



# NYS SkillsUSA Standards



## CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION



### PURPOSE

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

### ELIGIBILITY (TEAM OF THREE)

Open to a team of three active NYS SkillsUSA members enrolled in programs, work-based learning or community training programs with law enforcement and/or public safety as the occupational objective. Each state may send one high-school team.

### CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS

- **NYS SkillsUSA Contest Specific**
- Official program uniform with school and personal identification removed/concealed or black trousers with white shirt,
- plain black tie with no pattern or a SkillsUSA black tie.
- Black socks
- black leather work shoes or boots.
- Shoes must be all leather (no canvas), completely enclosed (no open toe or open heel). Athletic style shoes that meet the criteria are acceptable.
- Black belt.
- Safety glasses must have 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.)

*Note:* Skirts and high-heeled shoes are not permitted.

*Note:* Contestants must wear their contest clothing to the contest orientation meeting.  
Also bring #2 pencil, resume, safety assurance form and conference program.

## EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

1. Supplied by the technical committee:
  - a. Crime scene: All necessary materials for the competition not specified elsewhere.
2. Supplied by the competitors:
  - a. Crime scene kit containing materials necessary to conduct a crime scene investigation.  
At a minimum:
    - 1.) Digital Camera (not a cell phone) with removable media card
    - 2.) PPE to include safety glasses, mask/face shield, shoe covers, and gloves (Tyvek optional)
    - 3.) Latent print examination kit/fingerprint kit with cards and tape
    - 4.) Measuring device (laser measuring device or tape measure)
    - 5.) Scale (preferably an 'L' shaped scale)
    - 6.) Sterile swabs and swab boxes
    - 7.) Water in dispenser bottle/dropper (should be distilled, but due to travel restrictions can be tap)
    - 8.) Evidence placards/markers/cones
    - 9.) Evidence bags; paper and plastic, various sizes
    - 10.) Tamper proof evidence tape
    - 11.) Sharpie
    - 12.) Sketching kit
    - 13.) Tweezers
    - 14.) Small pocket notebook for field notes
    - 15.) Pens and #2 pencils
    - 16.) Flashlight
  - b. All competitors must create a one-page resume. See "Resume Requirement" below for guidelines.

### RESUME REQUIREMENT

Competitors must create a one-page resume to submit at orientation,

### DEVICES

Cell phones or other electronic devices not approved by the NYS Chairperson will be collected by the contest chair during the competition. Chairpersons will announce their acceptance by listing it on their standard or at the orientation meeting. In case of emergencies advisors should allow the competitors to take their phones to the contest areas.

If the competitor uses their device in a manner which compromises the integrity of the competition, the competitor's score may be penalized.

## SCOPE OF THE COMPETITION

The competition is defined by industry standards as identified by the NYS SkillsUSA technical committee.

The following is a list of materials used in the formation of the competition:

- FBI Handbook of Forensic Services (2019):  
<https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/handbook-of-forensic-services-pdf.pdf/view>
- NIST Crime Scene Investigation — A Guide for Law Enforcement (2013):  
<https://www.nist.gov/system/files/documents/forensics/Crime-Scene-Investigation.pdf>
- Criminal Investigation by Thomas Brown from Open Educational Resources (2022):  
<https://www.oercommons.org/courses/criminal-investigation>

### KNOWLEDGE PERFORMANCE

All competitors are required to take the NYS SkillsUSA professional development test online.

The competition will include a test assessing knowledge from the Standards and Competencies section listed below. Team members will test independently and cannot consult with one another during testing. See Appendix A for a list of terms for review.

### SKILLS PERFORMANCE

The competition will include activities that simulate situations encountered by criminal investigation professionals. See Appendix B for a list of examples.

