

# CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION



## PURPOSE

To evaluate a team's ability to conduct a crime scene investigation.

First, download and review the General Regulations at: [updates.skillsusa.org](http://updates.skillsusa.org).

## ELIGIBILITY

Open to a team of three active SkillsUSA members enrolled in programs with law enforcement as the occupational objective. All team members must be from the same SkillsUSA chapter.

## CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS

### Class D: Contest Specific — Blue Attire

- Official SkillsUSA light blue work shirt
- Navy pants
- Black, brown or tan leather work safety shoes (with protective toe cap)

**Note:** Safety glasses with side shields or goggles (prescription glasses may be used only if they are equipped with side shields. If not, they must be covered with goggles).

These regulations refer to clothing items that are pictured and described at: [www.skillsusastore.org](http://www.skillsusastore.org). If you have questions about clothing or other logo items, call 800-401-1560 or 703-956-3723.

**Note:** Contestants must wear their official contest clothing to the contest orientation meeting.

## EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

1. Supplied by the technical committee:
  - a. Crime scene
2. Supplied by the contestants:
  - a. Crime scene kit containing materials necessary to conduct a crime scene investigation, e.g., fingerprint cards, brushes, powder, crime scene tape, etc.

- b. Small pocket notebook for field notes
- c. Pens and pencils
- d. Handcuffs and handcuff case
- e. Flashlight
- f. Digital camera (any style — quality of photography will not be judged)
- g. All competitors must create a one-page résumé and submit a hard copy to the technical committee chair at orientation. Failure to do so will result in a 10-point penalty.
- h. Safety glasses with side shields or goggles (prescription glasses with side shields. If not, they must be covered with goggles). Note: Safety eyewear must be available, but use will depend on the scenario

**Note:** Your contest may also require a hard copy of your résumé as part of the actual contest. Check the Contest Guidelines and/or the updates page on the SkillsUSA website: <http://updates.skillsusa.org>.

## SCOPE OF THE CONTEST

The contest assesses the ability to perform skills related to the crime scene procedures as outlined in *Criminal Investigation*, Seventh Edition, by Bennett and Hess and guidelines as set forth by the SkillsUSA technical committee.

## Knowledge Performance

The contest will include a skill-related written knowledge test assessing knowledge of crime scene photography, physical evidence, crime scene sketches, fingerprinting and releasing a crime scene.

## Skills Performance

The contest will include activities that simulate situations encountered by criminal investigation professionals.

## Contest Guidelines

1. Teams will draw numbers during the pre-contest orientation meeting to determine the order of performance and demonstration times.
2. Contestants must work together as a team without assistance from instructors, other contestants or observers.

## **Standards and Competencies**

### **CSI 1.0 — Demonstrate or explain activities prior to conducting a crime scene search**

- 1.1 Obtain information from the responding officer and secure the scene
- 1.2 Explain and demonstrate knowledge and use of constitutional law governing search and seizure
- 1.3 Demonstrate proper procedures for checking vital signs of a victim and certifying death of a victim

### **CSI 2.0 — Explain and demonstrate the use of crime scene photography**

- 2.1 Demonstrate proper crime scene photography
- 2.2 Document photographs taken at the crime scene

### **CSI 3.0 — Properly search for, collect and remove physical evidence from a crime scene**

- 3.1 Explain and demonstrate appropriate search method to use
- 3.2 Properly flag all evidence
- 3.3 Explain methods for collecting DNA evidence
- 3.4 Explain and demonstrate proper bagging and marking of all evidence

### **CSI 4.0 — Draw a crime scene sketch using proper measurements, symbols and labels**

- 4.1 Demonstrate proper use of measurements
- 4.2 Demonstrate the proper use of symbols and labels

### **CSI 5.0 — Apply proper procedures for dusting a crime scene for collecting latent fingerprints**

- 5.1 Demonstrate the ability to properly lift and mount a latent fingerprint from a designated item of evidence
- 5.2 Demonstrate the proper procedure for marking a latent fingerprint card

### **CSI 6.0 — Release a crime scene properly and legally**

- 6.1 Demonstrate the ability to prepare an evidence inventory
- 6.2 Demonstrate the ability to remove all evidence and equipment from crime scene

### **CSI 7.0 — Work together as a professional team to conduct a crime scene investigation**

- 7.1 Demonstrate professional bearing and demeanor
- 7.2 Demonstrate the ability to assign team members' tasks equal to their aptitude

## **Committee Identified Academic Skills**

The technical committee has identified that the following academic skills are embedded in this contest.

### **Math Skills**

- Measure angles
- Use the rectangular coordinate method to locate evidence (uses two fixed reference points and right angles to indicate the exact location of evidence in the crime scene)

### **Science Skills**

- Plan and conduct a scientific investigation
- Use the proper method for developing latent fingerprints
- Identify and demonstrate necessary safety precautions for handling and processing DNA evidence

### **Language Arts Skills**

- Provide information in conversations and in group discussions
- Provide information in oral presentations
- Demonstrate use of such verbal communication skills as word choice, pitch, feeling, tone and voice
- Demonstrate use of such nonverbal communication skills as eye contact, posture and gestures using interviewing techniques to gain information
- Organize and synthesize information for use in written and oral presentations
- Demonstrate informational writing
- Edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure and paragraphing

## **Connections to National Standards**

State-level academic curriculum specialists identified the following connections to national academic standards.

### **Math Standards**

- Algebra
- Geometry
- Measurement
- Data analysis and probability
- Problem solving
- Reasoning and proof
- Communication
- Connections
- Representation

**Source:** NCTM Principles and Standards for School Mathematics. For more information, visit:  
<http://www.nctm.org>.

### **Science Standards**

- Understands the principles of heredity and related concepts
- Understands the structure and function of cells and organisms
- Understands the structure and properties of matter
- Understands the nature of scientific knowledge
- Understands the nature of scientific inquiry

**Source:** McREL compendium of national science standards. To view and search the compendium, visit:  
[www2.mcrel.org/compendium/browse.asp](http://www2.mcrel.org/compendium/browse.asp).

### **Language Arts Standards**

- Students adjust their use of spoken, written and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes
- Students conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions and by posing problems. They gather, evaluate and synthesize data from a variety of sources (e.g., print and nonprint texts, artifacts, people) to communicate their discoveries in ways that suit their purpose and audience
- Students use spoken, written and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion and the exchange of information)

**Source:** IRA/NCTE Standards for the English Language Arts. To view the standards, visit:  
[www.ncte.org/standards](http://www.ncte.org/standards).