

CALIFORNIA DECA CODE OF CONDUCT

Attendance at any California DECA sponsored conference or activity is a privilege. **The following conduct policies will apply to all delegates: students, alumni, advisors, and any other authorized persons attending the activity.** This form must be signed by each student and alumni (under 21) attending a CALIFORNIA DECA activity and submitted to the chapter advisor prior to the respective registration deadline. The chapter advisor must have a completed copy of the permission/medical release form for each student attending in their possession for the duration of the event, including travel to and from the event. This form must be kept on file in the local school district after conference.

Delegates shall abide by the rules and practices of *CALIFORNIA DECA and school district policies* at all times to, during, and from the designated point of origin of the activity. Delegates shall respect and abide by the authority vested in the CALIFORNIA DECA organization. The standards outlined in this document constitute the California DECA Code of Conduct.

The following shall be regarded as severe violations of the CALIFORNIA DECA Code of Conduct:

Should a conduct code violation occur for item 1 through 7 below, regardless of when exposed, the violating student(s) will be sent home and will not be eligible to attend any other state, regional, or national conference during that school year. If the violation warrants it, law enforcement may also be notified. Determination of penalties for violations will be at the discretion of the State Management Team or the Board of Directors/Trustees.

1. **Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco:** a student shall not possess, use, transmit, be under the influence of, or show evidence of having used an alcoholic beverage, other drugs, substances or tobacco products capable of or intended, purported, or presumed to be capable of altering a student's mood, perception, behavior or judgment; other than properly used, over-the-counter pain relievers and medications prescribed by a physician for an individual student and must be on record with the advisor. Nor shall the student possess, use, sell or transmit paraphernalia associated with drugs, alcohol, or chemical substance in any form (including tobacco), at any time, or under any circumstances, on public or private properties.
2. **Curfew:** Committing serious violations of curfew regulations as outlined in item 9 below.
3. **Willful Companionship:** Being in the willful companionship of someone who violates any portion of the conduct code, or failing to report any direct knowledge (other than hearsay) of the conduct code violations.
4. **Personal Conduct:** Cheating, dishonesty, or taking unfair advantage of others; participating in social activities other than those with conference participants; conducting acts and/or possession of weapons capable of causing bodily harm or fear of life, defacing or stealing any public or private property (for which financial responsibility will rest solely with offending individuals or their chapter); breaking the law; other serious violations of personal conduct regulations.
5. **Serious Violations** of the student conduct code of the school district or school that the student represents.
6. **Private Transportation:** Driving or riding in a private automobile during a conference, unless accompanied by an authorized advisor. (Delegates are to be housed at the conference site). Occasionally a chapter advisor, under special circumstances, may allow a student to drive or ride in a private automobile to a conference. These students are required to complete a "Permission to use Private Transportation" form to the chapter advisor prior to the conference. Permission to drive/ride applies to transportation of the student named on the form and only to and from the conference site. Once a driving/riding delegate has arrived at the conference site, he/she shall not be in a private automobile again until leaving the site at the end of the conference.
7. **Abusive Behavior and Lewd Conduct:** A student shall not engage in any lewd, indecent, sexual, or obscene act or expression or possess such materials. A student shall not engage in verbal, physical or sexual harassment, hazing, or name-calling. The use of slurs against any person on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, or disability is prohibited.

The following shall be other violations of the CALIFORNIA DECA Code of Conduct:

Should a conduct code violation occur for items 8-13 below, regardless of when exposed, the violating student(s) may be sent home and may not be eligible to attend any other state, regional or national conference during that school year. Determination of penalties for violations will be at the discretion of the State Management Team or the Board of Directors/Trustees or local Advisor.

