

Career Organization Types



NAME _____

DATE _____

PERIOD _____

Four types and two school-based examples

TYPE	MAIN JOB	EXAMPLE
CTSO	School-connected student leadership and career development	SkillsUSA, TSA
Professional association	Learning, connection, and advocacy in a profession	NSPE, AOPA
Credentialing organization	Assesses or credentials knowledge and experience	ASE
Government agency	Public rules, oversight, certificates, and government work	FAA

SKILLSUSA: CTSO

- Middle- and high-school participation runs through a school chapter or approved local plan.
- Students ask a CTE teacher or counselor about local access.
- The national page does not prove that a specific Irving campus has a chapter or that every activity is free.

TSA: CTSO

- Middle- and high-school STEM participation runs through a school-affiliated chapter and advisor.
- Members may take part in competitions, leadership, and community activities.
- The national page does not prove a specific campus chapter, fee, or event.

Source check: SkillsUSA How to Join and TSA Membership FAQ, accessed August 10, 2026.

One school-access question:

Four more organization cards

ASE: CREDENTIALING ORGANIZATION

ASE is an independent nonprofit that develops automotive assessments and credentials. Professional certification requires the applicable test and approved experience or substitution. It is not a school club.

FAA: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY

The FAA is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation. It regulates aviation, issues certificates in authorized contexts, and employs workers. It is not a membership association.

NSPE: PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

NSPE student membership currently requires qualifying full-time college, graduate, or formal pre-engineering transfer-program enrollment. It is a later professional network, not blanket middle-school membership.

AOPA: PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATION

AOPA currently advertises free high-school membership for U.S. residents ages 13-20, with aviation learning and scholarship information. A student must still follow family and district privacy rules before creating an account. AOPA does not issue FAA certificates.

Source check: ASE About, FAA About, NSPE Student Membership, and AOPA High School Membership, accessed August 10, 2026.

Word bank: chapter = capítulo local · membership = membresía · credential = credencial · government agency = agencia gubernamental

One fact that separates a membership organization from a credentialing or government organization:

Paper practice and realistic decision

PRACTICE CHECK

1. Which pair contains two CTSOs? ☐ SkillsUSA/TSA ☐ ASE/FAA ☐ NSPE/FAA
2. Which organization assesses automotive knowledge and experience? ☐ ASE ☐ TSA ☐ FAA
3. Which organization is a federal agency? ☐ FAA ☐ AOPA ☐ NSPE
4. What is the strongest first step for a student interested in SkillsUSA?
☐ Assume every campus has a free chapter
☐ Ask a CTE teacher or counselor about the local chapter and requirements
☐ Register for a professional ASE test

FICTIONAL SAM'S DECISION

Sam wants a school-based leadership and competition opportunity now and an aviation professional network to investigate later.

School-based organization to ask about now: _____

Fact that supports the choice and local access question:

How this opportunity could support career exploration or development:

Professional organization to investigate later: _____

Fact that supports the choice and one privacy, eligibility, or cost question:

Use this frame: Sam should ask about **[school opportunity]** now because **[card fact]**. This could support career development by **[specific benefit]**. Later, Sam could investigate **[professional organization]**, but first Sam must verify **[access, cost, eligibility, or privacy question]**.