

# Tips & Timeframes for Fundraising

DECA Conferences are one of the best part of being a DECA member. Networking with new people, competing in events and experiencing fun activities are something members look forward to every year. But in order to attend these conferences, chapters must gain the necessary funds to pay for conference registration, hotel rooms and other requirements Fundraising should be a year-round affair and equally spaced, rather than rushed right before conferences. This guide will help chapters fundraise by providing tips and methods to gain more funds consistently.

## PLAN YOUR FUNDRAISING

Here is a month-by-month breakdown on which fundraisers you can put on.

- August:** Set Goals for Fundraising

**September:** Back-to-School Hangout

**October:** Halloween Fundraiser

**November:** DECA Week

**December:** Holiday Get-Together

**January:** New Year Social
- February:** Valentine's Day Date Auction

**March:** Restaurant Fundraisers

**April:** Community Service Initiative

**May:** End-of-Year Social

**June:** Car Wash Fundraiser

**July:** Summer of DECA Social

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|---|--|--|---|
| AUGUST<br>   | SEPTEMBER<br> | OCTOBER<br>  | NOVEMBER<br> |
| DECEMBER<br> | JANUARY<br>   | FEBRUARY<br> | MARCH<br>    |
| APRIL<br>    | MAY<br>       | JUNE<br>     | JULY<br>     |

## FUNDRAISING TIPS

- **Plan ahead**

Prepare a budget for the year that factors in conference cost as well as membership cost. This will give you an idea of how many fundraisers your chapter will need as well as how many funds each member can raise. Reference the California DECA payment policy found [here](#) and the California DECA Conference Policies and Procedures found [here](#) for estimating conference and membership cost.

- **Start now!**

Probably the most important tip is to just **START**. Starting early is key to successfully fundraising for a conference and the best time to start is **NOW**.

- **Know the funds available to clubs and organizations at your school.**

Make sure you are aware of grant possibilities with your local student government. Contact your student government and school administration and see what funds are available to organizations like DECA.

- **Make use of your student body on campus**

Holding a bake sale at a football game or selling holiday grams during the winter is a great way to increase awareness of DECA at your school and fundraise at the same time

- **Ask your chapter alumni**

Chapter alumni are not only a wealth of knowledge for competition advice, but also fundraising advice! Ask what they did to fundraise in the past and see how you can improve upon their actions.

- **Earn sponsorships from local businesses**

- Many local businesses like to help great students, especially students who are involved in organizations like DECA. Put together a business proposal and use connections in your network. Make sure your presentation is professional and well put together.
- Try sending out handwritten letters, or creative brochures that highlight events and happenings going on within your chapter. This will make donors interested in DECA and give them an idea of what they are contributing to.
- The worst you can be told is “no,” and then try again!

- **Take Advantage of social media**

This is the best way to raise awareness of your chapter’s fundraising activities. Encourage members to share activities with their friends and family to gain more attention and potentially raise more funds.



## TOP TEN FUNDRAISING IDEAS

These ten fundraisers are something that your chapter can strive to complete this year!

1. Selling discount cards for local businesses and restaurants.
2. Hosting a car wash
3. Having a bake sale
4. Asking local businesses for sponsorships
5. Hosting a raffle at your end of year banquet
6. Create a gift-wrapping business during the holiday season
7. Sell coupon books
8. Coordinate with local restaurants for a fundraising night
9. Coordinate a shoe drive within your school
10. Seek available funds from your school and school district

However you fundraise, make sure that you are great representatives of your chapter and DECA. Attending conferences is a privilege, and members should take pride in the process to get there.