



SoCal CDC 2026 Registration Guide

QUICK REGISTRATION GUIDE

SoCal DECA District Career Development Conference

January 9-11, 2026
Hilton Orange County Costa Mesa
3050 Bristol St. / Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Registration Link:

www.myctso.com/ca/deca

Registration Fee:

\$85.00 per Advisor & Member

Conference Hotel:

Hilton Orange County Costa Mesa
3050 Bristol St.
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Hotel Fee*:

\$420.34 for two-night option / per room

\$210.17 for one-night option / per room

*required stay options includes taxes and fees

Send Hotel Check to:

Hilton Orange County Costa Mesa
Attn: Maribel Ponce
3050 Bristol St.
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
(for Credit Card, request online payment from [Maribel](#))

Send Registration Check to:

SoCal DECA
PO Box 1440
Owasso, OK 74055

Event Limitations:

- One Series Event per student & One Prepared Pitch Deck Event
- See Conference Policies & Procedures Document for list of eligible events

Due Dates:

Registration Deadline: December 4, 2025

- *Send to SoCal DECA:*
- *All forms submitted due date*
- *Checks postmarked following day*
- *Credit Card payments following day*
- *See Checklist on next page*

Hotel Deadline: December 4, 2025

- *Send to Hilton Orange County:*
- *Forms C1 and C2 submitted due date*
- *Checks postmarked following day*
- *Credit Card payments following day*
- *See Checklist on next page*

Prepared Events Deadline: December 12, 2025

- *Pitch Deck Events*
- *Submissions start December 10th*
- *Must be uploaded online by 5:00pm on Friday, December 12th*
- *Detailed instructions on Form D*

Change/Drop Deadline:

- *December 8, 2025 by 5:00 PM*
- *No changes or drops after this date*

SoCal DECA CDC Registration Checklist

Forms are separate from this Registration Quick Guide. Be sure you have Forms A-G. Each is a separate file.

All advisors are responsible for the information included in the CA DECA Conference Policies and Procedures packet which outlines all official policies and procedures related to participation in a CA DECA event, including this conference.

SEND DIRECTLY TO SOCIAL DECA:

FORM	DESCRIPTION	DEADLINE	SEND TO	DONE
Online	Online Conference Registration	December 4	www.myctso.com/ca/deca	
A	Statement of Assurance	December 4	Upload to: www.myctso.com/ca/deca	
Payment by Check	Copy of invoice from online system and registration check	Postmarked by December 5	SoCal DECA PO Box 1440 Owasso, OK 74055	
Payment by Credit Card	Request a credit card payment link from registration@californiadeca.org	Paid by December 5	Via payment link	
F	Student Accommodations Request <i>*only if needed</i>	December 4	californiadeca.org/accommodations	
Online	Prepared Events Online Submissions	December 12 by 5:00pm	Detailed instructions on Form D	
G	Makeup Exam (<i>only if needed</i>) <i>*No guarantee that makeup can be accommodated</i>	January 6 by 5PM	registration@californiadeca.org	

SEND DIRECTLY TO HILTON ORANGE COUNTY COSTA MESA:

FORM	DESCRIPTION	DEADLINE	SEND TO	DONE
C1	Housing Summary Sheet	December 4	Email Only to: Maribel.Ponce@hilton.com	
C2	Hotel Housing Spreadsheet	December 4	Email Only to: Maribel.Ponce@hilton.com	
Payment	Copy of Form C1 and check to hotel <i>*for credit card, request payment link from Maribel</i>	Check Postmarked: December 5 Credit Card Paid: December 5	Hilton Orange County Costa Mesa Attn: Maribel Ponce 3050 Bristol St. Costa Mesa, CA 92626	

BRING TO THE DISTRICT CDC AND KEEP IN YOUR POSSESSION FOR DURATION OF CONFERENCE:

FORM	DESCRIPTION	DEADLINE	SEND TO	DONE
B	Permission & Medical Release <i>*completed by all attending students and alumni</i>	December 4	Keep in Your Possession	
E	Substitution/No Show <i>*only if needed</i>	On-Site	Hand in at onsite Conference Registration	

SOCAL CDC CONFERENCE – IMPORTANT CONFERENCE REMINDERS & INFORMATION

Important Change

New this year; there will be no breakfast on Sunday morning. Due to accelerated year-over-year increases in hotel food costs it has become untenable to continue offering breakfast as part of our awards session on Sunday morning. The Sunday morning awards session will be like our State Conference where we will have awards and then the conclusion of the conference with no meal. Please plan accordingly.

