

Contest Description

Edmonton Expo Centre, Edmonton

May 6, 2026

EVENT: Ladies Hairstyling <i>Creative Braiding</i>	LEVEL: Junior (Grade 10-11 only)
WORLDSKILLS TRADE #29	LOCATION: Hall B, Edmonton Expo Centre, Edmonton
DURATION: 1.5 Hours	REGIONALIZED: Yes. Students must qualify through a Regional Skills Canada Competition (RSCC) to earn a position in the Hairstyling Jr. competition at the Provincial Skills Canada Competition (PSCC).
COMPETITION SCHEDULE:	
May 6:	
<i>ORIENTATION</i>	9:30AM – 10:00AM
COMPETITION	10:00AM –11:30PM
JUDGING	12:30PM – 1:15PM
LUNCH	11:30AM– 12:30PM

Please Note: This document is subject to change as competition information is updated. Competitors are responsible for staying up to date with the most recent information. Check the footer for last updated date. Changes will be highlighted in yellow.

CONTEST INTRODUCTION

Enable industry as well as observers to view the level of skill taught within the secondary and post-secondary programs and encourage interaction between the various sectors. This relationship will ensure the skills gained by young hairstylists at all levels of training meet the demands of the beauty industry. The competition also challenges students in hairstyling and promotes this career trade.

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO BE TESTED:

The Junior (Grade 10 and 11) competition will be based on creative impression and ability. **This must be a combination of 2 or more of ropes, knots, twists or braids.** This will be completed on a **mannequin of the competitor's choice (examples: natural textured long, natural textured shorter, long or shoulder length).**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Hairstyling Creative Braid

Duration: 1.5 hrs

Test: Creative Braid: Must be Commercial & Wearable

Objective:

1. The competitor will use their imagination to create an innovative style (not avant-garde or fantasy) that incorporates **75% of roping, knotting, braiding, or twists** and which best displays their artistic ability. The style should be acceptable for a fashion forward client to wear; but should not be fantasy and out of category.
2. The competitors will handle hair confidently and brush, comb, and part hair correctly, and create ropes, knots, braids or weaves.
3. Hair must be completely dry and brushed through at the beginning of the contest.
4. Bobby pins, ribbons, jewelry and ornaments may be used to enhance the design.
NO extensions or colored sprays of any kind are allowed in this competition.

EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS

Equipment and Materials Competitors Must Supply:

Long hair mannequin and stand – this stand must be able to fit onto a 2” thick table, NO TRIPOD STANDS ALLOWED, no body mannequins, shoulders allowed, no neon colors	Working tools and equipment, which should include the following: water bottle, towels, cape, all cutting implements, combs, brushes, clips, hairpins etc.
Hair dryer (must not require more than 1800 watts)	Preferred types of styling products (ALL PRODUCT LABELS MUST BE COVERED)
Mannequin make-up, jewelry and draping (not required, but encouraged)	

Equipment and Materials Supplied by the Committee:

Table
Mirror
Single electrical outlet

Competition Specific Rules

The following Competition Specific rules along with SCA's overall Policies and Procedures provide specific details in competition areas that may vary from one another. Any additional contest rules will be reviewed during the Competitor Orientation.

Topic/Task	Contest Specific Rule
Time Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All work must be completed within the specified timeframe. Tools may be set up beforehand, but no hair manipulation may begin until the official start signal. Time will be announced at various intervals throughout the competition by members of the committee.
Authentic Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stylists must treat the mannequin as they would a live client. No techniques, products, or fastening methods may be used that would be unsafe, inappropriate, or impossible to perform on an actual person.
Respectful Workspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors must maintain a clean, safe work area. All tools must be sanitized according to industry standards.
Products and Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hair products must be professional-grade and safe for client use. No adhesives, glues, tapes, or non-hair-safe fastening methods. No sharing of tools or products with other competitors.
Use of Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors are not allowed smart watches, cell phones, ear buds, or other personal electronics in the competition area unless specified by the committee for certain tasks.
Assistive Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors may not bring any written instructions, diagrams, step-by-step guides, or reference materials onto the competition floor. All work must be completed from memory and without external prompts.

