

February 5, 2026

RE: SkillsUSA Team Engineering Challenge at UW-Stout 2026

Dear Coaches:

To prepare your students for the SkillsUSA Team Engineering Challenge at UW-Stout this year, we have prepared a letter with information outlining the event.

Please consider the following quote by Greta Thunberg, "Humanity is now standing at a crossroads. We must now decide which path we want to take. How do we want the future living conditions for all living species to be like?"

It is strongly recommended that students research general information on materials used in construction and the effect of the environment on those materials. Also, consider the impact of improper use of those construction materials on humans, living creatures, and ecosystems. Examine the current human response and contemplate precautionary measures that could be developed. Students should also be prepared to expand this knowledge to other engineering disciplines.

Students are encouraged to learn about engineering for sustainable development. Students should explore what engineers have done and can do to build a better future. Students will use a standard engineering design process, including completing a design journal, to design and build a potential solution for the design challenge.

Activities participants will complete include: taking a short quiz about engineering problem-solving climate change concepts; analyzing a problem and creating potential solutions; document ideas/design process; document possible solutions; documents decision process to pick best solution; create a model of best solution; create a presentation poster and script for a brief design pitch; present to a panel of industry experts.

Competitors will be given a packet of materials to create their model. No materials may be used other than what is supplied. Students and their coaches are encouraged to look at the SkillsUSA supply list for additional guidance on materials allowed. A reminder that no phones, computers, or internet devices can be used during the competition.

Sincerely,

Dr. Devin Berg
UW-Stout Team Engineering Challenge Coordinator