### COMPETITION GUIDELINES

1. Each competitor must work independently without assistance from instructors, other teams or observers. Contact with competitors must be coordinated through designated event staff only. Any violation of this may disqualify the competitor.
2. Cell phones, iPads/tablets, smart watches, wearable technology or any other electronic communication device is prohibited in the competition area. See “ Devices” section above for more information.
3. No one but competitors, judges and event staff are allowed in the competition area at any time. Observation is limited to the area designated by the judges or event staff. Outdoor competition area may only be accessed by judges, competitors and event staff. Any violation of this may disqualify the competitor.
4. No one may contact judges in any way and at any time without the expressed permission of the competition coordinator.

## **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 laws, processes and protocols securing a scene
- 1.3. Explain laws and legal issues related to crime scene processing

### **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 identify and mark all evidence
- 3.3. Explain methods for collecting various types of evidence
- 3.4. Explain and demonstrate proper preserving and preparing for transport 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
- 4.3. Complete a sketch including all required elements

### **CSI 5.0—Apply proper procedures for developing and collecting latent fingerprints at a crime scene**

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

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

- 6.1. Demonstrate the ability to prepare an evidence log
- 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

## **APPENDIX A**

**Below is a list of terms to prepare for the knowledge test. The list below is not exhaustive but represents the range of possible content.**

- **Algor Mortis**
- **Blank samples**
- **Bindle paper**
- **Chain of custody**
- **Circumstantial evidence**
- **Comparison samples**
- **Control samples**
- **Crime scene measuring techniques (triangulation method, rectangular coordinate method, transecting baseline coordinate method, polar coordinate method)**
- **Crime scene photographs (overall, midrange, close-up)**
- **Crime scene search methods (grid search, spiral search, lane/strip search, zone search)**
- **Crime scene security log**
- **Direct evidence**
- **Elimination samples**
- **Exculpatory evidence**
- **Faraday bags**
- **Forensic archaeology**
- **Forensic entomology**
- **Forensic odontology**
- **Forensic pathology**
- **Fruit of the Poisonous Tree Doctrine**
- **Inculpatory evidence**
- **Latent fingerprints**
- **NDIS/CODIS**
- **Oblique lighting**
- **Patent fingerprints**
- **Post-mortem lividity**
- **PPE**
- **Presumptive tests**
- **Prioritization of evidence collection**
- **Processing/collection methods**
- **Proper packaging of various types of evidence (drugs, biological material, firearms, knives, etc.)**
- **Reference samples**
- **Rigor mortis**
- **Routes of exposure**

- **Standards of proof (probable cause, reasonable suspicion, proof beyond a reasonable doubt, preponderance of the evidence)**
- **Statutory/common law**
- **Transient evidence collection**

## **APPENDIX B**

**The list below is not exhaustive but represents the range of possible competition skills:**

- **Lifting fingerprints**
- **Collecting DNA and bodily fluid evidence**
- **Photographing scene • Photographic evidence**
- **Sketching a scene**
- **Measuring a scene**
- **Using alternative light sources**
- **Searching for and identifying evidence**
- **Identify, collect, and process trace evidence**
- **Interpret blood stains**
- **Interpret ballistic evidence – casings, directionality, sequencing**
- **Complete paperwork associated with CSI – including narratives, logs**
- **Practice safety protocols related to CSI**
- **Collect evidence**
- **Verbalize constitutional and legal applications in scenarios**
- **Interpret DNA evidence**
- **Classify, interpret and identify fingerprint evidence**
- **Packaging and preserving various types of evidence**
- **Presumptive testing • Interpretation of anthropological evidence**

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Sample Scorecard**

<b>Standard Evaluated</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
<b>Written Test</b>	<b>150 Skill</b>
<b>Demonstration 1</b>	<b>100 Skill</b>
<b>Demonstration 2</b>	<b>100 Skill</b>
<b>Demonstration 3</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Crime Scene Practicum</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Crime Scene Sketch</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Crime Scene Photos and Log</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Paperwork, Narrative</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Evidence Interpretation</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>SkillsUSA Framework Assessment</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>