Important Change to Payment Policy

California DECA has updated its payment policy to ensure we can meet our financial obligations to vendors and keep conference operations running smoothly. Payments received after the deadlines below are subject to late payment penalties. Please read carefully:

Check Payments

- Payments by check must be postmarked by the end of the day following the conference registration deadline as outlined in the checklist above.

Credit Card Payments

- If paying by credit card, you must request a payment link in advance of the registration deadline by emailing registration@californiadeca.org.
- Credit card payments must be completed by the end of the day following the conference registration deadline as outlined in the checklist above.
- Do not wait until after the deadline to request the credit card link.

Why this change?

In the past, late payments have caused significant cash flow challenges. California DECA is required to pay vendors (hotels, competitive event awards, printers, security, etc.) well in advance of the conference. When registration payments are delayed, it prevents us from meeting these obligations and jeopardizes the success of the event.

Prepared Events

NEW for 2026: We will be offering the five pitch deck events at this year's SoCal CDC. These are the only Prepared Events that will be offered:

- Entrepreneurship Events (EIP, ESB)
- Integrated Marketing Campaign Events (IMCE, IMCP, IMCS). For these IMC events if a student wants to also compete in a Series Event, they must choose one of the following Series Events which take the same Marketing Cluster Exam:
 - Apparel and Accessories Marketing Series
 - Automotive Services Marketing Series
 - Business Services Marketing Series
 - Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making
 - Food Marketing Series
 - Marketing Communications Series

- Marketing Management Team Decision Making
- Professional Selling
- Retail Merchandising Series
- Sports and Entertainment Marketing Series
- Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making
- All prepared events will be submitted online prior to the conference. See Form D for complete details.

Hotel Rooms

Rooms with two beds are limited and reserved for Quad occupancy. While the hotel will make every effort to ensure that a room with four students has two beds, please note that some rooms will have a King-size bed and a rollaway bed or air mattress, even though there may be four students in the room. Please notify your students and plan accordingly.

Hotel Overflow

As our conferences continue to grow, it is sometimes necessary to utilize overflow hotel properties when the primary hotel reaches capacity. Rooming lists are submitted by school, and we work diligently to place chapters in the main hotel whenever possible.

Chapters will be prioritized for placement in the main hotel based on the order in which complete registration materials are received. However, several additional factors are also considered to ensure a smooth and equitable rooming process. These include:

- Special accommodations or accessibility needs noted at registration
- Shared chaperoning responsibilities between schools
- Rooming configurations and overall group size relative to available room types

Once the main hotel is full, any additional chapters will automatically be assigned to an overflow hotel. We will notify affected chapters as soon as possible and provide all necessary details to ensure a seamless experience across all properties.

Our goal is to make the housing process as fair and efficient as possible while meeting the needs of all attending students and advisors.

Two Day Option

The SoCal DECA CDC is a Three Day/Two Night Conference. However, this year we will continue to offer a Two Day/One Night option for chapters that are only able to participate in the conference on Saturday and Sunday. Please pay close attention to the Tentative Schedule for the differentiation between the two options.

Chapters participating in the normal conference pattern (Three Days/Two Nights) should arrive at the hotel by 6:00 PM on Friday in order to get registered and be ready for the testing session that begins at 6:30 PM.

Chapters participating in the optional Two Day/One Night Conference pattern should arrive at the hotel NO LATER than 9:00 AM on Saturday in order to get registered and be ready for the start of competitive events at 10:00 AM.

All chapters need to carefully complete their hotel registration forms (Form C1 and Form C2) ensuring that they clearly indicate their arrival/departure dates and number of room nights so that the hotel knows if you are staying for the full conference (two nights) or the optional pattern (one night).

