

Arrival and Departure Information

For Advisors/Drivers

2024 State Leadership and Skills Conference
April 12 – 14
Grand Rapids, MI

CAR or VAN Arrival/Departure **Advisor Instructions**

If your school is arriving by car or van, please feel free to self-park your vehicle at the hotel.

BUS Arrival **Advisor Instructions**

Please follow these guidelines to ensure that all schools arriving in Grand Rapids by BUS can unload in a smooth manner. **Please note: Bus drivers must remain with buses at ALL times.**

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

259 Pearl St, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

There is limited space available for buses to load/unload at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. Be advised that buses are not allowed to stop on the Monroe side of the hotel. Due to the construction on Lyon St., **we are no longer advising buses to drop off/pick up on Lyon Street.**

Buses may proceed to Pearl Street along the bridge, just after Amway Grand Plaza's valet, located at 259 Pearl St, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. The Advisor(s) and students will unload the bus from there. Look for the SkillsUSA Bus Drop Off Sign.

Hotel Staff will be available to direct your school to the **Ottawa, Plaza Boardroom A and Riverview** rooms (inside the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel), which will be a temporary holding room for your students and luggage, while the Advisor(s) proceed to the front desk for hotel check-in and room key cards.

Attention SkillsUSA Advisors

Sunday Morning Departure

There is a very limited amount of space available for buses to load at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel and at DeVos Place. Please follow these guidelines to ensure that everyone is able to load and depart in a timely manner.

From Amway Grand Plaza Hotel & Devos Place

- You and your students can use the **Ford Ballroom** rooms located inside of the Amway Grand Plaza
- Please plan to call your bus driver when you are ready to load.
- Do not call your bus until your students are ready to board.
- Lyon Street will no longer be an option due to construction.
- Driver's Instruction Sheets have directions to staging areas where they will be able to wait for your call.

Buses will arrive and depart from the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel on the Pearl Street side of the hotel. Please use the Amway Grand Plaza Entrance by the main lobby of the hotel, just before Wolfgang Puck.

Buses that are to be loaded prior to the awards ceremony should proceed to the Pearl St. entrance of the hotel when the group is ready to load. Once the bus is loaded, it will proceed to the bus lane on Monroe Ave, in front of DeVos Place. Students will board pre-loaded buses at DeVos Place. Call your driver when you leave the ceremony to find the exact location.

ALL OTHER BUSES will be staged on Scribner Ave, behind the Ford Museum. Buses will proceed to the hotel when the group is ready to board, not in order of arrival. Please call your driver when your group is ready to board.

From Courtyard by Marriott

Pre-loaded buses may proceed to the bus drop-off lane in front of DeVos Place. Students will board directly from DeVos Place. Call your driver when you leave the ceremony to find the exact location.

All other buses should wait at the respective hotel. If there is not enough room to wait at the hotel, buses should proceed to the staging area on Scribner Ave. Please call your driver when your group is ready to board.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Attention SkillsUSA Bus Drivers

Sunday Morning Departure

There is a very limited amount of space available for buses to load at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel and at DeVos Place. Please follow these guidelines to ensure that everyone can load and depart in a timely manner.

From the Amway Grand Plaza

- Buses being pre-loaded must be out of Pearl St by 9:00 AM.
- Pre-loaded buses should pick-up students in the bus drop-off lane in front of DeVos Place.
- Buses will not be allowed to wait in Pearl St.
- Drivers may not leave their buses in Pearl St.
- Buses are not allowed to use Lyon Street due to construction.

Buses that are to be loaded prior to the awards ceremony should proceed to the Pearl Street entrance of the hotel when the group is ready to load. Once the bus is loaded, it will proceed to the bus lane on Monroe Ave, in front of DeVos Place. Students will board pre-loaded buses at DeVos Place.

ALL OTHER BUSES will be staged on Scribner Ave, behind the Ford Museum. Buses will proceed to the hotel when the group is ready to board, not in order of arrival. Please have your school/contact call you when the group is ready to board.

From Courtyard by Marriott or JW Marriott

Pre-loaded buses may proceed to the bus drop-off lane in front of DeVos Place. Students will board directly from DeVos Place.

All other buses should wait at their respective hotel. If there is not enough room to wait at the hotel, buses should proceed to the staging area on Scribner Ave, behind the Ford Museum, and have the teacher call when the group is ready to board.

Thank you for your cooperation.

SkillsUSA Michigan

Directions to Bus Staging Area on Sunday only

To Bus Staging Area on Scribner Ave:

From the North - Follow US-131 South to Pearl St. (exit 85B). Turn Left on Pearl St. Turn LEFT on Scribner Ave. Park on the East side of Scribner, behind the Gerald R Ford Museum, until called.

From the East - 196 to 1196 West Downtown/Holland, exit 37. Follow 1196 West to Ottawa Ave. exit 77C. Follow Ottawa Ave. south to Pearl St. Turn RIGHT on Pearl St to Scribner Ave. Turn RIGHT on Scribner Ave. Park on the East side of Scribner, behind the Gerald R Ford Museum, until called.

From the South - US 131 north to Pearl St. (exit 85B). Proceed straight onto Scribner Ave. Park on the East side of Scribner, behind the Gerald R Ford Museum, until called.

From the Northwest - I 96 to US 131 South, exit 31A. Follow US-131 South to Pearl St. (exit 85B). Turn Left on Pearl St. Turn LEFT on Scribner Ave. Park on the East side of Scribner, behind the Gerald R Ford Museum, until called.

From the Southwest - 1196 east to US 131 South, exit 31A. Keep RIGHT to Pearl St (exit 85B). Turn Left on Pearl St. Turn LEFT on Scribner Ave. Park on the East side of Scribner, behind the Gerald R Ford Museum, until called.

From Amway Grand Plaza Hotel to Staging Area:

Turn Right on Monroe Ave to Pearl St. Turn Right on Pearl St. to Scribner Ave. Turn Right on Scribner Ave. Park on the East side of Scribner, behind the Gerald R Ford Museum, until called.

From Courtyard by Marriott or JW Marriott to Staging Area:

Turn Left on Campau to Pearl St. Turn Left on Pearl St. to Scribner Ave. Turn Right on Scribner Ave. Park on the East side of Scribner, behind the Gerald R Ford Museum, until called.

To Pick-up Areas:

Turn RIGHT on Bridge St to Monroe Ave. Turn RIGHT on Monroe Ave. Pick-up at DeVos Place is the bus lane along Monroe Ave. For pick-up at the Amway Grand Plaza, continue Monroe Ave to Lyon Sq. Turn RIGHT on Lyon Sq to hotel entrance.