

2026 California DECA Advisor Conference Registration

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

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

August 27, 2026

REGISTRATION FEE:

Complimentary

WHO:

All California DECA Advisors

WHEN:

September 18-19, 2026

Travel & check-in on September 17th for eligible individuals

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Thursday, September 17, 2026

**Hotel rooms provided on Thursday night for those traveling from a distance of 50 miles or more from the conference location. More details are provided later in this packet.*

- Travel & Arrival to the conference site. No meetings or official functions, unless you are a new advisor (more details below).
- 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. New Advisor Jumpstart Session (exclusive session for first-year advisors or newer advisors who have not yet attended a California DECA conference)

Friday, September 18, 2026

**Arrival day for those located less than 50 miles from the conference location.*

- 8:00 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. DECA Specific Sessions
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Advisor Tracks & Round Tables
- 4:00 p.m. Programming ends for the day
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner Off-Site (covered as part of the conference)

Saturday, September 19, 2026

- 8:00 a.m. Registration and Coffee
- 9:00 a.m. Joint Professional Development w/ FBLA
- 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Working Brunch
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Advisor Tracks
- 12:30 p.m. Conference Concludes

WHERE:

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

HOW TO REGISTER:

Conference registration will be completed online. Please visit the following link to submit your registration and conference information: californiadeca.org/advconf

WHAT:

Don't miss this exciting two-day educator and advisor conference designed specifically for Business & Marketing Teachers and CTSO Advisors. The conference will feature a combination of DECA-specific sessions as well as joint professional development opportunities alongside FBLA advisors and educational partners. Joint

sessions will focus on broader topics impacting Career Technical Education and CTSOs, providing valuable insights, perspectives, resources, and collaborative learning opportunities that advisors can bring back to their classrooms and chapters.

During DECA-focused sessions, advisors will once again have the opportunity to participate in differentiated learning tracks designed for both newer advisors (1 to 3 years of experience) and more experienced advisors. Sessions will focus on practical strategies and best practices related to chapter management, student engagement, integrating DECA into the classroom, leadership development, advisor resources, chapter campaigns, conference preparation, program growth, and sharing ideas with fellow advisors from across the state. Best of all, the conference is completely free of charge.

COST:

There is no cost to attend the conference. The following are covered:

- Conference Registration
- Training and Materials
- Meals during the conference (includes continental breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Friday, and brunch on Saturday). Note that meals are provided with a pre-set menu. Although we cannot guarantee that all special dietary needs will be accommodated, we will make every effort to meet those needs you identify in your online registration submission.)
- If you are traveling more than 50 miles:
 - Shared Hotel room for 2 nights (checking in on Thursday, September 17 and out on Saturday September 19). Extra nights beyond the complimentary conference nights will be at your own expense.
 - Travel costs (flight/mileage/ground transportation up to a combined maximum of \$350). See the travel sections below for specific details. Meals are not covered during travel.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

While the conference is free of charge to California DECA Advisors, there is a \$50 cancellation charge if you cancel within 72 hours of the start of the conference. This is because meals and other materials are purchased based on registration counts and if there is a last-minute cancellation these costs cannot be recovered. Any advisor cancelling within the 72-hour period will be responsible for paying the \$50 cancellation charge and will receive an invoice from California DECA.

NEW ADVISOR JUMPSTART:

New this year, California DECA will offer a New Advisor Jumpstart session on Thursday, September 17, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Hilton Orange County Costa Mesa prior to the start of the full Advisor Conference.

This optional, but highly recommended, in-person session is designed specifically for first-year advisors or advisors who may have had a “soft launch” with DECA but have not yet attended a California DECA conference. The goal is to provide a quick, practical foundation that helps new advisors feel more comfortable and prepared heading into the full conference experience which begins Friday morning.

Topics will include an overview of the California DECA program and available resources, membership system basics, advisor roles and responsibilities, student travel and policies/procedures, chapter operations, selecting and training a chapter officer team, and utilizing DECA’s chapter campaigns to build engagement and involvement within your chapter. The session is intentionally designed to focus on the foundational knowledge and practical basics that will help new advisors get started successfully and confidently.