JUDGING CRITERIA

All judging will be performed according to both subjective and objective criteria. Objective areas are those areas which are a simple yes or no. Subjective areas are those which require trade specific creative judgment.

Subjective areas judged by an independent panel and include the following five areas:

1. Degree of Difficulty
2. Balance of Design
3. Clean Finish
4. Creativity
5. Presentation

Objective areas judged by Provincial Technical Committee (PTC) Judging Panel (3 who **CAN NOT** judge their own competitor or competitor from their region) include:

1. 75% of the head and hair is knotted, braided, roped or twisted
2. Contains 2 or more ropes, knots, braids or twists
3. In category: Wearable and Innovative Not fantasy
4. Appropriate accessories used (nothing can penetrate the scalp, no pins) and no additional hair may be used as an accessory (no colored hair extensions)

Judging Rubric

Element	Beginning (1)	Developing (3)	Proficient (3)	Exemplary (4)
Balance of Design: Side to side, front to back, back to side, profile, overall look	No Balance in any area Balance is not present in the hairstyle	Has balance in one area only Balance is present in less than 50% of the hairstyle	Has balance in two areas Balance is present in more than 50% of the hairstyle	Has balance in three areas Balance is present in all areas of the hairstyle
Clean Finish: No pins showing, demonstrates an intentional finish , seamless transitions of all the elements, no stray hair, appropriate use of product.	There is a violation in each of the identified clean finish elements	There is a violation in more than one of the identified clean finish elements	There is a violation in one of the identified clean finish elements	There is no violation in each of the identified clean finish elements
Creativity: Any braiding technique demonstrated in an innovative style (meaning you have made an older technique look new again) , creative use of design elements.	Style is completely lacking in innovation and creativity	Not innovative, but braid used is appropriate, but the hairstyle is considered dated, and is lacking design elements, decorative application	It is not lacking in any identified area and contains a proficient amount of creativity and innovation	Superior innovation and creativity, and the final design is purposeful
Degree of Difficulty: Shown through an integration of various elements. Student's works shows deliberate transitions and unified design elements that show a strong level of difficulty.	Style and transitions were performed at a beginning skill level, transitions are weak and undefined	Style and transitions are developing, and demonstrate minimal difficulty	Style transitions demonstrate moderate difficulty, and the transitions are present and proficient	Style is exemplary and demonstrates the highest level of difficulty and the transitions are seamless

Presentation: All ornamentation used shows forethought of planning and is not being used to cover up poor workmanship.	Minimal effort for presentation evident in design. Ornamentation is obviously placed to hide poor workmanship or transitions	Ornamentation is not suitable or may be overtaking the design of the hairstyle. Ornamentation may be lacking and/or is not present to compliment the hairstyle	Ornamentation is present and is overall well done. There are one or two issues with placement of ornamentation but are not being used to hide mistakes	Exemplary quality in both choice and placement of ornamentation. Placement is purposeful and compliments the final presentation
75% of the hair is roped, knotted twisted or braided	No			Yes
Contains 2 or more ropes knots or braids	No			Yes
In category: Is wearable not fantasy	No			Yes

Demerits will be given for any rule infractions including:

- Mannequins will be displayed on the table facing the mirror with a regular stand-no tripods
- **No additional display materials present at table** (no props or table decorations)
- Hair must be completely dry and brushed through at the beginning of the contest
- All product labels must be covered
- All contestants must have closed toed shoes
- Professional sanitary practices must be followed
- Industry safety protocols must be followed
- No platform or high heel shoes
- No hair fillers, pads, builders, nets, or **hair extensions of any kind**
- No touching the hair after the time has been called
- Mannequin dressing must occur during the 1 hour and 30 min allotment
- Only 1 appliance plugged in at any given time
- No headsets or portable music, smart watches devices allowed
- Any communication between audience and competitor during the competition times will be seen as coaching and will result in demerits
- Competitors are urged to create a clean finish and may remove (with cutting implements or tweezers) hair that is deemed to interfere with a clean finish (broken pieces that stick up) **however** removal of excess length or bulk from the hair will result in demerits