Event Administrator Meals

Please note that event administrator meals which are provided during the conference for adults (i.e. the Friday evening Event Manager Dinner, the Saturday morning Judge & Event Manager Breakfast, and the Saturday afternoon Judge & Event Manager Lunch) are only for those alumni, advisors, and chaperones who have been assigned to work shifts as Event Managers. If an alumni, advisor, or chaperone has not been assigned to work a shift, they should make alternative arrangements for meals. If adults who will be assisting with event administration have dietary restrictions, please indicate those needs no later than the conference registration deadline. We will not be able to accommodate requests on site.

Vice President of Southern California Election

All District Vice Presidents (Vice President of Northern California, Vice President of Silicon Valley, and Vice President of Southern California) will be elected at their respective District Career Development Conferences. Students who plan to run for the position of Vice President of Southern California need to carefully review the State Officer Candidate Documents located on the California DECA website for complete election details and process. Navigate to californiadeca.org/officers and then click on “Candidates” in the page menu.

Saturday Night Social Activity

Saturday gives students a chance to unwind from a day of competition and workshops. Chapters will have time to do chapter dinners prior to the opening of the Fun Room. Dinner is on your own and food will not be provided. Come prepared for fun, entertainment, and memories to last a lifetime!

Series Events

For Series Events (Principles of Business Administration, Individual Series, and Team Decision Making Events), there must be a minimum of 8 competitors/teams in each event across all chapters participating in that event. If the minimum number of competitors/teams do not register for an event, an email will be sent to advisors letting them know which events are being dropped and providing instructions for advisors to sign their students up for another event.

Dress Code

Carefully review Form B with your students as it outlines the dress code requirements for the conference.

Scoring Concerns/Grievances

All concerns/grievances regarding scoring or competitive events MUST be submitted no later than 7:00 p.m. on the date that is two days after the close of the Conference. For example, if the conference ends on a Sunday, then grievances MUST be submitted by 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday. Concerns/grievances should be addressed to the State Director in writing via the Grievance Reporting Form provided in the Conference Policies & Procedures packet.

After the grievance reporting deadline outlined in the previous bullet all competitive event outcomes and scores become final and concerns/grievances will not be considered.

Judge Recruitment Quota

All chapters have a responsibility to assist in the recruitment of judges for the conference on Saturday. Each chapter must provide 1 judge for each 7 students, or portion thereof, registered to compete at the conference (e.g. if a chapter registers 25 students they must also provide 4 judges). Note that this judge quota is in addition to the need for event managers to assist with the management of competitive events. Please don't register individuals for both roles (judging and event management). They can only do one or the other. We greatly appreciate your assistance as it takes everyone to make sure the conference is a success.

TENATIVE SOCAL DECA CDC AGENDA (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

FRIDAY

4:00 – 6:00 PM	Conference Registration for Three Day/Two Night Conference
4:00 – 6:00 PM	Dinner (On Your Own)
5:45 – 6:30 PM	Presidents Council Meeting
6:30 – 8:00 PM	Comprehensive Written Exams for Three Day/Two Night Conference
8:00 – 9:30 PM	Opening Session
	Entertainment activities
10:00 PM – 6:00 AM	Curfew (in your own room)

SATURDAY

7:30 AM – 12:00 AM	Conference Headquarters
7:30 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast (On Your Own)
8:00 – 9:45 AM	Conference Registration for Two Day/One Night Conference
9:00 – 9:45 AM	Judge Check-in & Breakfast
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Competitive Events
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Comprehensive Written Exams Two Day/One Night Conference
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Workshop
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM	Judge/Proctors Lunch
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Workshop
2:00 – 3:00 PM	Workshop
3:00 – 4:00 PM	VP of SoCal Candidate Speeches & Election Session
5:00 – 8:00 PM	Dinner (On Your Own)
8:00 – 10:00 PM	SoCal Social Activity
10:30 PM – 6:00 AM	Curfew (in your own room)

SUNDAY

6:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Luggage Storage
8:00 – 10:00 AM	Awards Session
10:00 AM	Advisors collect Exit Packets

This schedule is subject to change. The final schedule will be included in the conference program.