opportunities and Career Pathways Showcase at the event, which will feature over 100 trade and technology focused employers, partners and educational institutions to provide career advice to students. In addition, experienced Skills Ambassadors will be presenting information about different skills areas. Students will also have opportunities to network with the people and companies that apply technological skills in the real world and to see the relevant link between skills and occupations.

**Q: How much does it cost for entry?**

A: Entry into the competition is free.

**Q: How does somebody qualify to compete in the international competitions?**

A: Skills/Compétences Canada has member organizations in each province and territory that host annual Provincial Skills Competitions across Canada. Skills Canada Alberta (SCA) is the provincial arm of Skills/Compétences Canada. SCA hosts the Provincial Skills Competition each year to establish the team that will represent Alberta at the annual Canadian Skills Competition. The national competition that is held the year before an international competition is a qualifying year for WorldSkills. Age-eligible (21 years of age or younger) winners of this competition go on to compete at the international level. The team that will represent Canada at WorldSkills Calgary 2009 will be selected at the 2008 Canadian Skills Competition.

**Q: When are the provincial and national Skills Canada competitions held?**

A: The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Provincial Skills Competition will take place on May 22-23, 2008 at Stampede Park in Calgary. This year is the qualifying year for the international skills competition, WorldSkills Calgary 2009. Qualifying gold medalists at the Provincial Skills Competition will compete at the 14<sup>th</sup> Canadian Skills Competition being held on May 25-28, 2008 at Calgary's Stampede Park. Individuals who will represent Canada at WorldSkills Calgary 2009 will be selected at the 2008 Canadian Skills Competition.

**Q: How does a student qualify to compete in the Provincial Skills Competition?**

A: Skills Canada Alberta hosts both secondary and post-secondary students at the Provincial Skills Competition. Secondary students are registered by their school to participate. Teachers can register their school to be a Skills School at [www.skillsalberta.com](http://www.skillsalberta.com) and receive information on upcoming regional and provincial competitions.

Post-secondary competitors are selected by Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training and post-secondary institutions.

550 Alberta students participate in 40 events at the Provincial Skills Competitions. Thousands of students tour the event on a field trip to learn about trade and technology careers, engage in Try-A-Trade™ hands-on demonstrations and attend the Young Women Exploring Trades and Technologies Conference.

**Q: How does competition benefit students?**

A: Just as students in sports, drama and music gain experience, confidence and pride from reaching for their personal best, so do students developing their skills in the trades and technologies. Skills Canada Alberta competitions connect students with post-secondary and industry experts in a professional and high-energy atmosphere. Whether students are competing or watching their peers, they see first-hand the tremendous opportunity that is available to them. Students gain focus and an appreciation for the professionalism and dedication required to be successful in a variety of careers.

**Q: How long does a WorldSkills competition last?**

A: WorldSkills competitions are held over 4 days – 22 hours in total.

**Q: What countries will compete at WorldSkills?**

- A:
- United Arab Emirates
  - Austria
  - Australia
  - Belgium
  - Brunei Darussalam
  - Brazil
  - Canada
  - Croatia
  - Switzerland
  - Germany
  - Denmark
  - Hong Kong SAR
  - Hungary
  - Indonesia
  - Ireland
  - India
  - Iran
  - Iceland
  - SouthTyrol, Italy
  - Jamaica
  - Japan
  - Korea
  - Spain
  - Ecuador
  - Finland
  - France
  - Luxembourg
  - Morocco
  - Macau SAR
  - Mexico
  - Malaysia
  - Netherlands
  - Norway
  - New Zealand
  - Phillippines
  - Portugal
  - Saudi Arabia
  - Estonia
  - Sweden
  - Singapore
  - Thailand
  - Tunisia
  - Chinese Taipei
  - United Kingdom
  - United States of America
  - Venezuela
  - Vietnam
  - South Africa
  - Principality of Liechtenstein