8. **Conference Conduct:** Failing to wear the supplied conference ID badge and wristband (when provided) at all times from arrival at the conference until departure at the end of the conference; leaving sessions prior to their conclusion (except in the case of emergency); failing to attend all general sessions and assigned activities (including workshops, competitive events, committee meetings, etc.) for which a delegate is registered (unless engaged in a specific assignment taking place at the same time); not abiding by the rules and regulations of DECA or school/district policies from the time he/she leaves his/her home or school for any activity and the time he/she returns to the same home or school following the activity.
9. **Curfew:** Failing to be in your assigned hotel room from the curfew time designated in the conference program until 6 a.m.; causing any noise or other disturbance audible by anyone in the hallway after designated curfew time; ordering any food after the designated curfew time; causing any other unnecessary disturbance or participating in any other inappropriate activity after the designated curfew time.
10. **Dress:** Failing to abide by the dress regulations established for the conference, as outlined in the Dress Code.
11. **Personal Conduct:** Failing to report accidents, injuries or illnesses immediately to the local DECA Advisor; failing to keep adult advisors informed of activities and whereabouts at all times; failure to comply with established grievance process for disputes about competitive event results/processes (including personally confronting judges or event administrators); using tobacco products outside of local school district policies and state law; having a member of the opposite sex in a room if no adult chaperone is present and the room door is not visibly open (e.g., the door may be propped wide open); having a delegate or advisor of the opposite sex in a room without a third person present and the door visibly open.
12. **Hotel Conduct:** Failing to meet the professional standards of housing facilities; accruing incidental room charges (i.e. phone calls, room service, pay-per-view movies, etc.) without settling the account prior to check-out; throwing objects out the window or into the hallway; moving hotel furniture from rooms (e.g., onto the balcony); failing to follow hotel rules and regulations.
13. **Social Media & Online Presence:** In the online environment, students must follow The California DECA Code of Conduct and conduct themselves online as they would in person. Think before you post and use discretion when posting online as you will leave a long-lasting impression of yourself, your school and DECA. Social media venues are public, and information can be shared beyond your control. Never post confidential or personal information. Do not misrepresent yourself by using someone else's identity. Be respectful and avoid comments that may be hurtful. Never use profane, obscene or threatening language. Never use slurs based on the gender, race, disability, or orientation of another person. Never post sexually explicit pictures, videos or content. Cyberbullying is considered an act of harassment and will not be tolerated. Use of DECA logos or images on your personal social networking sites is prohibited. If you wish to promote a specific DECA activity or event, you may do so only by means of a link to the official DECA social media accounts.

Individual School District Policies may supersede the Code of Conduct.

DRESS CODE FOR DELEGATES ATTENDING CALIFORNIA DECA SPONSORED ACTIVITIES:

The following guidelines have been developed to clarify the dress code used at all DECA conferences (regardless of locations).

Professional appearance is an important aspect of the overall preparation of DECA members for the business world. To that end, DECA supports a dress code for its career-based functions that exemplifies the highest standards of professionalism while being non-discriminatory between genders.

ACCEPTABLE CASUAL ATTIRE

(Travel to/from conferences, dances, and non-conference activities such as shopping, sightseeing, or going out for meals, denim in good taste is allowed at CA DECA conferences only, not allowed at Western Region or National DECA)

- Casual slacks (e.g., Dockers), blouse or shirt, socks and casual shoes
- Jeans, t-shirts and athletic shoes are not included in business casual attire
- No gang related clothing or accessories allowed
- All clothing must be in good repair and proper size
- Undergarments may not show outside of over garments

ACCEPTABLE BUSINESS ATTIRE

(Opening/ Closing Sessions, event competition, scholarship interviews, state/national officer interviews, workshops, or banquets)

- Business suit, dress sweater, sport coat, or blazer (blazer optional)
- Dress slacks, dress skirt, or business dress
- Collared dress shirt with appropriate neckwear (necktie, ascot, scarf) or Dress blouse
- Dress shoes (unacceptable types of dress shoes include boat shoes, canvas or fabric shoes, flip flops or casual sandals, athletic shoes, industrial work shoes, and hiking boots)
- For a more polished, professional appearance, it is recommended that attendees wear appropriate hosiery/socks.

All skirts and dresses must be at or below the knee.

Activities such as swimming, sunbathing, jogging, or tennis warrant appropriate recreational attire for that activity.

At any time during the conference while on-site (including hotels), you must be in casual or business attire.