



2026 North West Regional Skills Canada Competition

Contest Description

Northwestern Polytechnic (NWP) Fairview Campus

March 26 & 27, 2026

EVENT: Hairstyling Junior – Creative Braiding		LEVEL: Secondary – Grades 10 & 11 Only								
DURATION OF CONTEST: 1.5 HOURS		LOCATION: NWP FAIRVIEW CAMPUS - ATRIUM								
COMPETITION SCHEDULE: <table><tr><td>ORIENTATION</td><td>10:00AM - 10:30AM</td></tr><tr><td>COMPETITION</td><td>10:30AM - 12:00PM</td></tr><tr><td>LUNCH</td><td>12:00PM – 1:00PM</td></tr><tr><td>AWARDS</td><td>6PM</td></tr></table>		ORIENTATION	10:00AM - 10:30AM	COMPETITION	10:30AM - 12:00PM	LUNCH	12:00PM – 1:00PM	AWARDS	6PM	REGIONALIZED: YES If YES, To compete at the Provincial Skills Canada Competition students must qualify at their Regional Skills Canada Competition.
ORIENTATION	10:00AM - 10:30AM									
COMPETITION	10:30AM - 12:00PM									
LUNCH	12:00PM – 1:00PM									
AWARDS	6PM									
AWARDS CEREMONY INFORMATION: March 27 @ 6 pm in the NWP Fairview Campus Theatre										

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 the 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 will 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 ropes, knots, braids, weaves, or twists.** 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

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, weaving 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.

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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. Hair glitter, bobby pins, colored spray, ribbons, jewelry and ornaments may be used to enhance the design. **NO extensions of any kind are allowed in this competition**

EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS

Equipment and Materials Competitors Must Supply:

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, draping, and hair coloring/sprays (not required, but encouraged)	

Equipment and Materials Supplied by the Committee:

Table	Mirror	Single electrical outlet
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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	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	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 Work Space	Competitors must maintain a clean, safe work area. All tools must be sanitized according to industry standards.
Products and Tools	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. All product labels must be covered.

Use of Technology	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	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 should include the following five areas:

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

Objective areas judged by the Regional Technical Committee or similar Judging Panel 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, but 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, or extensions of any kind)

JUDGING RUBRIC

Element	Beginning (1)	Developing (2)	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	Style is completely lacking in innovation and creativity	Not innovative, but braid used is appropriate, but the hairstyle is	It is not lacking in any identified area and contains a proficient	Superior innovation and creativity, and the final design is purposeful

(meaning you have made an older technique look new again), creative use of design elements.		considered dated, and is lacking design elements, decorative application	amount of creativity and innovation	
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 demonstrate 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, weaved or braided	No			Yes
Contains 2 or more ropes, knots, twists, weaves or braids	No			Yes
In category: Is wearable not fantasy	No			Yes

Demerits will be given for any rule infractions listed in the Contest Specific Rules section 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).
- 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.
- 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. All contestants must have closed toed shoes (no platform or high-heeled 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

Lunch: Provided for all competitors. Unfortunately, all allergies may not be able to be accommodated for. Please connect with the local Regional Coordinator for more information.

Parking & Maps: <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/campus-maps>

Regulations & Policies: View the Skills Canada Alberta Regional Regulations & Policies here <https://skillsalberta.com/competition/regulations-and-policies/>

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/>

REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rachel Lepka