TIE BREAKING PROCESS

In the case of a tie, judges will be called back to the competition floor to break the tie. The highest score in the degree of difficulty will be the deciding factor. If there is still a tie, the creativity score will be the next deciding factor.

RELATED CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES COURSES

Descriptions of all courses are located at the following website:

<http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/cts>

HSA3900: Apprenticeship Safety

HSA3521: Styling Dry Hair

HSA3526: Updo and Upstyle Styling Techniques

HSA3531: Style Hair Using Accessories

Clothing Requirement

Clean, comfortable, protective work attire as would be worn in a modern hair salon. No competitor will be allowed on the floor without closed toed shoes.

SAFETY

The health, safety and welfare of all individuals involved with Skills Canada Alberta are of vital importance. Safety is a condition of participation with Skills Canada Alberta and shall not be sacrificed for the sake of expediency. At the discretion of the judges and technical committees, any competitor can be denied the right to participate should they not have the required proper safety equipment and/or act in an unsafe manner that can cause harm to themselves or others.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**Skills Canada Alberta Regional and Provincial Rules and Regulations**

[Regional and Provincial Rules and Regulations](#)

Skillz & Thrillz Podcast

Check out our podcast – Skillz & Thrillz: Alberta’s Trade & Tech Youth Podcast. Our talented alumni share tips and tricks on how to succeed in competitions and your career! Their insights can help you prepare for your Skills journey, and who knows, you might just be a future guest!

<https://skillsalberta.com/student-resources/skillz-thrillz-albertas-trade-tech-youth-podcast/>

Project Change at the Competition

Where a Test Project has been circulated to competitors in advance, the PTC can change the project up to a maximum of 30% of the work content for the competition.

Competitor Registration

Registration for regionalized events will open online on January 7, 2026 @ 3:30 PM. Please refer to this competitions event page for additional registration and competition information:

<https://skillsalberta.com/competition/>

Lunch

Lunch for accredited competitors will be provided by Skills Canada Alberta.

Parking & Venue Maps

Parking is FREE for all attendees.

Attendees **MUST** register for FREE parking by clicking the below link. Attendees can pre-register their vehicle at anytime prior to the PSCC or register onsite at the PSCC.

<https://www.offstreet.io/events/CBLHM7U1>

<http://edmontonexpocentre.com/attend/parking/>

Opening Ceremonies / Competitor Onsite Registration

Opening Ceremonies for the PSCC will take place on Tuesday May 5, 2026, at 6:00 pm in Hall D of the Edmonton EXPO Centre. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome to attend. It is important to note that competitor registration will open immediately following the Opening Ceremonies.

Awards Ceremony

The Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday May 7, 2026, at 6:30 pm in Hall D of the Edmonton EXPO Centre. Admission is free and everyone is welcome to attend. The Awards Ceremony will be shown live at <http://skillsalberta.com/>

Questions?

Please contact Mike Sury MikeS@SkillsAlberta.com

PROVINCIAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Colleen Nelson - Chair	Elk Island Catholic Schools
Coralee Dahl - Co-Chair	Calgary Board of Education
Tracey Millar	Red Deer Catholic School Division
Tanya Jarvis	Elk Island Public Schools
Michelle Gilewich	Elk Island Public Schools
Tracy Knopp	Wildrose School Division
Aiana Burr	Edmonton Public School Division
Crystal Kennedy	MC College (Calgary)
Jill Miller	MC College (Red Deer)

2026 Provincial Skills Canada Competition

Rianna Spronk	MC College (Edmonton)
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