Dinner will be provided for Jumpstart participants following the session.

As part of the online conference registration process, advisors will be asked to indicate whether they plan to participate in the New Advisor Jumpstart. While attendance is not required, we strongly encourage eligible advisors to participate. If you are unable to arrive in time for the Thursday Jumpstart session, you should still register and attend the main Advisor Conference beginning Friday morning.

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

Friday evening dinner will once again feature “Eat Arounds” similar to last year’s conference. Additional details, including participating restaurants, will be shared closer to the conference. The general format will allow participants to select from a variety of restaurant options. California DECA will coordinate transportation to and from the restaurants via rideshare services, and both transportation and meal costs will be covered. Please note that any alcoholic beverages will be at the participant’s own expense.

Space at each restaurant will be limited, so participants will be asked to sign up in advance through a separate form that will be distributed closer to the conference. Once a restaurant selection is made, changes will not be permitted, so please choose carefully.

TRAVELING FROM WITHIN 50 MILES OF THE CONFERENCE:

Advisors who live within 50 miles of the conference should provide their own transportation and return to their home each evening and return the next day. If you have a special circumstance and need to stay at the hotel, please contact registration@californiadeca.org to explore options. No mileage reimbursements or other travel costs will be covered for those who live less than 50 miles from the conference site.

TRAVELING 50 MILES OR MORE TO THE CONFERENCE:

If you are traveling more than 50 miles to attend the conference, please review the details and plans below.

HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS:

Lodging in a shared room (two to a room) will be provided and paid for by California DECA for two-nights. If you prefer a single room a \$150.00 fee applies (i.e. shared lodging is free, single lodging carries a charge of \$150.00). California DECA will coordinate your hotel reservation, arriving Thursday and departing Saturday. Please do not contact the hotel. Rooms will be shared rooms (two to a room; of the same gender). **If you need additional nights of lodging other than the two-nights outlined above, you will need to book those on your own. California DECA will only cover the two-nights of lodging.**

Participants must select their preferred room type (shared room or single room) at the time of registration. Please note that once registration closes, room type changes will not be permitted, including switching from a shared room to a single room or from a single room to a shared room. Participants selecting a single room are responsible for the associated single room fee at the time of registration.

TRANSPORTATION COST:

California DECA will reimburse either air or mileage reimbursement costs **up to a total of \$350.00 (for clarity; no individual will be reimbursed for any amount greater than \$350.00)**. This includes the cumulative total of the cost of your flight (if you choose to fly) and/or mileage (if you choose to drive) and ground transportation from the airport. Please remember that we are a student organization and **choose the most cost-effective travel options available and book in advance to ensure the**

lowest costs. We cannot cover any upgrade or add-on fees (e.g. Early Bird Check-in, Upgrade to Comfort Class, etc.).

Choosing to fly? John Wayne Airport, Orange County (SNA) is the designated airport for this conference. Book your own flight. Flight costs for flights into SNA will be reimbursed subject to the amount outlined above (Keep your receipt and complete a California DECA Expense Reimbursement Form to collect reimbursement). We ask that advisors be as economical as possible in the flights that are booked. **Please make flight arrangements early, but no less than 21 days in advance of the conference to ensure the best fares.**

If you are flying into John Wayne/Orange County Airport (SNA), the hotel provides complimentary airport shuttle service. The shuttle departs from the hotel every 30 minutes beginning at 5:30 AM and provides drop-off service directly to your airline terminal. For arrivals into SNA, the shuttle picks up at the airport transportation island at :15 and :45 past each hour. No advance call to the hotel is necessary, as the shuttle runs continuously through 10:45 PM each evening. Be sure to look for the shuttle for the Hilton Orange County Costa Mesa.

If you are driving, the reimbursement rate is \$0.725 per mile (complete a California DECA Expense Reimbursement Form after the conference to collect reimbursement). Note that the maximum mileage reimbursement is \$350.00.

Rental cars are not allowed and will not be reimbursed.

Meals are not covered during travel. Only conference meals provided during the conference will be covered by California DECA.

All reimbursements must be submitted within 30 days of the close of the conference. Reimbursement requests submitted after 30 days of the close of the conference will not be reimbursed.